

Environment Select Committee

Scrutiny Review of Affordable Warmth



February 2013

Environment Select Committee
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Municipal Buildings
Church Road
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Foreword

On behalf of the Environment Select Committee, I am pleased to present the final report following the Scrutiny Review of Affordable Warmth. The review considered evidence regarding fuel poverty levels, the housing stock of the borough, fuel costs, and household income, and examined the impact of these on the environment, as well as the economic and health and wellbeing impacts.

Although the figures published by Department for Energy and Climate Change in 2010 showed that fuel poverty in Stockton was approximately at the same level as the national average rate, the increase in fuel costs and the economic downturn that occurred since these figures were collected are likely to result in a higher level of fuel poverty in the borough when they are next published.

The Committee has been delighted to see that a large amount of work has already been carried out to increase energy efficiency of properties and relieve fuel poverty in the borough, including the largest Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) in the country being delivered in partnership with Go Warm which has seen a considerable amount of investment in some of the most fuel poor wards of the borough. The Committees' recommendations therefore seek to ensure this work continues and develop, making the most of funding opportunities and partnership working, and that the real benefit these initiatives have made to residents' lives is evaluated.

I would like to thank all the officers who supported the review during the investigation, including the officers who attended to present evidence, as well as Stockton and District Advice and Information Service, Go Warm, and registered social housing providers who also provided evidence to inform the review.

Cllr Nigel Cooke - Chair



Original Brief

Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

Tackle Fuel Poverty

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

Fuel Poverty

- Energy efficiency
- Fuel prices
- Effect on public health
- Income levels

Funding Schemes

- National funding schemes ending this year
- Implications of Green Deal/ECO

Existing/Previous Schemes

- The effectiveness of schemes already carried out, and how best practise can be continued and developed

Links to other social issues

- Employment
- Education & attainment levels
- Housing conditions
- Crime
- Local economics
- Social cohesion

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

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

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report presents Cabinet with the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Affordable Warmth undertaken by the Committee during the Municipal Year 2012/13. Affordable warmth is the ability to heat a property to sufficient warmth for health and comfort without incurring financial hardship. The current definition of fuel poverty is a household that needs to spend 10% or more of their income to keep the home at a satisfactory heat, 21 degrees for the main living area and 18 degrees for other rooms.
- 1.2 There have been a number of key Acts, strategies, funding streams, and initiatives that attempt to address affordable warmth, however in December 2010 the Committee on Climate Change produced the 4th Carbon Budget which recognised that there will be significantly more households in fuel poverty in 2020 than had previously been envisaged. In addition to this, in March 2012 Professor John Hills published “Getting the Measure of Fuel Poverty”, an independent report commissioned by the Government, in which he concluded “that fuel poverty is a major social problem, causing considerable hardship and negative health impacts, as well as impeding efforts to reduce carbon emissions”
- 1.3 The Homes Energy Conservation Action (2012) sets out requirements for Local Authorities to report the measures taken to improve energy efficiency. There are also important changes within the policies and funding of affordable warmth, with the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) funding being replaced with Green Deal loans and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO). In addition, from April 2013 Local Authorities will be responsible for strategies to reduce Seasonal Excess Deaths (SEDs), which includes Excess Winter Deaths (EWD), within their populations as part of the public health transfer. It is important that SBC and its partners fully utilise the new national schemes and investigate all further available funding opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce fuel poverty, and/or reduce ill health/seasonal excess deaths.
- 1.4 The links between living in cold conditions and poor health have been recognised. The Royal Society of Public Health states that if the temperature is below 16 degrees it increases respiratory problems, below 12 degrees it increases circulatory problems, and below 6 degrees there is a risk of hypothermia. During the review Members were presented with the draft Stockton-on-Tees Seasonal Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which considers the wider determinants of health and contributory factors to EWD and illness and Excess Summer Deaths and illness.
- 1.5 The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) calculates fuel poverty figures across two years and stated that in 2010 there were four million households in fuel poverty in England, 18.3% of the population. In the North East of England 21.2% of households are judged to be in fuel poverty. The fuel poverty rate in Stockton-on-Tees borough was the lowest in the North East, with 18.1% of all households judged as fuel poor, however when comparing fuel poverty between Lower Super-Output Areas (LSOAs) within the borough, these rates vary widely between 3.8% and 32.1%. Since this data was collected there has been a significant increase in fuel costs and

reduced levels of income due to the economic downturn. It is therefore estimated that when the figures for fuel poverty in 2012 are published, fuel poverty across the Borough as a whole will have increased to 24%.

1.6 The Committee noted that the three major factors affecting affordable warmth are energy efficiency, fuel costs, and household income:

- Energy Efficiency

The DECC 2011 Fuel Poverty Report draws a direct parallel between energy efficient homes and the reduction in fuel poverty. The method for assessing and comparing the energy and environmental performance of dwellings is the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). Dwellings are given a SAP rating from 1-100, 100 being the most energy efficient. There are 83,130 registered properties in the borough and information collected by SBC informs that the average SAP rating for the Borough is 61.55, which is above the national average of 51.6 and the North East average of 56.8. Information was requested from Registered Housing Providers, who are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of social housing across the borough, and the nine who responded reported average SAP ratings varying from 60 to 86. However, Tristar/Vela Group noted that they have 1044 properties with SAP ratings 60 or below.

There are currently 10,700 private sector properties in the borough that do not meet the 2004 Decent Homes Standard and the majority of these properties have category 1 hazards, which are serious hazards that would risk the health and safety of those living in the property. The primary hazard failures in the borough are: excess cold (47%), falls on the level (22%), and falls on stairs (18%). No category 1 hazards failures were reported by the nine registered housing providers.

In Stockton-on-Tees some of the highest incidents of fuel poverty occur in areas of 'hard to treat' housing with low SAP ratings, and it is these properties that have not benefited from previous insulation programmes as they are largely solid wall properties which are expensive to insulate.

- Fuel Costs

Between 2009 and 2011 there was an increase in the price of domestic electricity of 23% and 28% for domestic gas, and the DECC has estimated that domestic electricity prices will increase further by 18% and gas by 28% by 2016. Ensuring that a household is on the best deal for their needs can reduce their costs for fuel; however the cheapest deals for fuel are often online and paid via direct debit. This can cause a barrier for those on low incomes as they may not have access to the internet and/or do not have a bank account/unable to use direct debit. Prepayment meters and quarterly bills can be easier for those on low incomes to budget for however these payment methods cost more.

Collective switching aims to help households get the best deal for their fuel needs and is believed to be an easier way for householder to switch as they do not have to spend time comparing the market and contacting energy companies. It is also believed to drive down the costs offered by energy companies and allows smaller energy companies to compete for

business, increasing their market share. The Committee believe that further investigation of the viability of a scheme for SBC should take place.

- Household Income

Households with lower incomes spend a bigger proportion of that income on energy than those on a higher income. In 2009 the North East had the lowest average annual household income at £20,800, and in the Borough 52% earn below £15,000 compared to 37% across England. Also, benefit take up in the Borough is 27.7% which is above the national average of 17% (the DECC Annual Report 2011).

1.7 The Committee assessed the success of several initiatives that have taken place in the Borough to tackle fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency of houses, and these included:

- Warm Zone and Comfort Zone

An initiative designed to reduce fuel poverty on a local area basis, as well as improve energy efficiency, which ran from 2001 to 2004 and was part-sponsored by the Government. An average of £485 was spent on every household assisted in the borough. Approximately 15,000 properties benefited from the measures which led to an estimated 3,800 households being removed from fuel poverty. Comfort Zone now provides a reduced level of activity with a residual budget of £15,000, and is unlikely to remain beyond March 2013.

- Warm Front

This is a Government funded scheme administered via Energy Action Grants Agency (EAGA – now Carillion) providing a package of energy efficiency advice and improvements to a value of £3,500 per property. In 2009/10 £2.05m was spent and 580 boilers were replaced, 72 cavity walls were insulated, and a further 128 insulation and draught-proofing measures were installed in Stockton on Tees.

- Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)

A national obligation placed on energy suppliers by the Government to encourage the take up of insulations measures and low energy lighting. SBC and Tristar/Vela Homes have worked in partnership with Go Warm to deliver the scheme. From 2008 to 2010, over 4,800 installations have taken place in the Borough, with 3,431 of these in private sector housing and 1,391 in Council housing (pre-stock transfer).

- Community Energy Savings Programme/Go Warm CESP

A government initiative that targets low income areas, SBC is working in partnership with Go Warm to deliver the scheme. The project has delivered a package of energy efficiency measures free of charge to households in Parkfield, Town Centre, Newtown and Thornaby wards. Around 1,000 properties have benefitted from the project in the six targeted LSOAs and it is believed to be the largest private-sector targeted CESP scheme in the country. It is estimated that the measures will save a household up to £775 a year on their fuel bill and reduce their carbon emissions by as much as two tonnes a year. The CESP programme in

Stockton represents some £8m+ of private sector funding secured from the energy sector, with an SBC contribution of around £700,000.

- Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP)
In December 2011 SBC was successful in a Department of Health Warm Homes Healthy People funding bid for £150,000. The project was launched in February 2012 and ran for eight weeks. The scheme aimed to both enhance and draw together existing initiatives in the borough, and was delivered through a partnership approach with several public and voluntary sector organisations. 760 measures were delivered in total and the project will run again in winter 2012/13. Securing funding for this project would enable it to develop and continue in future years.
- Stockton and District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS)
As well as working in partnership with SBC on the WHHP project, and carrying out individual benefit checks for people who contact the service, SDAIS carries out preventative work, including hosting the Big Energy Week, providing training and advice, and running the Horizons Money Advice Centre.
- Several Registered Providers reported improvements to their stock to ensure they were energy efficient:
 - Accent North East were investing over £1million into measures such as energy efficiency windows and heating systems upgrades
 - Endeavour has replaced back boilers with combi boilers and has worked with the CESP Go Warm scheme to include its own qualifying properties
 - Habinteg were looking to 'top up' loft insulation in their Stockton and Yarm properties, and renew Night Storage Heaters in Stockton for more efficient models
 - Hanover approved an additional programme of improvements to its Norton estate, investing over £600k which includes window replacements and external cladding
 - Tristar/Vela Homes plan to spend approximately £11.4million on general improvements to its stock in Stockton. It is developing an Affordable Warmth Strategy, considering renewable technologies for specific properties/residents, and also provides debt and benefits advice, advice on energy tariffs, and signposting for training, advice and funding

- 1.8 The importance of raising awareness of all affordable warmth initiatives, including Warm Homes Healthy People, with SBC staff, GP's, the Clinical Commission Group, registered housing providers and all other partners to enable them to signpost residents was acknowledged by the Committee. The Committee also recognised that it is important that data regarding energy efficiency of housing stock and improvement plans is shared between SBC and registered housing providers to better inform future borough wide initiatives and help target specific area based initiatives when funding has been secured.

