
REPORT TO:	Housing and Community Services Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	18th April 2013	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Director of Operations	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Beverly Wagstaffe (01283 228769)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Plan 2013	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01

1. Recommendations

1.1 Members approve the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) plan.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To bring before Committee the 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. The Council is required to publish the plan on its website and send a copy to the 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 is specific to South Derbyshire.

3.5 A key objective at a local level is to determine the Council's role in delivery of the Green Deal. This was referred in a previous report to this Committee in November

2012 and to determine whether it is beneficial for the Council to select a preferred partner to work with to support delivery of the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). The approach for delivery of the Green Deal and ECO are currently being considered by the LAEP and will be a matter for this Committee to consider at a subsequent meeting.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 None at present.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act Plan supports delivery of the Council's Housing Strategy and Corporate Plan to reduce fuel poverty to those households on low incomes.

6. Community Implications

6.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act Plan will contribute to 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.