

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2009**

Present: Councillor C. Patching (Chair)  
Councillors R. Burnip, T. Longstaff,  
Mrs. S. Mason

Apologies: Councillors B. Burn, D. Milsom,  
Mrs. A.E. Laing and T. Unsworth

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 27 January 2009 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

**Recycling (Minute No. 2 refers)**

An update regarding the current situation with the recycling had now been received.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE** held on 3 February 2009, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were submitted.

**RESOLVED** that the information contained within the Minutes, be noted.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

5. **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

The Chair reported that at the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on 9 February 2009, the following issue was discussed:-

Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2008/9.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

6. **SERVICE UNIT PERFORMANCE REPORTING - ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Consideration was given to the report of the Energy Manager which provided information and progress with the District of Easington Fuel Poverty and Energy Conservation schemes, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Energy Manager explained that the Government had introduced a national indicator 187 to monitor levels of fuel poverty at a local level. Regionally the levels of fuel poverty were estimated at 29% and rising due to increases in utility bills. Due to the Warm Homes Campaign and Capital Funded Fuel Poverty Intervention Schemes, the level of fuel poverty in Easington District was 12.2%.

## **Community Services Scrutiny Committee - 17 February 2009**

The District of Easington had been invited to attend a meeting with Joan Ruddock MP, Fuel Poverty Minister in January 2009 to showcase the Warm Homes Campaign and fuel poverty targeting database. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal to undertake best practice guidance for local authorities on reporting of NI187, developing a whole stock targeting database and working with partners to maximise the help available to fuel poor households.

As from October 2008, all new tenants in Council properties would be issued with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) supplying information and national performance of their home. The District of Easington had obtained DEFRA approval to develop best practice guidance for local authorities in production of EPC's. The scheme and partnership with East Durham Homes and the National Fuel Poverty Charity aimed at demonstrating how to provide added value to the issue of EPC's. To date, 152 EPC's had been issued to Council tenants.

The Chair referred to Council properties and queried if tenants could be encouraged to seek opportunities for assistance if they were allocated a house below the 35% threshold. The Energy Manager explained that a two hour survey was carried out and information gathered. If upgrades could be given to the property then it would be placed into the scheme. There had been a long programme for Council properties but there was still some that had not yet had insulation measures fitted.

The Chair commented that there was some very positive information but was concerned at how much of the excellent practices would be seen in the new authority. The Energy Manager explained that he had attended a meeting with the Head of Housing and he was taking fuel poverty forward.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report.

**RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

JC/CB/CSSC/090200  
18 February 2009