- 1.9 The End Fuel Poverty Coalition, which is a group of organisations with an interest in poverty, environmental issues and health issues, has developed a Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment and is asking Local Authorities to sign up to this. The Commitment sets out specific actions Local Authorities should do to eliminate fuel poverty, including: understanding fuel poverty in their area, working with partners, and ensuring take up of benefits.
- 1.10 The Committee appreciates the work that has already been carried out by SBC and its partners in addressing fuel poverty in the borough. However it is concerned that predictions are for fuel poverty to increase. It is also noted that there are significant changes to the way energy efficiency schemes will be funded in future.

Recommendations

1. The Committee recommends that a Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan be developed for 2012/13 – 2015/16 to address the following objectives:
- Increase local SAP ratings;
 - Reduce fuel poverty rates in Stockton (dependent on household income and fuel prices);
 - Reduce carbon emissions;
 - Reduce the impact of fuel poverty on health & wellbeing (using recognised measures e.g. cold related hospital admissions) and other financial and social inequalities;
 - Increasing number of homes meeting Decent Homes Standards.
 - Encourage Registered Providers, by working in partnership with them, to incorporate targeted fuel poverty/energy efficiency measures into their repairs and renewals programme. Also that the programme is focussed on LSOAs/wards with the highest levels of fuel poverty and deprivation (as rated by IMD).

And that the strategy should be revised in 2015/16 to ensure it is fit for purpose.

2. That in order to achieve these objectives, a plan be developed to deliver the strategy. (Based on the actions set out in the main body of the report and summarised at paragraph 5.3).
3. The Committee recommends that all routes of funding are explored on an ongoing basis. This should include a dialogue with Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) over potential funding options and presenting year ROI/savings models along with other related health outcomes arising from fuel poverty measures on an ongoing basis for funding consideration.
4. The Committee recommends SBC and delivery partners should investigate funding mechanisms potentially available to support Green Deal 'loan' deals including local authority and RP funds, CCG funding.

5. The Committee recommends SBC should develop strategies to enable promotion and delivery of Green Deal schemes designed at tackling fuel poverty to reach fuel poor households outside the qualifying Energy Company Obligation (ECO) LSOAs. SBC should utilise the brand the Council to promote such opportunities to individual householders.
6. The Committee recommends that a 'Fuel Poverty Partnership' is formed to bring together all key stakeholders which will, as part of its remit, monitor the progress of the Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan and report to all relevant groups and committees and that detailed terms of reference be developed for approval by the organisations involved. As the lead strategic and delivery body in securing funding and delivering programmes to tackle fuel poverty in the Borough, SBC should provide the Chair to this Partnership.
7. The Committee recommends that in addition to the regular local reporting process of the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Delivery Plan, the information and progress on this Delivery Plan be reported nationally via the Home Energy Conservation Act reporting process and Climate Local (Local Government Association mechanism for public reporting).
8. The Committee recommends that the issues of fuel poverty and affordable warmth be reflected in all relevant sections of the Stockton-on-Tees Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and other strategic and policy documents covering areas such as family poverty, financial and social exclusion.
9. The Committee recommends that an evaluation of current and planned projects be carried out to measure and understand their long term health impacts, carbon efficiency, social and economic impacts.
10. The Committee recommends that Stockton Borough Council sign up to the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment. (Appendix 5)

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1. This report presents Cabinet with the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Affordable Warmth undertaken by the Committee during the Municipal Year 2012/13. The topic was identified for review at Scrutiny Liaison Forum and included in the 2012/13 Work Programme by Executive Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.2. Affordable warmth is the ability to heat a property to sufficient warmth for health and comfort without incurring financial hardship. The Committee has examined how energy efficiency impacts on affordable warmth, the schemes and funding streams targeting affordable warmth, and how to help households who are fuel poor. This is important as the Professor Marmot Review Team (2011) stated:

“Cold housing and fuel poverty not only have direct and immediate impacts on health, but also indirect impacts and a wider effect on well-being and life opportunities, as well as on climate change.”

- 2.3. Currently, a household that needs to spend 10% or more of their income to keep the home at a satisfactory heat, 21 degrees for the main living area and 18 degrees for other rooms, is defined as being in fuel poverty. However Professor John Hills recently recommended a new definition of *“Facing higher than typical costs; and where they to spend that amount, would fall below the poverty line”*.
- 2.4. The Committee has received evidence from Stockton Council teams, including Environmental Policy and Private Sector Housing, Registered Housing Providers, NHS Stockton-on-Tees, Go Warm (Community Energy Solutions) and Stockton and District Advice and Information Service. The Committee also visited several streets in Parkfield to see the energy efficiency measures implemented as part of the Go Warm CESP scheme. In addition the Committee would like to recognise the contribution of the Cabinet member throughout the review.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. The three major factors of affordable warmth are fuel costs, household income, and energy efficiency. If a household has a low income, the property is not energy efficient, and they are paying a high rate for their energy, it is probable that they will be living in fuel poverty. There are a number of Acts and strategies that attempt to increase affordable warmth by addressing these factors, which have included:
- HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act 1995)
 - The Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, supported by the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001 – this included the target of ending fuel poverty for all households by 2012 (2018 in Wales)
 - Decent Homes Standard – aimed to ensure all housing was warm, weatherproof and has reasonably modern facilities. The thermal comfort criterion requires properties to have effective insulation and effective heating
 - EU 20 20 2020 package January 2008 – need to increase the proportion of all final energy consumption derived from renewable resources to 20% by 2020
 - The Climate Change Act 2008 – includes emission reduction targets for 2020 (reduction of 34% in greenhouse gas emissions) and for 2050 (reduction of 80% in greenhouse gas emissions)
- 3.2. In response to these policies there have been several schemes and funding streams to tackle fuel poverty and/or increase energy inefficiency in housing, including:
- Warm Zone (2000 – 2004)
 - Warmfront
 - Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)
 - Community Energy Savings Project (CESP)
 - Winter Fuel Payments
 - Cold weather payments
 - Warm Homes Healthy People Fund (local scheme)

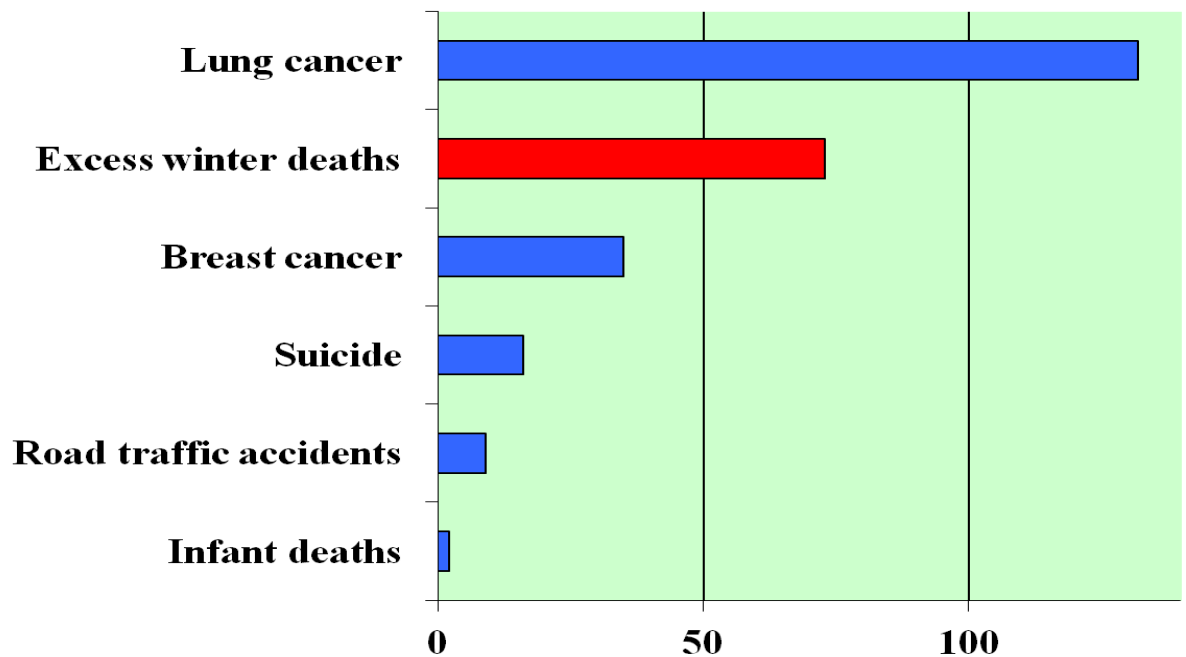
- HotSpots; Fire Brigade; CAB; voluntary initiatives (local schemes)
- 3.3. However, despite the efforts to address affordable warmth, in December 2010 the Committee on Climate Change produced the 4th Carbon Budget which recognised that there will be significantly more households in fuel poverty in 2020 than had previously been envisaged. In addition to this, in March 2012 Professor John Hills published the final report for the nine month review of fuel poverty “Getting the Measure of Fuel Poverty”, in which he concluded “that fuel poverty is a major social problem, causing considerable hardship and negative health impacts, as well as impeding efforts to reduce carbon emissions”. Professor Hills recommended a change in the approach of measuring fuel poverty, and a public consultation was held September – November 2012 in response to the report. The results of the consultation had not been published at time of writing this report.
- 3.4. There are important changes within the policies and funding of affordable warmth. The national CESP funding is coming to an end in 2012 and will be replaced with Green Deal loans and Energy Company Obligation (ECO). In addition, from April 2013 Local Authorities will be responsible for strategies to reduce Seasonal Excess Deaths (SEDs) within their populations as part of the public health transfer. SED includes Excess Winter Death which links to affordable warmth.
- 3.5. This review aims to identify options for an affordable warmth strategy by assessing the energy efficiency of residential properties and the levels of fuel poverty in the borough, evaluating the success of previous and current initiatives to increase energy efficiency and alleviate fuel poverty, and examining the future of funding streams and policies to address the barriers to affordable warmth.

