

# Environment Select Committee

## Review of Affordable Warmth

### Outline Scope

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<b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b> Tackle Fuel Poverty	
<b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b> <u>Fuel Poverty</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy efficiency</li><li>• Fuel prices</li><li>• Effect on public health</li><li>• Income levels</li></ul> <u>Funding Schemes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National funding schemes ending this year</li><li>• Implications of Green Deal/ECO</li></ul> <u>Existing/Previous Schemes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The effectiveness of schemes already carried out, and how best practise can be continued and developed.</li></ul> <u>Links to other social issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employment</li><li>• Education &amp; attainment levels</li><li>• Housing conditions</li><li>• Crime</li><li>• Local economics</li><li>• Social cohesion</li></ul>	

**The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:**

- Detailed consideration of the issues and how this affects residents.
- Evaluation of Affordable Warmth schemes.
- Identify future strategy needs and development of fuel poverty & cold weather element of the Seasonal Excess Deaths Strategy
- Identify and secure governance procedures, and resourcing requirements

**Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?**

- Social Care Commissioners – pathways
- Community and Voluntary Sector
- SBC policies & procedures
- National policy
- Steer financial investment
- Public Health agenda – Health & Wellbeing Board

**Expected duration of review and key milestones:**

Approval of Scope and Project Plan – 30 April 2012  
Evidence Gathering – May – October 2012  
Review options – 22 October 2012  
Final Agreement by Select Committee – November 2012 (TBA)  
Executive Scrutiny – 18 December 2012  
Submission to Cabinet – 7 February 2013

**What information do we need?**

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- Hills Review of Fuel Poverty
- Fuel Poverty statistics
- Government policies
- SBC Property database
- NHS information on cold-weather deaths and illness
- Extent of CESP, CERT and Warmfront, and WarmZone schemes in Stockton
- Joint Strategy Needs Assessment – sections on Housing, Environment, Older People, Poverty, Circulatory Diseases, Respiratory Diseases
- Evidence of support measures carried out – energy efficiency and insulation schemes; Warm Homes Healthy People initiative.
- Other LAs – good practise elsewhere.
- Stock Condition survey of private sector Stockton Borough Council
- Stock condition information from Registered Providers/Housing Associations

New information:

Issues with national schemes

- Issues with boilers, waiting lists, eligibility criteria etc.

- Implications of Green Deal/ECO – what will SBC’s role be? How will SBC become involved?

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

- Environmental Policy (Neil Ellison)
- Housing Services (Melanie Howard)
- NHS Stockton on Tees (Victoria Cooling)
- Welfare Rights Team (Billy Parks)
- Vela Homes
- GoWarm - CESP scheme, Parkfield, & SBC’s CERT measures partner (Karen Hindhaugh)
- Cleveland Fire & Rescue
- Age UK
- Broadacres
- CAB
- Five Lamps
- FrankHaslamMilan - CESP scheme, Billingham (Jonathan Hall)
- National Energy Action, a North Eastern-based charity specialising in fuel poverty issues. NEA acts as a ‘critical friend’ to Government

- Impact of intervention – what do they do/what would they like to do?
- How they see the problem - what do they see on the ground?
- What can SBC do better / differently?

**How will this information be gathered? (eg. Financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)**

- Baselining and analysis of paper based evidence
- Benchmarking
- Face to face questioning of witnesses at meetings
- Site visits to current projects – Parkfield CESP scheme, other schemes
- Follow-up questionnaires to residents in CESP areas, WHHP recipients – to give current information on impact of both hard and soft measures to reduce fuel poverty.

**How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?**

- Home energy efficiency survey – sent randomly to 5,000 people in receipt of Housing benefit.
- Case studies to provide evidence (from WHHP Project)
- Comments on CESP and WHHP from residents on impact of works on their lives etc

**How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?**

The review will be taking steps to ensure the need of affordable warmth for people with protected status are met and therefore advancing their equality of opportunity.

Analysis of data by diversity strands, and completing EIA during formation of recommendations, will help to ensure that the needs of people with protected status are considered.

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:**

- Develop an effective and efficient Affordable Warmth Strategy to help alleviate the problems of fuel poverty in the borough.
- Develop appropriate governance arrangements for the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Agenda.
- Ensure affordable warmth schemes support local employment.
- Commissioning of a study to identify the social return on investment for energy efficiency schemes in the borough.
- Strengthen support mechanisms
- Target setting for energy efficiency status of domestic properties in the borough

**DISTRIBUTION LIST:**

**Environment Select Committee**

**Neil Ellison – Environmental Policy**

**Richard McGuckin – Technical Services**

**Cllr David Rose – Cabinet Member Environment**

**Paul Dobson – Corporate Director Development & Neighbourhood Services**

## Review of Affordable Warmth

## Project Plan

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KEY TASK	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
<b>Scoping of Review</b>	Information gathering	March - April 2012	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	16 April 2012	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Agree Project Plan</b>	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	30 April 2012	Select Committee

<b>Publicity of Review</b>	Article in Stockton News Press Release at start of review?	July 2012	Chair, Link Officer, Press Officer Scrutiny Officer
<b>Obtaining Evidence</b>	Consideration of evidence and analysis Including financial information.  Select Committee conduct challenge and identify further information requirements.  Site Visits to current projects  Consultation with residents via survey	May – October 2012  Additional meeting May? 11 June 2012 16 July 2012 10 September  TBA  TBA	Select Committee
<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	10 September 2012	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	29 October 2012 / 12 November 2012?	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss finding of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	<b>26 November 2012 TBA</b>	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	18 December 2012	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet/Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	7 February 2013	Cabinet/ Approving Body

