

Environment Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 6 June 2012

Review of Affordable Warmth Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The Committee met on 21 May and were presented with an introduction to the issues within affordable warmth and fuel poverty. The presentation included:

- Key issues in fuel poverty
 - Definition of fuel poverty
 - The factors involved
 - Impact fuel poverty has on health
 - The scale of the issue in nationally
 - Fuel prices
- National drivers
- Green Deal

The next meeting will be on 11 June, and Members will receive detailed information regarding the Housing aspects of fuel poverty and Community Energy Savings Project.

As noted in the previous update, the scope and project plan for the review of Affordable Warmth at the meeting held on 30 April. The main issues of the review are:

- The reasons for fuel poverty and effects that this has on social issues
- Implications of the changes in funding schemes for tackling fuel poverty and affordable warmth
- The effectiveness of schemes already carried out

The Key Lines of Enquiry will be to:

- Consider the issues and how this affects residents
- Evaluate affordable warmth schemes
- Identify future strategy needs

The Committee plan to request evidence from a wide range of officers and organisations, including Housing Services, Welfare Rights Team, NHS Stockton-On-Tees, etc. The Committee will also be arranging a site visit to current CESP scheme to see what has been achieved and the impact of this on residents so far.

It is envisaged that the review could lead to the following:

- Development of an effective and efficient Affordable Warmth Strategy to help alleviate the problems of fuel poverty in the borough.
- Development of 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

It is scheduled to present the final report of the review to Cabinet in February 2013.