4.0 Evidence

Affordable Warmth Link to Health

- 4.1. The links between living in cold conditions and poor health have been recognised. If the temperature is below 16 degrees it increases respiratory problems, below 12 degrees it increases circulatory problems, and below 6 degrees there is a risk of hypothermia (Royal Society of Public Health). Living in cold conditions is particularly linked to:
- High blood pressure
 - Increased risk of heart attacks
 - Increased risk of strokes
 - Triggering asthma attacks
 - Worsening bronchitis
 - Aggravating arthritis
 - Increased risk of CO poisoning (e.g. from faulty heating equipment)
 - Impaired mental health and social isolation (including triggering depression and dementia)
 - Increased injuries (from fire hazards and falls)
 - Adverse effects on children's education (i.e. through time off school due to illness, not being able to complete homework in suitable place etc.)
 - Increased demand on GP surgeries, hospitals, and other health services
 - Increased demand on social care

- 4.2. There are over 60,000 cold related deaths throughout the year in the UK, with approximately 40,000 of these occurring in the winter months between December and March. For every degree below the winter average there are 8,000 extra deaths in England and Wales. Over half of the excess winter deaths are from cardiovascular disease and a third from respiratory disease (Royal Society of Public Health). The Local Excess Winter Deaths Index shows that in Stockton-on-Tees there are 15% more deaths during the winter months, 70 Excess Winter Deaths per year, and while these figures are similar to the national average these are considerably higher than Excess Winter Deaths in countries with colder winters. **Appendix 1** shows the number of Excess Winter Deaths by Lower Super Output Area, while the table below shows the number of deaths in the borough that can be attributed to Excess Winter Deaths, based on the annual average between 2006-2009, in comparison with other major causes of deaths in 2009 (Office for National Statistics).



**Number of deaths each year in Stockton-on-Tees
(Source: Office of National Statistics)**

- 4.3. During the review Members were presented with the draft Stockton-on-Tees Seasonal Health & Wellbeing Strategy for comment. The strategy considers the wider determinants of health and contributory factors to Excess Winter Deaths and Illness and Excess Summer Deaths and Illness. It focuses on a systematic approach to improving seasonal health and wellbeing, bringing together a range of partners to do this. The Committee recognise the link between affordable warmth and health and wellbeing. This link and close working needs to be embedded further when public health responsibilities transfer to local authorities in April 2013, with clear lines for reporting for this strategy and associated action plans needed.

The Committee recommends that the issues of fuel poverty and affordable warmth be reflected in all relevant sections of the Stockton-on-Tees JSNA and other strategic and policy documents covering areas such as family poverty, financial and social exclusion.

The Committee recommends that a Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan be developed to reduce the impact of fuel poverty on health and wellbeing (using recognised measures e.g. cold related hospital admissions) and other financial and social inequalities.

That in order to achieve these objectives, a plan be developed to deliver the strategy.

4.4. The Committee believes that the strategy should ensure that the links between health, economic, and environmental impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty are demonstrated. It is also felt that SBC should use the opportunity of the NHS reforms/public health transfer to strengthen links between Public Health and other relevant services. The plan to deliver the Affordable Warmth Strategy should ensure that the Clinical Commissioning Group and Health and Wellbeing Partnership and Board are fully engaged with the affordable warmth agenda and its link to Seasonal Health and Wellbeing.

Fuel Poverty Statistics

4.5. Fuel poverty figures are calculated across two years, and the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) stated that in 2010 there were four million households in fuel poverty in England, 18.3% of the population. The North East of England has some of the highest rates of fuel poverty in England, with 21.2% of households judged to be in fuel poverty.

4.6. In Stockton-on-Tees borough there are 14,252 fuel poor households, 18.1% of all households in the Borough. However, the level of fuel poverty in the Borough is the lowest percentage of fuel poverty in both the Tees Valley and in the North East region. The table below lists fuel poverty figures for North East local authorities (DECC 2010):

LA Name	English region	All Households	Fuel Poor Households	Per cent Fuel Poor
Stockton-on-Tees	North East	78,860	14,252	18.1%
North Tyneside	North East	89,508	16,996	19.0%
Hartlepool	North East	39,779	8,079	20.3%
Darlington	North East	46,345	9,582	20.7%
Redcar and Cleveland	North East	59,441	12,443	20.9%
Newcastle upon Tyne	North East	113,957	24,153	21.2%
South Tyneside	North East	68,105	14,526	21.3%
Sunderland	North East	118,680	25,281	21.3%
Durham UA	North East	222,226	48,713	21.9%
Gateshead	North East	88,326	19,980	22.6%
Middlesbrough	North East	56,373	12,749	22.6%
Northumberland UA	North East	138,415	31,239	22.6%

- 4.7. When examining the percentage of fuel poverty by ward for the borough, the percentages vary from 3.8% in Ingleby Barwick West to 32.1% in a Lower Super-Output Area (LSOA)¹ of Newtown. The percentage for many of the LSOAs is above the national average, 66 of 117 LSOAs covering 21 wards (DECC 2010). **Appendix 2** shows the percentage of households in fuel poverty for LSOA in the borough, and **Appendix 3** maps fuel poverty by LSOA.
- 4.8. As the fuel poverty figures are calculated across two years, price and income changes for two years need to be considered when looking at these figures. The significant increases in fuel costs and reduced levels of income (see household income), due to the economic downturn, are expected to have had a negative impact on the percentages reported in 2010, in line with national trends. When considering these issues it is believed that in 2012 fuel poverty in the Borough is likely to be at or near the regional average from DECC's Fuel Poverty report, with 24% of households in fuel poverty.
- 4.9. The projected fuel poverty rates for the UK show that the number of households in the fuel poverty will continue to rise.

	England	UK
2009	4.0m	5.5m
2011	4.4m	6.3m
2016	6.2m	9.1m

(Consumer Focus)

- 4.10. While the Committee appreciate that SBC is performing well against the North East there are pockets of fuel poverty, of varying degrees, in all wards in the borough, and Members are also concerned with predictions that the numbers are increasing. It is therefore important that measures are in place to help lift household out of fuel poverty and to prevent levels of fuel poverty increasing.

The Committee recommends that a Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan be developed to reduce fuel poverty rates in Stockton (dependent on household income and fuel prices).

Housing Stock and Energy Efficiency

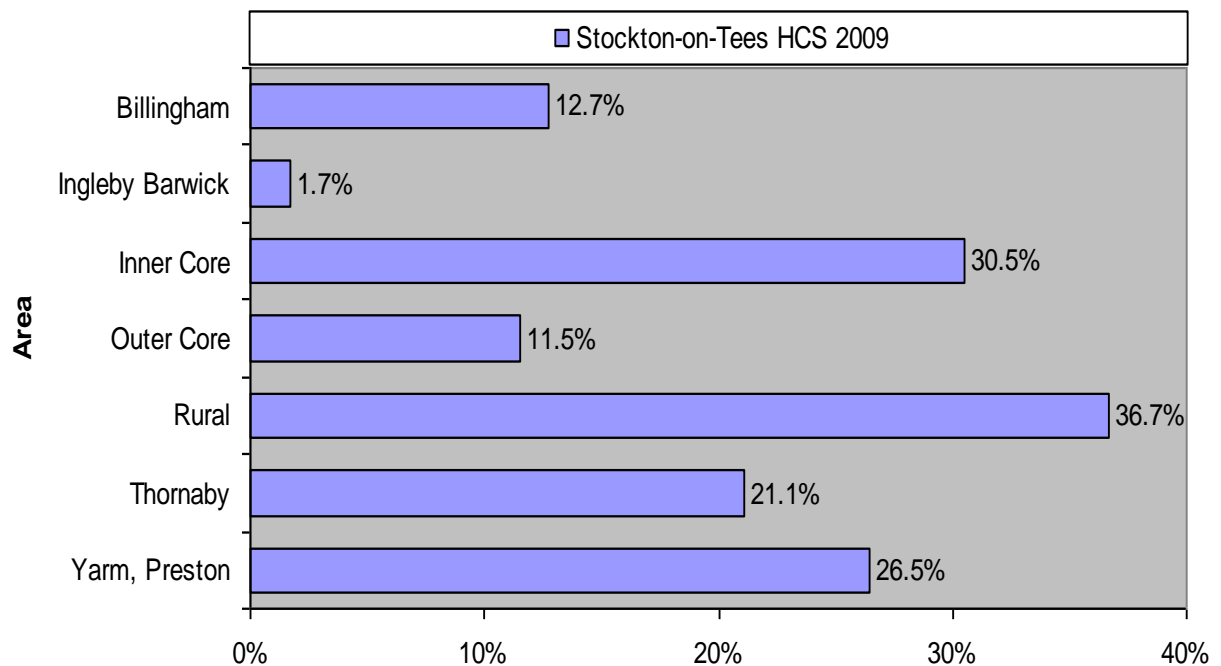
- 4.11. The DECC 2011 Fuel Poverty Report draws a direct parallel between energy efficient homes and the reduction in fuel poverty. In addition, the Climate Change Act 2008 places a legally binding target on the UK to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of base year levels (1990 for carbon dioxide) by 2050. In 2009 37% of UK emissions were produced from powering and heating homes and other buildings (The Carbon Plan, DECC 2011).
- 4.12. There are 83,130 registered domestic properties in the Borough and of these:

¹ Lower Super-Output Areas (LSOA) are geographical areas with a minimum population of 1000, mean population of 1500, used to gather and present local statistical information.

