

Report to: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **11th December 2007**
Report of: **Energy Manager**
Subject: **Service Unit Performance Reporting - Energy Conservation**
Ward: **All**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide information on the progress with District of Easington fuel poverty, energy conservation and utility management schemes;
- 1.2 This report summarizes the main schemes and activities that have taken place over the period August to November 2007 in line with the corporate Affordable Warmth Strategy and Warm Homes Campaign.

2.0 Consultation

- 2.1 Consultations have taken place with the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Culture, Executive Member for Liveability, Head of Housing and Housing Renewals Manager.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act (2003) requires the eradication of fuel poverty by 2016 and the Home Energy Conservation Act (1997) requires a 30% reduction in domestic energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions.

4.0 Position Statement and Option Appraisal

- 4.1 District of Easington Affordable Warmth Strategy seeks to maximise external funding opportunities for energy conservation and fuel poverty schemes. Delivery is via the corporate Warm Homes Campaign to provide warmer healthier homes through a variety of schemes.

5.0 Warm Homes Campaign National Award

- 5.1 The Warm Homes Campaign is the main corporate mechanism of promoting advice and support to residents on home insulation grant schemes;
- 5.2 The Campaign is one of only 12 local authorities nationally to receive an award from National Energy Action for its success in working to reduce fuel poverty within Easington District over the past 10 years;
- 5.3 Over this period the Campaign has brought over £6.4 million of external funding into the District for home insulation grant schemes in over 14, 000 private sector homes.

6.0 Over 60's Free Home Insulation Scheme

- 6.1 This scheme is targeted at private homeowners aged over 60 and provides free home insulation measures. The objective is to provide warmer healthier homes with reductions in fuel poverty and cold related illness. Funding is supplied by District of Easington, Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Governments Energy Efficiency Commitment;
- 6.2 The table below details the number of households that have been assisted under this scheme over the period August to November 2007:

Homes insulated in Easington District with the Over 60's Scheme	101 Homes
Cost of Measures	£30, 500

7.0 Insulation Programme to Council Dwellings

- 7.1 Under this rolling programme settlements are targeted on a worst first basis. All council properties are surveyed individually and cavity wall and loft insulation measures are installed as and where required;
- 7.2 In addition free energy saving advice, fuel tariff information and low energy light bulbs are offered to tenants aimed at reducing their energy bills;
- 7.3 The following table details the number of council dwellings insulated over the period August to November 2007:

Settlement Targeted By Rolling Programme	Peterlee
Council properties insulated	181 Homes
Cost of works	£69, 000

8.0 Warm Front Scheme

- 8.1 The Governments Warm Front scheme provides grants for central heating and insulation measures. The following table details the progress with this scheme:

Total number of homes insulated in Easington District with the Warm Front scheme	175 Homes Insulated
Total amount of Government funding brought into the District via the Warm Front scheme	£83, 000

9.0 Energy Training Events

- 9.1 A series of Community Energy Champion training events have taken place with community groups throughout the district aimed at developing a district wide community referral network. A total of 96 residents from various settlements attended the training events and will now distribute information on behalf of the Warm Homes Campaign.

10.0 Utility Management

- 10.1.1 In order to reduce heating bills at the council complex all un-insulated buildings have now been insulated and the lighting to the Council Chamber is being replaced with low energy light bulbs as part of the Invest to Save programme.
- 10.2 In order to encourage staff to save energy at work an energy audit has been carried out on all office accommodation and a rolling programme of staff energy awareness has commenced in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust.

11.0 Policy, Legal, Financial, Risk, Communications and Corporate Implications

Policy Implications

The above schemes will assist in the implementation of Corporate Affordable Warmth Strategy and Energy Conservation Strategy.

Legal Implications

We are required to comply with the Home Energy Conservation Act, Warm Homes and Energy Conservations Act and UK Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Financial Implications

These are no additional financial implications with this report.

Risk Implications

A risk assessment has been completed and the necessary actions required to manage the identified risks will be implemented.

Communications

The schemes detailed in this report will be promoted in InfoPoint, corporate web site and district wide as part of the Warm Homes Campaign.

Corporate Implications

The above schemes are targeted at the fuel poor households within District of Easington and are therefore of significant assistance with our Affordable Warmth Strategy.

12.0 Corporate Plan and Priorities

The issues contained within this report are consistent with the Corporate Plan priorities and policies. The provision of energy conservation measures directly contribute to the corporate priority of Decent Homes for All and Building a Healthy Community.

12.1 Equality and Diversity

The issues contained in this report do not affect the Respect and Dignity Policy or Access Policy and Strategy.

12.2 E Government

As part of our corporate web site there is a comprehensive advice and information section on the grant assistance available to residents on the corporate web site and where applicable on line applications can be submitted.

12.3 Procurement

Procurement issues are considered as part of the proposed Utility Management Plan.

12.4 Service Plan

The initiatives covered in this report form part of the new Housing Service Plan and are consistent with its key activities with its key objectives.

12.5 Performance Management and Scrutiny

Actions are monitored through the performance management framework.

12.6 Sustainability

The scheme will assist in reducing domestic energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in line with climate change objectives. In addition local residents will realise lower fuel bills thus allowing increased disposable income and benefiting the local economy.

12.7 **Expenditure related to “well being” powers**

The schemes in this report will assist with the social and environmental “well being” of the District.

12.8 **Human Resource Implications**

There are no HRI implications as a result of this report.

12.9 **Crime and Disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications.

12.10 **Human Rights**

There are no Human Rights implications.

12.11 **Social Inclusion**

The Affordable Warmth Strategy will have regard to social inclusiveness by promoting energy conservation activities, decreasing the cost of home fuel bills and maximising disposable incomes to vulnerable groups within the district.

12.12 **Information Technology**

Overall progress with district wide domestic energy conservation is recorded and monitored using the corporate domestic energy database.

13.0 **Recommendations**

13.1 That members note the contents of the report, and the positive progress made.

Item no.

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