
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 11
DATE OF MEETING:	9th October 2014	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Housing and Environmental Services	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Beverly Wagstaffe (01283 228759)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014 - 2019	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS05

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Members approve the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014-2019 at appendix 1 as a basis for wider consultation.
- 1.2 That authority is given for the Director of Housing and Environmental Services in consultation with the Chair of this Committee, to agree any minor amendments to the proposed draft strategy arising from wider consultation before it is finally adopted. Any major proposed changes would be brought back to this Committee.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To bring before Committee the draft Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014-2019, attached at annex A.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Affordable Warmth Strategy sets out the Council's proposed actions in having a positive impact on reducing fuel poverty.
- 3.2 In July 2013 the Government adopted a new assessment for fuel poverty based on a 'Low Income, High Cost' definition. A household is now considered to be fuel poor if their fuel costs are above the national average and where after fuel costs the household income is below the official poverty line (60% of median income). The previous assessment was based on a household spending more than 10% of their income on fuel. The poverty line is a continuous moving line depending on local income levels. Putting this into a South Derbyshire context, based upon the 2014 Private Sector Stock Condition Survey, the median annual income for households after household costs, for those in fuel poverty is estimated to be £8,477 compared to £20,709 for households not in fuel poverty.

3.3 Raising household income levels as well as reducing household expenditure on fuel are the two most significant factors which influence the number of households in fuel poverty. At a time when there are significant financial constraints to public sector funds this Council is not in a position to offer financial support to those households in fuel poverty. Therefore, the core aim of this strategy is to focus on reducing fuel poverty by:-

- Encouraging households at risk of fuel poverty to take measures to reduce their fuel bills.
- Promoting take-up of energy efficient measures to improve the thermal efficiency of the private housing stock.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 The Affordable Warmth Strategy 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 Fuel poverty resulting in cold homes can cause poor health, particularly to the most vulnerable residents. This strategy aims to deliver actions that will improve the energy efficiency of residents’ homes, maximise their income and encourage behaviour changes that will help to minimise and prevent the detrimental health impacts of fuel poverty.