- 69.4% are owner occupier (private)
 - 21.5% are affordable social rent (Tristar/Vela Homes + other registered providers)
 - 9.1% are private rented
(Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2012)
- 4.13. SBC collects data on these properties via the Local Land & Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and the UNO database. The UNO database holds data on:
- UPRN (Unique Property Reference Number)
 - Tenure
 - Construction
 - Insulation measures and levels
 - Double glazing
 - Heating systems
 - Household benefits
- 4.14. Local Authorities are also required by the Housing Act 2004 to keep housing conditions in their area under review and a comprehensive survey of the condition of the private sector stock must be carried out every 5 years. SBC's 2009 survey sampled 1,400 dwellings at random both internally and externally and collected information relating to:
- Energy efficiency
 - Health and safety hazards
 - Amenity provision
 - Socio-economic characteristics
- 4.15. The DECC method for assessing and comparing the energy and environmental performance of dwellings is the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP). It assesses how much energy a dwelling will consume, and how much CO₂ will be emitted in delivering a defined level of comfort and service provision, based on standardised occupancy conditions. This enables a like-for-like comparison of dwelling performance. SAP ratings range from 1 to 100, with 100 being the most energy efficient.
- 4.16. The information collected by SBC informs that of the 83,130 registered properties 77% of the housing stock was built post 1945, compared to 58% of housing nationally. The housing stock contains more semi-detached houses and bungalows than nationally, but fewer terraced houses, detached houses, and flats. 46,202 properties are cavity wall build properties and 7,979 are solid wall/non-traditional build. SBC does not hold information on the wall type of 28,949 properties. All efforts need to continue to be made to improve the accuracy of UNO database.
- 4.17. The 2004 Decent Homes Standard also has an impact on fuel poverty and affordable warmth. It states that a decent home meets the following four criteria:
- It meets the current minimum statutory standard for housing
 - It is in a reasonable state of repair
 - It has reasonably modern facilities
 - It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

4.18. There are currently 10,700 private sector properties in the borough that do not meet the Decent Homes Standard. The cost to remedy non decency in these properties, using a basic repair approach, is estimated at £42million. To carry out comprehensive repairs and improvements to all private sector properties in the borough is £68 million. The table below shows non decency by category, while the graphs shows non decency by area.

Criteria		Private Sector Non Decent	Private Sector Non Decent %	England Non decent %
A	Category 1 hazard	4,500	6.7%	23.5%
B	Disrepair	3,900	5.8%	8.3%
C	Facilities	500	0.8%	2.1%
D	Thermal comfort	3,900	5.9%	17.0%
Overall*		10,700	15.9%	35.3%



4.19. The majority of private sector properties that do not meet the decency standard have category 1 hazards, which are serious hazards identified by the Housing Health & Safety rating System (HHSRS) which would risk the health and safety of those living in the property, and it is estimated that it would cost £16million to remedy these. The primary hazard failures in the borough are excess cold (47%), falls on the level (22%), and falls on stairs (18%). The below table highlights that investing just over £1million to deal with excess cold within a property will save the NHS £2.53million, with payback in under four months.

Excess Cold

Hazard	Class of harm	Dwellings affected	Cost to NHS	Cost of works
Excess Cold	Extreme	66	£3,300,000	£329,538
	Severe	10	£200,000	£49,930
	Serious	45	£67,500	£224,685
	Moderate	89	£8,900	£444,377
Total		210	£3,576,400	£1,048,530
Payback period (years)	0.3			

Source: 2009 Housing Conditions Survey and BRE/CIEH Toolkit

- 4.20. Registered Providers are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of social housing across the borough and have greater access to investment to maintain and improve their stock than owner occupiers and private sector landlords. Nine Registered Providers responded to a request for information on their housing stock, and no category 1 hazards failures were reported.
- 4.21. SBC's UNO database currently shows that the average SAP rating for the Borough is 61.55, which is above the nation average of 51.6, the North East average of 56.8, and an improvement on the Borough's SAP rating of 59 in 2009 and 48 in 2001. Average SAP ratings reported by nine Registered Providers in the borough varied from 60 to 86. However Tristar/Vela Group noted that they have 1,044 properties with SAP ratings 60 or below. The average running cost for the Borough was £1,285£/per year and average CO₂ emissions was 5,408 kg/year in 2012.
- 4.22. Failure to meet the Decent Homes Standard due to excess cold is strongly associated with older dwellings, the private rented sector and converted flats, and these are also the type of properties that are less energy efficient with lower SAP ratings. **Appendix 4** states the fuel poverty statistics for each Ward by tenure, taken from the UNO database, and these figures show that proportionally more household in the rented sector (both private rented and affordable social rented) are fuel poor than owner occupied households.
- 4.23. The DECC Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics 2011 notes that between 2004 and 2009 there was a large increase of houses in the North East with cavity wall insulation (rising from 43% to 70%) and loft insulation (rising from 39% to 60%), and this helped to reduce the level of fuel poverty in the area. In SBC area some of the highest incidents of fuel poverty occur in areas of 'hard to treat' housing with low SAP ratings, and it is these properties that have not benefited from previous insulation programmes as they are largely solid wall properties which are expensive to insulate. The Committee recognises the

need to ensure there is a strong focus on 'hard to treat' properties in future schemes to rectify this.

The Committee recommends that a Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan be developed to:

- **Increase local SAP ratings;**
- **Reduce carbon emissions;**
- **Increasing number of homes meeting Decent Homes Standards.**
- **Encourage Registered Providers, by working in partnership with them, to incorporate targeted fuel poverty/energy efficiency measures into their repairs and renewals programme. Also that the programme is focussed on LSOAs/wards with the highest levels of fuel poverty and deprivation (as rated by IMD).**

4.24. The Committee believes that the strategy should highlight the positive effect of investing in the borough's housing stock to reduce costs of poor health and seasonal excess deaths and to reduce carbon emissions. It is also felt that the plan needs to ensure SBC and registered housing providers share appropriate data to better inform future borough wide initiatives and to help target specific area based initiatives, subject to securing the appropriate funding. Continued efforts are made to improve the accuracy of UNO database to enable most accurate targeting of households in need.

The Committee recommends that all routes of funding are explored on an ongoing basis. This should include a dialogue with Stockton CCG over potential funding options and presenting year ROI/savings models along with other related health outcomes arising from fuel poverty measures on an ongoing basis for funding consideration.

Fuel Energy Costs

4.25. Between 2009 and 2011 there was an increase in the price of domestic electricity of 23% and 28% for domestic gas. The DECC has estimated that between 2011 and 2016 domestic electricity prices will increase further by 18% and gas by 28%. During the review announcements were made by several energy suppliers that they were increasing their prices. The reasons given for this increase is a combination of fossil fuel prices, the cost of transmission and distribution, and costs associated with government policies (DECC Energy Use Statistics and Trends). Gas supply is limited and Members noted the DECC predicted the long term trend for oil prices will double by 2020. The EU target for use of renewables is 35% by 2020 and the UK negotiated target is 15% by 2020 for renewable energy and heat. The Government has introduced incentives for installations of renewable energy technologies onto both domestic and commercial buildings, such as the Feed in Tariff for installing photovoltaic electricity, and the Renewable Heat Incentive for installing solar hot water and heat pumps, however these remain costly to install on a retrofit basis, and now only qualify if other energy efficiency measures are also present or installed.

4.26. Ensuring that a household is on the best deal for their needs can reduce their costs for fuel; however the cheapest deals for fuel are often online and paid via direct debit. This can cause a barrier for those on low incomes as they may not have access to the internet and/or do not have a bank

account/unable to use direct debit. While prepayment meters and quarterly bills can be easier for those on low incomes to budget for, these payment methods cost more. Professor Hills acknowledged that the 'poor may be paying more' in his review of fuel poverty, and that this is one of the two aspects of the Poverty Premium. The below table shows the average cost of fuel by different payment methods.

Average dual fuel energy costs

Online direct debit	£1096 per year	
Direct debit	£1185	+ £89
Pre pay	£1,266	+ £170
Quarterly pay	£1,284	+ £188

Source: Consumer Focus

- 4.27. The Committee believes that a further role for the Fuel Poverty Partnership could be to find mechanisms to ensure that as many residents as possible are enabled to change supplier.

Collective Switching

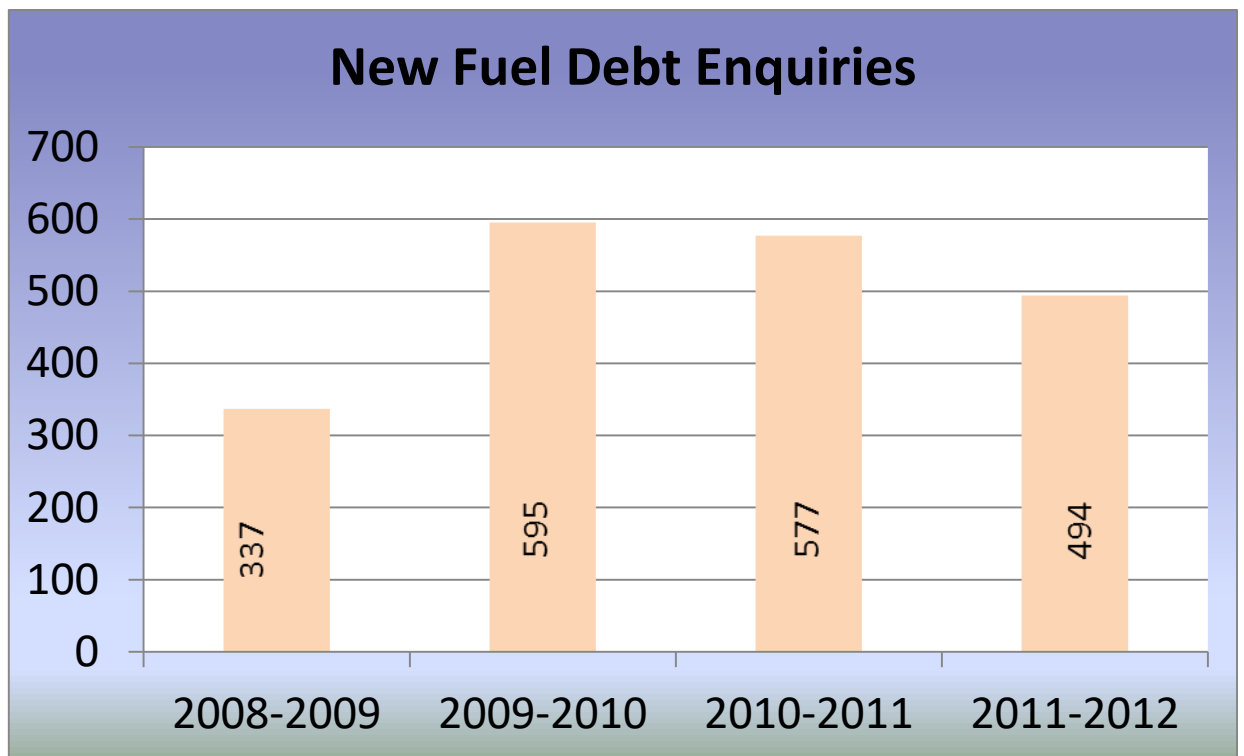
4.28. Collective switching aims to help households get the best deal for their fuel needs and works by a host organisation negotiating on behalf of those registered and holding an auction for energy companies to bid for the collective's business. The successful bidders offer is sent to each household registered who then decide whether to switch. These schemes are believed to be an easier way for householder to switch as they do not have to spend time comparing the market and contacting energy companies when they wish to switch. It is also believed that offering a significant number of householders to sell to in one group will drive down the cost offered by energy companies bidding and allows smaller energy companies to compete for business and increase their market share. However, collective switching does not necessarily guarantee the lowest possible price in the market for a household that could be found by a householder researching and switching supplier on an individual basis. Also, collective switching was not previously an option for those on keycard (prepayment) system, therefore fuel-poor customers on prepayment meters, who are paying more for their fuel, will not benefit. However there are now a number of companies delivering schemes that include a method of incorporating those on prepayment meters.

