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| REPORT TO: | HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 7 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 16th APRIL 2015 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | BEVERLY WAGSTAFFE (01283 228769) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA) PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01 |

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Members approve the 2015 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Plan and submission to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Plan.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To bring before Committee the 2015 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Plan, attached at appendix 1, to comply with a statutory duty upon the Council.

3. Content

- 3.1 In July 2012 the Secretary of State issued revised guidance to the Home Energy Conservation Act requiring plans to be drawn up by March 2013 setting out how the Council plans to reduce energy consumption, carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty. Thereafter the Council is required bi-annually to report on progress made with delivery of the previous plan to Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.
- 3.2 Government guidance sets out the required content and structure of the plan. Essentially, the report must set out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practical, cost effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the district.
- 3.3 There is no obligation on the Council to meet or even set targets, nor sanctions for not doing so. The attached plan does not seek to set unrealistic or un-resourced activities, but sets out a pragmatic approach in the current economic climate.

- 3.4 The Council is a member of the Nottingham and Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP). This partnership comprises of 17 authorities and 2 County Councils. Where such a partnership is in place the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) expects a single plan which includes a specific section relevant to each partner authority. The attached plan comprises of two parts. The first part sets out the current position across the LAEP area; the second part sets out the approach to energy conservation across South Derbyshire including progress against the 2013 HECA Plan.
- 3.5 The measures detailed in the 2013 Plan were those that were considered the most appropriate at the time to help mitigate fuel poverty in South Derbyshire. Since the 2013 report was published the policy context for energy efficiency measures has changed significantly. The most notable changes relate to the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). These policy changes have presented challenges at a local level and one of the consequences has been a reduction in ECO funding available resulting in a greater need to provide impartial advice to households as to how they can reduce their fuel costs.
- 3.6 The work undertaken over the last two years to tackle fuel poverty includes:-
- Working in partnership with the LAEP we have secured funding and installed 52 new 'A' rated boilers and heating systems in circumstances of absent heating or where 'G' rated boilers existed.
 - We have agreed and published a new district-wide Affordable Warmth Strategy setting out our indication to reduce fuel poverty across the District.
 - We have worked with local landlords to promote the Green Deal and encourage home improvements alleviate fuel poverty.
 - We have secured Public Health funding to run an 'Energy Switching Project' in the two most health deprived areas in South Derbyshire (Newhall and Hartshorne).
- 3.7 Work planned for 2015 – 2017 includes:-
- To encourage households to reduce their fuel bills by taking a proactive approach to switching energy supply and taking up energy efficiency measures such as loft and cavity wall installation available via Green Deal and ECO (Energy Company Obligation).
 - To work with private landlords to ensure that they are taking appropriate steps to ensure that from 2018 rented properties have an energy rating of at least 'E' in accordance with the Energy Act 2013.
 - Work with Public Health raise the housing standards of vulnerable households whose health is put at risk by living in cold homes.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 None at present.

5. Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act Plan supports delivery of the Corporate Plan "Lifestyle Choices" theme by contributing to the key project: -
- LP05 – Reducing the number of vulnerable households experiencing fuel poverty.

6. Community Implications

- 6.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act Plan will contribute reducing fuel bills for South Derbyshire's residents which will support households to sustain their homes and reduce levels of carbon emissions across the district.