

HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Debbie Taylor, Portfolio Holder for Local Environment and Health
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans, Head of Environment
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	n/a
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Council is formally required to present a ‘further report’ to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) by 31.3.13. This further report is included in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Council is fully engaged with tackling the key issues; and the report specifically commits the Authority to undertake its obligations in relation to domestic home energy efficiency to tackle fuel security, combat fuel poverty, and contribute to mitigation of carbon emissions locally.
The report details progress made so far against these obligations and concludes that we will participate in, and use the Green Deal and ECO (Energy Company Obligation – replacing all previous subsidies for energy efficiency) as our main delivery mechanism for HECA aims.
- 1.3. The Council has been asked within DECC guidance to set “ambitious” targets to improve home energy efficiency. Although the Council is committed to acting on issues relating to energy, and has agreed strategies in place to deliver on these issues, the report (Appendix 1) specifically does not set targets to be achieved in the short or long term, citing the unknown additional resource implications as the reason not to set specific targets. The Council would however, seek to establish targets in the future when there is a clearer idea of how the Green Deal will be delivered.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to RESOLVE that

- 1) the report (Appendix 1) be approved for submission to DECC and the consequent requirement to publish this report on the Council’s website be noted; and**
- 2) the current position in relation to the Green Deal be noted.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 If the Council does not commit to specific targets, HECA in itself does not have any additional financial burdens.
- 3.2 However, delivering a comprehensive Green Deal in Redditch is likely to have financial/resource implications; the extent of which is dependent on which delivery mechanism is chosen (either a Worcestershire based Community Interest Company) or a Bromsgrove-Redditch only contract under the Birmingham Energy Savers procurement framework (run by Carillion).
- 3.3. Members have been made aware of this future decision as part of budget setting for 2013/14 and a full report will be required when more information is available (likely to be April/May 2013). At this later stage, a key decision will be required from Council.

Legal Implications

- 3.3 Compiling and submitting the report as set out by DECC makes the Council legally compliant with the statutory framework.
- 3.4 Although the Council is encouraged by Government to set ambitious targets and indicators, there is no legal framework that requires the Council to set them.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 HECA responsibility has moved from the private sector housing team and currently sits within Environment and Planning, although there is some crossover of responsibility.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 Although the Green Deal and ECO will include all of our domestic and commercial business premises, the Council is specifically committed to improving home comfort and working with those who are currently or likely to be suffering from fuel poverty.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None identified at this stage.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - The draft HECA report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

DECC (July 2012) Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities issued pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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