- 4.29. Examples of collective switching schemes include:
- South Lakeside District Council in association with The Bay launched a scheme called 'Power Up Your Community' in August 2012, and the auction took place on 18 September
 - Tower Hamlets Council is asking residents to sign up to their co-operative T. H. E. (Tower Hamlets Energy) Community Power
 - Cornwall Together launched in August 2012 was the first collective switching scheme on a county level, delivered by the Eden Project Energyshare and Uswitch supported by Cornwall Council, NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Unison, St Austell Brewery, Community Buying UnLtd, Community Energy Plus, Locality

- Oldham's collective energy switching scheme, which closed on 25 November 2012, was open to all UK households to sign up to, including private rented properties and households on pre-payment meters.
- 4.30. The Committee was informed during the review that a partner in the Warm Homes Healthy People project had shown interest in hosting a collective switching scheme.
- 4.31. The Committee believe that as part of the delivery plan developed to support the Affordable Warmth Strategy, the viability of collective switching schemes for SBC and its residents should be investigated, in particular for those in fuel poverty.

Household Income

- 4.32. The second consideration of the Poverty Premium is household income. Households with lower incomes spend a bigger proportion of that income on energy than those on a higher income.
- 4.33. In 2009 the North East had the lowest average annual income at £20,800, and in the Borough 52% earn below £15,000 compared to 37% in England. Also, benefit take up in the Borough is 27.7% which is above the national average of 17% (the DECC Annual Report 2011). The number of working aged people in Stockton claiming Job Seekers Allowance has increased from 6,137 in September 2010 to 7,282 in November 2012.
- 4.34. Stockton and District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS) informed that they had received 8,205 new debts enquires in 2008/9 and this increased to 13,692 in 2009/10, 14,244 in 2010/11, before decreasing to 13,596 in 2011/12. The table below indicates the number of new enquires which were initially new 'fuel debt' enquires from 2008 – 2012. The Committee noted the number of people seeking advice on paying their fuel bills increased in 2009/10 with the increase of fuel prices, however since then there has been a decrease in enquires. SDAIS attributed this decrease to the preventative work and training that they carry out.



(Stockton & District Advice and Information Service)

4.35. Ensuring that a household's takes up the benefits they are entitled to would increase household's income and thereby reduced the percentage of their income spent on energy. However, individuals are often not aware of, or take up, the benefits which they are entitled to. In 2009/10 nationally:

- Income Support and Employment and Support Allowance take-up was 77% to 89%, therefore up to 620,000 people were not claiming up to £2.04 billion;
- Pension Credit take-up was between 62% - 68% and up to 1.58 million pensioners were not claiming up to £2.8billion;
- Housing Benefit take-up was between 78% to 84%, up to 1.14 million people not claiming up to £3.1 billion;
- Council Tax Benefit take-up was between 62% to 69% and up to 3.2m people were not claiming up to £2.42 billion;
- Jobseeker's Allowance (income-based) take-up in 2009/10 was between 60 per cent and 67 % up to 610, 000 not claiming up to £1.95 billion.

(Consumer Focus)

4.36. SDAIS have a holistic approach to debt advice, looking at all debts a person has, benefit maximisation, and helping with other related issues such as employment and/or education. This approach not only helps those seeking debt advice to manage their payments, but also helps to maximise the household's income.

4.37. The Committee recognised that there will potentially be significant impacts on household income arising from welfare reform. The impact of welfare reforms should be considered within the work of the Fuel Poverty Partnership.

4.38. The Committee also recognised the impact that regeneration schemes and the work of SBC to attract, develop, and support local business had on the local economy and employment. This in turn impacts on the income of residents, and their ability to heat their homes sufficiently without becoming fuel poor.

Previous and Current Affordable Warmth Initiatives

4.39. The Committee assessed the success of several initiatives that have taken place in the Borough to tackle fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency of houses, and these are summarised below:

Warm Zone and Comfort Zone

4.40. SBC was one of the five pilot zones for Warm Zone, an initiative that was designed to reduce fuel poverty on a local area basis as well as improve energy efficiency. It ran from 2001 to 2004, and was part-sponsored by the government. The measures provided were loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, and boiler upgrades. An average of £485 was spent for every household assisted in the borough.

4.41. The impact of the project in the borough was much higher than in the other Warm Zone pilots, as the table below shows:

	Hull	Newham	Northumberland	Sandwell	Stockton	TOTAL
Households in fuel poverty	21,340	24,869	20,097	29,637	13,110	109,053
Households removed from fuel poverty	447	1,120	872	2,345	2,998	7,782
Percentage of households removed from fuel poverty	2.1%	4.5%	4.3%	7.9%	22.9%	7.1%
Households in severe fuel poverty	4,407	4,593	2,870	5,687	2,163	19,720
Households removed from severe fuel poverty	119	271	155	563	809	1,917
Percentage of households removed from severe fuel poverty	2.7%	5.9%	5.4%	9.9%	37.4%	9.7%

Warm Zones External Evaluation Final Report prepared by Centre for Sustainable Energy and National Energy Action (March 2005)

4.42. In Stockton approximately 15,000 properties benefited from the measure which led to an estimated 3,800 households being removed from fuel poverty.

- 4.43. At the end of Warm Zone the activities were transferred to Comfort Zone which is embedded in SBC's general activities. Comfort Zone now provides a reduced level of activity with a smaller budget from the Primary Care Trust to assist families in fuel poverty with heating their homes. In 2009/10 nine households received help via comfort zone at a total cost of £5,000 and in 2010/11 ten families received help at a total cost of £10,000.

Warm Front

- 4.44. This is a Government funded scheme, which is also due to end in December 2012, administered via Energy Action Grants Agency (EAGA) providing a package of energy efficiency advice and improvements to a value of £3,500 including boiler replacements, insulation, and draught-proofing measures. The scheme has specific eligibility criteria including being on particular income-related benefits and living in an owner-occupied or private rent property that has a poor SAP rating.
- 4.45. In 2009/10 £2.05m was spent and 580 boilers were replaced, 72 cavity walls were insulated and a further 128 insulation and draught-proofing measures were installed.

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT)

- 4.46. The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is an obligation placed on energy suppliers by the Government to encourage the take up of insulation measures and low energy lighting, and the scheme is due to end in December 2012.
- 4.47. SBC and Tristar/Vela Group have worked in partnership with GoWarm, a company specialising in tackling fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency, to deliver CERT by installing free cavity wall and loft insulation to households entitled to specific benefits using funding received from suppliers. From 2008 to 2010, over 4,800 installations have taken place in the Borough, with 3,431 of these in private sector housing and 1,391 in Council housing (pre-stock transfer).

Community Energy Savings Programme/GoWarm CESP

- 4.48. The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) is a government initiative that targets low income areas, as identified by the Income Domain of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. It is funded through a levy on energy companies to tackle domestic carbon emissions. Bidding for funding packages is a competitive process for Councils and registered housing providers. SBC via its partnership with Go Warm has secured more than £8m of funding through CESP and delivered a major programme in 2012. SBC contributed match funding of less than £800k to secure this huge investment.
- 4.49. There were 17 LSOAs in Stockton identified. To qualify projects must be focused on providing a bespoke package of energy efficient measures tailored to the needs of individual properties. This "whole house" approach is hoped to optimize opportunities for energy savings, thereby making a significant contribution to tackling fuel poverty in the poorest communities.

- 4.50. During the review the Committee visited Parkfield to see the developments taking place as part of Go Warm CESP, a partnership between SBC and Go Warm to deliver a £6m CESP project. The project offers a package of energy efficiency measures free of charge to households in Parkfield & Oxbridge, Town Centre, Newtown and Victoria and Mandale (Thornaby) wards. The project was carried out between December 2011 and December 2012.
- 4.51. The project was carried out in three phases - Phase One: Parkfield/Town Centre, Phase Two: Newtown, Phase Three: Thornaby – and offered a package of measures, depending on the property, including:
- External wall insulation
 - Cavity wall insulation
 - New heating systems
 - Boiler replacements
 - Heating controls
 - Fuel switching
 - Energy Efficiency Advice
 - Benefits Advice
- 4.52. The assessment of each property informed the energy efficiency measures that were needed. To qualify at least two measures needed to be installed in each property for Go Warm to receive the funding, and these would be carried out simultaneously. The works carried out were guaranteed for 25 years. The Committee recognises that exceptional community engagement and ongoing liaison with a substantial client base (i.e. 1000+ households) by Go Warm, SBC officers, contractors and members has been key to this scheme's success.
- 4.53. Go Warm CESP had also contacted private landlords in the areas to inform them of the project and carried out the same assessment and survey as for an owner occupied property. Work was carried out once landlords had given permission, and the guarantees for the work were sent to the landlord. As with owner occupied properties, private landlords did not have to pay for, or make a contribution towards, the measures carried out on their properties.
- 4.54. Nearly 1000 properties have benefitted from the project so far, with 95% take up, and is on target to deliver measures to 1200 properties by the end of the project. Phase Three was coordinated with the road works on Westbury Street. This is only one of two CESP schemes in the country delivering to private sector housing, and is also believed to be the largest CESP scheme in the country.
- 4.55. The energy efficiency measures installed aim to increase the warmth of each property and to make them cheaper to heat. It is estimated that the measures will save a household up to £775 a year on their fuel bill and reduce their carbon emissions by as much as two tonnes a year. Other benefits of the scheme are believed to be improving the aesthetics of the areas and adding value to properties in the long term.
- 4.56. Evidence to date has already demonstrated that the CESP programme has delivered significant financial inclusion benefits by reducing energy bills. Anecdotal evidence from many residents has indicated their homes are much

warmer, they use heating less, and it has have a positive impact on people with long-term health in a number of instances.

