

Report to: **Community Services Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **22nd April 2008**
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 January to March 2008 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 Climate Change Strategy

- 5.1 On 26th February 2008 Executive approval was obtained for the District of Easington Climate Change Strategy. The strategy aims to reduce district wide carbon dioxide emissions by 10% up to 2013 and has 6 key objectives to maximise reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- 5.2 The official launch of the strategy was carried out on 7th March 2008 by the Minister of the Environment Phil Woolas MP on his visit to Easington Council.

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 January to March 2008:

Homes insulated in Easington District with the Over	120 Homes
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60's Scheme	
Cost of Measures	£47, 750

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 January to March 2008:

Settlement Targeted By Rolling Programme	Peterlee/Seaham
Council properties insulated	140 Homes
Cost of works	£35, 000

8.0 Warm Front Scheme

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

Total number of homes in Easington District receiving Warm Front measures	198 Households
Total amount of Government funding brought into the District via the Warm Front scheme	£356, 550

9.0 Utility Management

- 9.1 As from 1st October 2008 all Council public buildings will need to display a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) in a prominent place clearly visible to the public. The DEC will show the energy used in public buildings based on actual energy consumption along with the approximate carbon dioxide emissions;
- 9.2 Licensed software packages are not yet available to produce DEC's but we are currently recording the utility usage for all public buildings and this information will be used to produce the Certificates when the software is released.

10.0 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 and Climate Change Strategy.

11.0 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.

11.1 Equality and Diversity

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

11.2 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.

11.3 Procurement

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

11.4 Service Plan

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

11.5 Performance Management and Scrutiny

Actions are monitored through the performance management framework.

11.6 Sustainability

These schemes 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.

11.7 Expenditure related to “well being” powers

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

11.8 Human Resource Implications

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

11.9 Crime and Disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications.

11.10 Human Rights

There are no Human Rights implications.

11.11 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.

11.12 Information Technology

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

12.0 Recommendations

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

Item no.

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