
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	4 OCTOBER 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	SANDRA WHILES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MARK ALFLAT EXT 5716	DOC: \\thomas\data\cent_serv\committee reports\community services\4 oct 2001\home energy conservation bill 2001.doc
SUBJECT:	HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL 2001	REF: MEA/LJW
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS7

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Committee determine whether to support the Home Energy Conservation Bill 2001.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To bring to Members' attention a letter and draft Private Members' Bill on Home Energy Conservation received from Dr Des Turner, a Member of Parliament.

2.2 To request Members to determine whether they wish to support the proposed Bill.

3.0 Detail

3.1 A letter has been received from Dr Des Turner, a Member of Parliament, requesting this Local Authority's support in his proposed Home Energy Conservation Act Bill 2001 (Annexe A). A layman's outline of the Bill which Dr Turner has included is also attached (Annexe B).

3.2 The targets set for Local Authorities under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 are to reduce domestic energy use by 30% over 15 years.

3.3 The proposed Bill would require the specific appointment of an officer to take responsibility for the discharge and achievement of the targets set under the current Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. It would also require standardised reporting on progress made by authorities pursuant to the Act 1995. Where Local Authorities are unlikely to achieve targets set under the Act of 1995, the Secretary of State could determine that a specific proportion of the allocation is made to achieve the targets pursuant to the Act of 1995. The Secretary of State may under proposals, give guidance on eradicating fuel poverty in the District Council's area.

3.4 Licensing of housing multiple occupation is also proposed which would require specific energy saving measures to be taken within those properties.

3.5 Current Situation in South Derbyshire District Council

The Housing Section of the Environmental Health Division has a Technical Assistant whose duties currently include responsibility under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

- 3.6 Progress made in the last 12 months indicates that South Derbyshire District Council is currently on target to achieve the domestic energy reduction set under the 1995 Conservation Act. Provisional figures for 2000/2001 indicate a reduction in energy consumption of 2.4% for that year giving a current total of 10.05% reduction since 1996 against a target of 10% for this time period.
- 3.7 The previous Housing and Environmental Services Committee agreed to set a specific sum aside for Energy Conservation / Insulation Works in both the previous and the current financial year. This has led to dramatic progress being made under the requirements of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. Indications for the current year are encouraging that this rate of progress can be achieved.
- 3.8 South Derbyshire District Council has a very low level of housing in multiple occupation, current estimates being 10-15 properties. These measures within our District boundary would be of little impact but would make a considerable difference in cities particularly that have universities within their boundaries.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None identified. The Energy Conservation measures undertaken by the Environmental Health Division are financed from the single capital pot.

4.2 Community implications

Reductions in energy usage lead to protecting the environment from the reduced use of greenhouse gases and leave more disposal income for its residents from reduced fuel costs.

5.0 Background Papers

- 5.1 None.