- 4.57. The CESP programme, which centres around physical, external works to houses has had a demonstrable regeneration impact, including improving neighbourhoods visibly, and in some areas leading to immediate community-led initiatives on the back of this £8m programme.
- 4.58. A concern was raised that CESP scheme may not be available to Houses of Multiply Occupation (HMO's). The CESP regulations apply to any property which is classified as domestic. Therefore HMO's are eligible whereas businesses e.g. hotels and hostels do not qualify. In individual cases this requires a strict determination of status in comparison to the CESP regulations. The funder would wish for measure to be carried out on all qualifying properties within the LSOA but is not under any obligation to fund measures outside of the regulations.

Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP)

- 4.59. In early 2012 SBC was successful in a Department of Health Warm Homes Healthy People funding bid. The Stockton Warm Homes Healthy People project was launched in February 2012, with the Department of Health funding needing to be used by 31 March 2012, It aimed to both enhance and draw together existing initiatives in the borough, and was delivered through a partnership approach with the following organisations:

Warm Homes Healthy People in Stockton on Tees	
Partner	Service/measures offered under WHHP
AgeUK Teesside	Provide regular social events - chair based exercise classes, soup and social events etc. to people over 50.
Broadacres - Home Improvement Agency	Provide home visits to conduct home safety checks including for trips, slips and falls. Provide a dedicated Handyperson Service for supplying and installing draught proofing measures, fitting smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and providing a general handyperson service for small repairs etc.
Cleveland Fire Brigade	Provide emergency interventions e.g. food warmers, portable heaters etc. Run an electric blanket replacement exchanging worn/dangerous blankets for a new one.
Five Lamps	Energy efficiency advice, Fuel debt advice, fuel switching advice
GoWarm	Offering free boiler service and repairs. Also offer free loft and cavity wall insulation to people on certain benefits and people over 75 via CERT

	and CESP funding schemes
Stockton and District Advice and Information Services - CAB	Benefits checks and general debt advice
Stockton Service Navigation Project	Providing support and guidance to help and encourage access health and wellbeing programmes.
Tees Valley Community Foundation	Provide an emergency fund (Teesside Emergency Relief Fund - TERF) for purchase of emergency items e.g. cookers, fires carpets etc. - will also provide tokens/vouchers for emergency electricity/gas payments. Also providing volunteer training for the buddy service - Viva Angels.
Telecare Services	Temperature sensors - monitors placed in clients homes will detect low temperatures and alert a care worker. This sensor helps to minimise the risks associated with changes in temperature and the risk of sustained periods of cold weather

4.60. The project was available to all residents that met any of the following eligibility criteria:

- Over 75
- Elderly and live alone
- Had a disability
- Had a medical condition made worse by cold weather
- Were fuel poor (with medical issues or disabilities)

4.61. A referral 'hub', hosted by Environmental Policy, provided a route to the range of interventions listed above, with individuals receiving a tailored package of measures, and approximately one third of the people contacting the project received more than one measure. 760 measures were delivered in total including:

- 31 people had boiler repaired/serviced to ensure efficient working;
- 6 people received replacement boilers;
- 33 people requested help with fuel debt or with fuel switching;
- 8 people helped to switch supplier - £238.00 average saving;
- 80 people were given full benefit entitlement checks and household incomes were boosted by £129,749 in unclaimed benefits;
- 137 people signed up to regular exercise and social events run by Age UK Teesside;
- 22 falls prevention measures were installed – e.g. grab rails etc.;

- 60 people attended a Fuel Poverty and Health training course run by National Energy Action, including front line care staff who were able to disseminate the information to those they worked with;
 - 57 households received help from the Fire brigade including:
 - 4 households received emergency heating etc.
 - 19 replacement electric blankets
 - 34 carbon monoxide monitors
 - 391 clients were contacted by Broadacres and given Slips, Trips and Falls advice.
- 4.62. In September 2012 the local work to address seasonal health and wellbeing which included the Stockton Warm Homes Healthy People Project won the Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) award for best health and wellbeing initiative. The project has secured ongoing funding from NHS Stockton and will run again in winter 2012/13. When the Department of Health announced another round of Warm Home Healthy People funding for 2012/13, a bid was submitted and additional resources were awarded for the project. This year the project aims to refine the working of the hub and referral process, continue to refine the UNO housing database to enhance its use as a targeting tool, encourage referrals from professionals and the public and encourage development of a data sharing protocol across organisations.
- 4.63. The Committee felt that SBC and its Warm Homes Healthy People partners should investigate ways to ensure funding is obtained and mainstreamed so that the project can continue in future years, and this should be included in the delivery plan for the Affordable Warmth Strategy. It was also felt that it is important to raise awareness and improve publicity of all affordable warmth initiatives, including Warm Homes Healthy People, making residents, members, GPs and all staff aware of the benefits of the schemes and the savings in costs for dealing with poor health that results from excess cold.

Stockton and District Advice and Information Service (SDAIS)

- 4.64. As noted above, SDAIS worked in partnership with SBC on the WHHP project. SDAIS not only carries out individual benefit checks for people who contact the service, but also carries out preventative work:
- **Horizons Money Advice Centre Services**
The Centre is situated underneath the former Swallow Hotel site and provides debt and money advice by drop in and appointment. The centre helps individuals with grant applications and there is computer access for comparing energy suppliers.
 - **Training and information**
SDAIS has carried out Financial Capability Training to 3,296 people in 1:1 sessions, 1,717 people through group sessions, and 2,718 to front line staff. The training covers comparing energy costs and switching, energy grants, debt and budgeting.
 - **Big energy week**
This was a multi-agency event held week commencing 20 January 2012, with SBC, Tristar, Credit Union, 5 Lamps and Npower involvement. The

event aimed to give energy saving advice, and advice on switching fuel suppliers.

4.65. The service is also carries out social policy activities, both locally and nationally via the National Associations of Citizen Advice Bureaux.

Registered Providers

4.66. Several Registered Providers informed that they are carrying out and/or have plans to carry out improvements to their stock to increase their energy efficiency:

- Accent North East
 - Investing over £1million into 298 energy efficiency works for 242 properties over the next five years. These works are:
 - 11 condensing gas boilers
 - 115 electric heating upgrade
 - 168 energy efficient windows
 - 3 gas central heating
 - 1 gas infrastructure
- Endeavour
 - Replaced 7 “G” rated back boilers with new “A” rated combi boiler in the previous 12 months, three in Stockton area and four in Thornaby.
 - Plan to replace a further 20 – 25 “G” rated back boilers with “A” rated combi boilers within the borough.
 - Participating in the Go Warm Parkfield CESP scheme, with 45 properties receiving external wall insulation, loft insulation, replacement of inefficient boilers, draught strip and energy advice.
 - In discussion with Go Warm to extend CESP scheme into Thornaby area, with 163 properties in the first phase and 78 properties in a second phase. The Association hope to complete this scheme in 2012/13 financial year.
- Habinteg
 - Plan to ‘top up’ loft insulation in their Stockton and Yarm properties
 - Plan to renew Night Storage Heaters in Stockton for more efficient models
- Hanover
 - Have a comprehensive renewals programme in line with, or more frequently than, Tenants Services Authority recommendations, undertake stock condition surveys on all their estates and draw up 5 year estate investment plans. Each renewal item is looked at in terms of energy efficiency savings.
 - Currently replacing old storage heaters at Grosmont Drive with Quantum heaters, which are new on the market and have good energy efficiency ratings
 - Brought forward window/door replacements which will be completed in 2013-14. The new windows will be a lot more energy efficient, using solar glass and frames which do not allow heat to escape.
 - Approved an additional programme of improvements to their Norton estate, investing over £600k which includes:

- External cladding.
- Window replacements
- Roofing works
- Renewal of front doors to all properties
- Improving and extending the buildings entrance, including an additional set of entrance doors

The improvements are expected to be completed by March 2013.

- Tristar/Vela Homes
 - Plan to spend approximately £11.4million on improvements to their stock in Stockton which include:
 - Loft insulation
 - Cavity wall insulation
 - Draft proofing
 - Alternative wall insulation e.g. external cladding
 - Replacing boilers with new “A” rated condensing boiler
 - Reflective radiator panels
 - Hot water tank jackets
 - Renewable technologies will be considered for properties dependent on the property and resident’s lifestyle
 - Provides debt and benefits advice, advice on energy tariffs, and signposting for training, advice and funding.
 - Developing an Affordable Warmth Strategy which is currently at draft stage.

4.67. The Committee recognised that it is important to ensure that partnerships with registered housing providers and the improvement plans for their housing stock are an integral part of the strategy, to enable a greater understanding of the housing stock in the borough and where resources should be targeted. In addition, it would be beneficial for their tenants to ensure housing providers are aware of the services offered through the Stockton Warm Homes Healthy People project and can signpost and refer vulnerable individuals for support.

4.68. The Committee acknowledges the work being completed to tackle not only the results of fuel poverty and help those who are struggling with their energy bills, but also to prevent households becoming fuel poor. The importance of partnership work and sharing of data in targeting schemes and initiatives, and the holistic approach taken, is recognised and encouraged further. While the Committee has noted the number of households that have received measures, the long term health impacts, carbon emissions impacts and economic impacts of the current programmes and measures has not been evaluated, due in part to these being in their infancy. To ensure that resources are being used effectively these long term impacts will need to be assessed.

The Committee recommends that a ‘Fuel Poverty Partnership’ is formed to bring together all key stakeholders which will, as part of its remit, monitor the progress of the Stockton-on-Tees Affordable Warmth Strategy and delivery plan and report to all relevant groups and committees and that detailed terms of reference be developed for approval by the organisations involved. As the lead strategic and delivery body in securing funding and delivering programmes to tackle fuel poverty in the Borough, SBC should provide the Chair to this Partnership.

- 4.69. Key stakeholders of the partnership could include, for example:
- SBC Environmental Policy
 - SBC Housing
 - SBC Public Health
 - Registered Housing Providers
 - Third Sector Organisations
 - Clinical Commissioning Group
 - National Energy Action

The Committee recommends that in addition to the regular local reporting process of the Affordable Warmth Strategy and Delivery Plan, the information and progress on this Delivery Plan be reported nationally via the Home Energy Conservation Act reporting process and Climate Local (Local Government Association).

The Committee recommends that an evaluation of current and planned projects be carried out to measure and understand their long term health impacts, carbon efficiency, and economic impacts.

- 4.70. The Committee believe that, subject to funding, the plan delivering the Affordable Warmth Strategy should further develop those current programmes, such as the Warm Homes Healthy People project, which have been effective in targeting and providing multiagency support to the most in need.

Green Deal & Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

- 4.71. As noted previously CERT and CESP funding will end in 2012, and is being replaced with Green Deal and ECO. Green Deal will provide the upfront capital costs for measures to improve energy efficiency of a property, which will then be paid back via a charge to the electricity bill. The charge attached to the bill must be less than the expected savings from the measures installed, which is called “the golden rule”. As the charge is attached to the electricity bill for the property and not the owners or tenants, if they move the charge is passed on to the next owner/tenant. For rental properties both the landlord and tenant must agree to the Green Deal measures being installed.
- 4.72. There are three options for involvement in the Green Deal available to Local Authorities:
- Green Deal Provider
Local Authorities may decide to provide a Green Deal scheme in their area. This would require significant investment by the Local Authority to identify and then install measures.
 - Green Deal Partner
Local Authorities may decide to provide a Green Deal scheme with a local provider, similar to partnerships formed under the CESP scheme.
 - Green Deal Sign poster

Local Authorities may decide to signpost interested residents to local Green Deal providers, rather than become involved in the delivery of Green Deal schemes in their area.

- 4.73. A number of Local Authorities have plans in place to become Green Deal providers, however in Stockton Borough there is no social housing stock owned by the council to provide a core for such a project. At present therefore SBC has made no plans for this option. However, if suitable opportunities arise this could be reconsidered.
- 4.74. ECO will provide support to the Green Deal, and places obligations on energy companies to facilitate the installation of energy efficiency measures where Green Deal finance alone is not enough. The number of LSOAs that are eligible for ECO increases from the current 17 eligible for CESP funding to 25.
- 4.75. There is still limited information on how both Green Deal and ECO will work at present, and how Local Authorities will be involved; however SBC and its partners will need to be in a position to utilise Green Deal and ECO, and any other future national schemes, to support local schemes once details have been confirmed.
- 4.76. The Committee believe that as part of the delivery plan developed to support the Affordable Warmth Strategy, SBC should work with registered providers and other partners to utilise national schemes such as Green Deal and Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) to support local schemes and help to identify and target most appropriate areas for measures for best gain. Furthermore, officers should investigate all available funding opportunities for measures to improve affordable warmth in the borough, including funding to improve energy efficiency of private sector and social housing stock, reduce fuel debt and fuel poverty, and/or reducing ill health/preventing seasonal excess deaths.

The Committee recommends SBC and delivery partners should investigate funding mechanisms potentially available to support Green Deal 'loan' deals including local authority and RP funds, CCG funding.

The Committee recommends SBC should develop strategies to enable promotion and delivery of Green Deal schemes designed at tackling fuel poverty to reach fuel poor households outside the qualifying ECO LSOAs. SBC should utilise the brand of the Council to promote such opportunities to individual householders.

Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment

- 4.77. The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a group of organisations with an interest in poverty, environmental issues and health issues including consumer groups, charities, and trade unions. It has developed a Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment (**Appendix 5**) and is asking Local Authorities to sign up to this. The Commitment sets out specific actions Local Authorities should do to eliminate fuel poverty, including understanding fuel poverty in their area, working with partners, and ensuring take up of benefits. It also sets out actions it would like the Government to carry out.

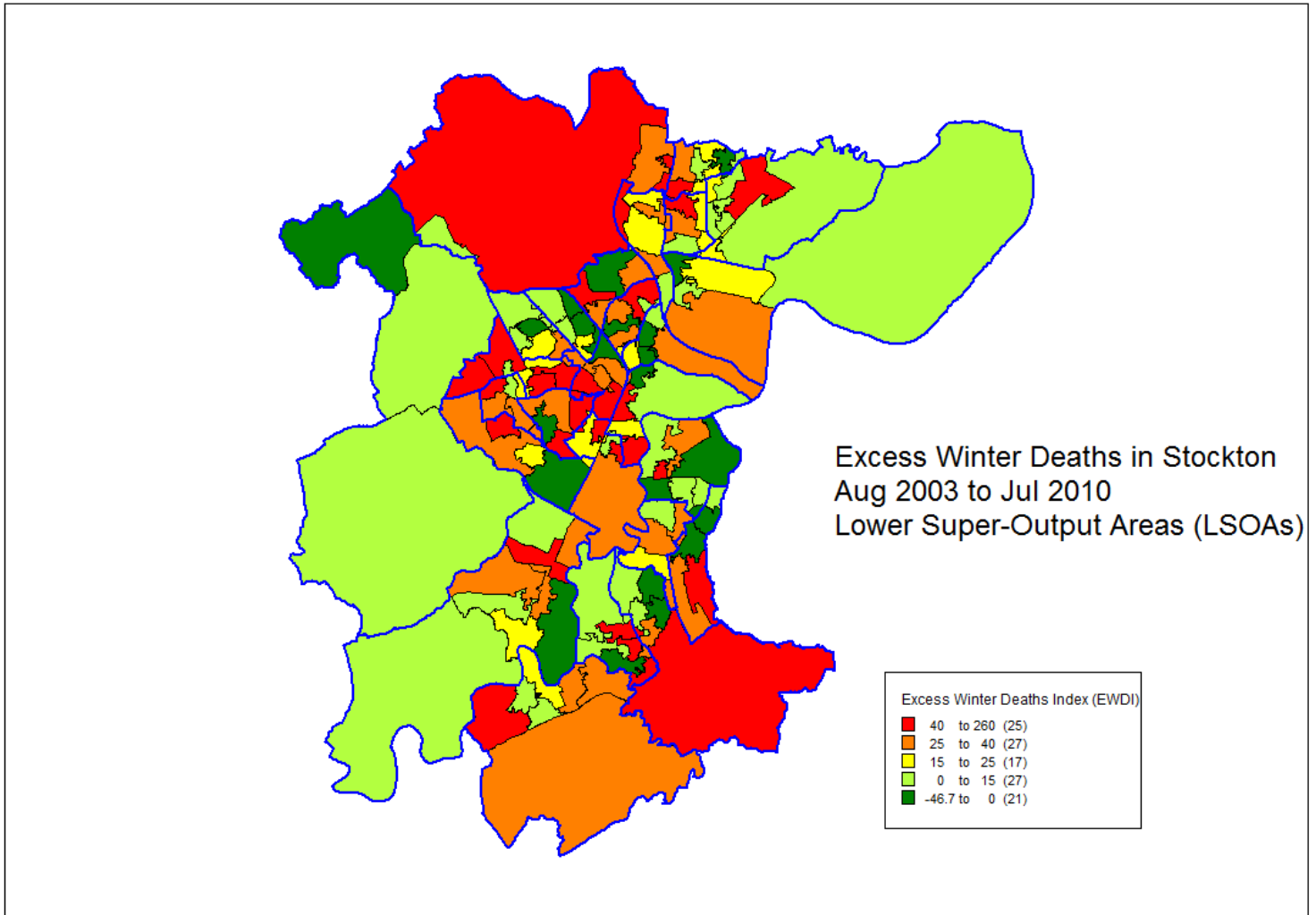
The Committee recommends that Stockton Borough Council sign up to the Local Authority Fuel Poverty Commitment.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1. Cold homes and fuel poverty not only impact on the financial situation and health and wellbeing of an individual, but also have an economic and environmental impact on society as a whole. Living in cold conditions increases the likelihood of ill health, putting pressure on the NHS and social care, and homes that are not energy efficient do not just increase the energy bills of the householder but add to carbon emissions. Ensuring a home is energy efficient and householders are able to afford adequate heating helps to prevent additional financial exclusion and associated social exclusion and inequalities. Warm homes improve health and wellbeing, prevent the worsening of many health problems exacerbated by cold, and have much wider benefits including the reduction of isolation.
- 5.2. The Committee appreciate the work that has already been carried out by SBC and its partners in addressing fuel poverty in the borough however are concerned that the predictions are for fuel poverty to increase. It is also noted that there are significant changes to the way energy efficiency schemes will be funded in future. Therefore a strategic plan is needed to ensure that the affordable warmth schemes in the borough are developed and enhanced. Existing partnerships should be expanded and strengthened to ensure that the maximum benefits can be achieved from new funding schemes that will enhance the environment, health and wellbeing of the borough.
- 5.3. As noted throughout the report, and subject to securing the appropriate funding, the Committee believe it is important that the Affordable Warmth Strategy and its accompanying plan should ensure:
- SBC work with registered providers and other partners to utilise national schemes such as Green Deal and Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) to support local schemes and help and identify and target most appropriate areas for measures for best gain.
 - All available funding opportunities for measures to improve affordable warmth in the borough are investigated; including funding to improve energy efficiency of private sector and social housing stock, reduce fuel debt and fuel poverty, and/or reducing ill health/preventing seasonal excess deaths.
 - SBC and its Warm Homes Healthy People partners investigate ways to ensure funding is obtained and mainstreamed so that the project can continue in future years
 - The links between health, economic, and environmental impacts of cold homes and fuel poverty are demonstrated
 - Research and evaluation is undertaken into the affordable warmth interventions to measure effectiveness financial and social ROI
 - The positive effect of investing in the borough's housing stock to reduce costs of poor health and seasonal excess deaths and to reduce carbon emissions is highlighted
 - SBC and registered housing providers share appropriate data to better inform future borough wide initiatives and to help target specific area based initiatives.

- Partnerships with registered housing providers and the improvement plans for their housing stock are an integral part of the strategy and registered providers are requested to demonstrate and report on targeted investment programme
- Further develop those current programmes and consider innovative and cost-effective new opportunities that are proven as most effective in targeting and providing multiagency support to the most in need.
- The viability of collective switching schemes for SBC and its residents be investigated, in particular for those in fuel poverty.
- The Clinical Commissioning Group and Health and Wellbeing Partnership and Board are fully engaged with the affordable warmth agenda and its link to Seasonal Health and Wellbeing
- Raise awareness and improve publicity of all affordable warmth initiatives making residents, members, GPs and all staff aware of the benefits of the schemes and the savings in costs for dealing with poor health that results from excess cold
- Use the opportunity of the NHS reforms/public health transfer to strengthen links between Public Health and other relevant services.

APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 2

**Fuel Poverty by Lower Super Output Area
(DECC Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty Levels 2010)**

LSOA Code	LSOA Name	All Households	Fuel Poor Households	Percent Fuel Poor
E01012252	Newtown	585	188	32.1%
E01012265	Parkfield & Oxbridge	629	187	29.7%
E01012254	Newtown	639	185	29.0%
E01012263	Parkfield & Oxbridge	580	168	29.0%
E01012238	Roseworth	676	192	28.4%
E01012220	Hardwick	415	115	27.7%
E01012239	Mandale & Victoria	834	231	27.7%
E01012247	Hardwick	503	138	27.4%
E01012249	Hardwick	634	174	27.4%
E01012273	Roseworth	612	165	27.0%
E01012274	Roseworth	503	134	26.6%
E01012258	Newtown	562	148	26.3%
E01012266	Stockton Town Centre	1,129	295	26.1%
E01012251	Newtown	628	162	25.8%
E01012250	Hardwick	596	152	25.5%
E01012292	Village	1,003	255	25.4%
E01012198	Billingham East & Billingham South	576	146	25.3%
E01012215	Billingham East	493	124	25.2%
E01012193	Norton North	631	157	24.9%
E01012196	Billingham East	679	167	24.6%
E01012221	Hardwick	590	145	24.6%
E01012291	Village	620	150	24.2%
E01012281	Billingham South	659	159	24.1%
E01012262	Parkfield & Oxbridge	807	194	24.0%
E01012289	Fairfield	605	145	24.0%
E01012286	Mandale & Victoria	631		23.9%

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E01012253	Newtown	478	114	23.8%
E01012195	Norton North and Norton South	625	148	23.7%
E01012271	Roseworth	585	138	23.6%
E01012245	Billingham East	739	174	23.5%
E01012268	Portrack & Tilery	744	175	23.5%
E01012283	Stainsby Hill	465	107	23.0%
E01012213	Norton West	761	174	22.9%
E01012216	Billingham East	502	114	22.7%
E01012277	Billingham Central	719	163	22.7%
E01012267	Portrack & Tilery	831	188	22.6%
E01012259	Norton South	765	170	22.2%
E01012197	Billingham Central	768	169	22.0%
E01012219	Newtown	690	152	22.0%
E01012288	Mandale & Victoria	566	124	21.9%
E01012217	Bishopsgarth	744	162	21.8%
E01012214	Billingham East	636	138	21.7%
E01012290	Village	857	186	21.7%
E01012275	Billingham Central	633	137	21.6%
E01012255	Billingham West Norton North and Norton South	606	130	21.5%
E01012194	South	661	141	21.3%
E01012256	Billingham West	643	136	21.2%
E01012257	Billingham West	640	135	21.1%
E01012192	Norton North	754	158	21.0%
E01012218	Parkfield & Oxbridge	628	131	20.9%
E01012270	Eaglescliffe	596	122	20.5%
E01012276	Billingham West	849	174	20.5%
E01012260	Norton North	813	166	20.4%
E01012278	Billingham South	509	104	20.4%
E01012189	Fairfield	633		20.1%

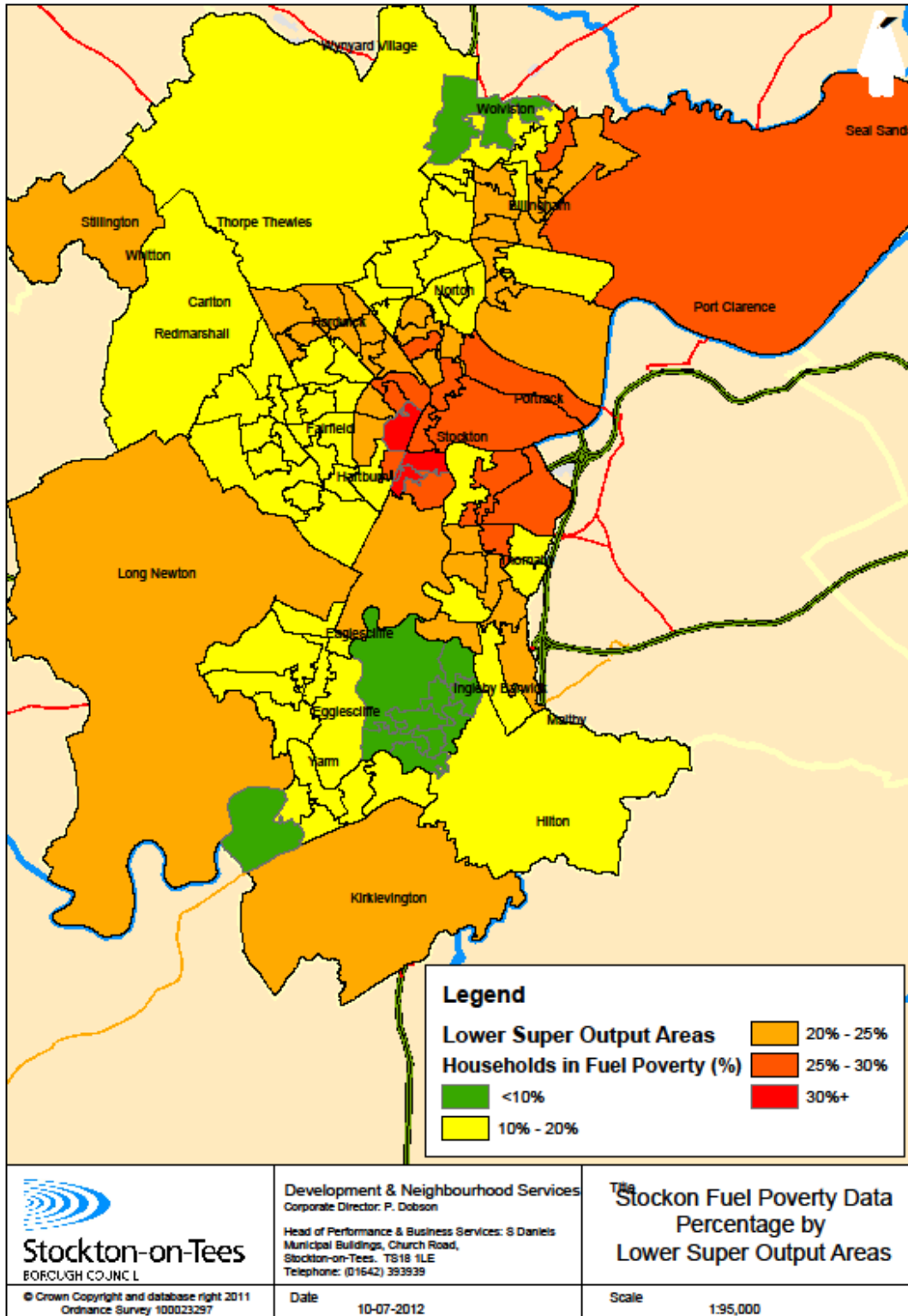
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E01012272	Roseworth	558	112	20.1%
E01012240	Stainsby Hill	856	171	20.0%
E01012207	Grangefield	809	160	19.8%
E01012191	Fairfield	727	143	19.7%
E01012264	Parkfield & Oxbridge	981	193	19.7%
E01012295	Western Parishes	474	93	19.6%
E01012222	Hardwick	859	167	19.4%
E01012248	Hardwick	644	123	19.1%
E01012285	Village	629	120	19.1%
E01012282	Stainsby Hill	532	100	18.8%
E01012284	Stainsby Hill	586	110	18.8%
E01012280	Billingham South	649	118	18.2%
E01012200	Eaglescliffe	874	158	18.1%
E01012206	Bishopsgarth & Elmtree	726	131	18.0%
E01012223	Hartburn	643	115	17.9%
E01012261	Norton South	672	120	17.9%
E01012300	Yarm	727	129	17.7%
E01012209	Grangefield	657	115	17.5%
E01012279	Billingham South	644	108	16.8%
E01012208	Grangefield	665	111	16.7%
E01012269	Western Parishes	674	112	16.6%
E01012294	Western Parishes	487	80	16.4%
E01012201	Eaglescliffe	757	120	15.9%
E01012224	Hartburn	769	119	15.5%
E01012211	Norton West	744	114	15.3%
E01012242	Billingham North	627	96	15.3%
E01012287	Mandale & Victoria	857	128	14.9%
E01012235	Yarm	487	72	14.8%
E01012299	Yarm	703		14.8%

		104		
E01012202	Eaglescliffe	648	95	14.7%
E01012225	Hartburn	645	94	14.6%
E01012226	Hartburn	606	87	14.4%
E01012205	Western Parishes	636	91	14.3%
E01012241	Stainsby Hill	583	83	14.2%
E01012199	Eaglescliffe	641	90	14.0%
E01012204	Bishopsgarth & Elmtree	645	82	12.7%
E01012296	Billingham North	615	78	12.7%
E01012210	Norton West	658	83	12.6%
E01012244	Billingham North	611	74	12.1%
E01012190	Fairfield	628	72	11.5%
E01012233	Ingleby Barwick East	554	62	11.2%
E01012187	Bishopsgarth & Elmtree	545	60	11.0%
E01012301	Yarm	550	60	10.9%
E01012243	Billingham North	629	63	10.0%
E01012303	Yarm	621	60	9.7%
E01012212	Norton West	660	63	9.5%
E01012203	Eaglescliffe	695	62	8.9%
E01012298	Yarm	547	46	8.4%
E01012302	Yarm	488	40	8.2%
E01012188	Fairfield	491	40	8.1%
E01012293	Norton North	1,297	105	8.1%
E01012297	Billingham North	1,020	78	7.6%
E01012236	Ingleby Barwick East	549	37	6.7%
E01012246	Billingham North	577	37	6.4%
E01012237	Ingleby Barwick East	529	31	5.9%
E01012230	Ingleby Barwick West	596	34	5.7%
E01012228	Ingleby Barwick East	504	27	5.4%
E01012232	Ingleby Barwick West	654		4.6%

			30	
E01012227	Ingleby Barwick West	608	27	4.4%
E01012229	Ingleby Barwick West	2,281	87	3.8%
E01012231	Ingleby Barwick West	713	27	3.8%
E01012234	Ingleby Barwick West	560	21	3.8%

Source - DECC Sub-Regional Fuel Poverty Levels 2010 - England

APPENDIX 3



APPENDIX 4

Fuel Poverty by Ward and Tenure (UNO Database July 2012)

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Billingham Central	Owner Occupier	1826	776	42.50
	Private Rented	210	139	66.19
	Social Housing	739	312	42.22
total fuel poor households in ward		2775	1227	44.22

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Billingham East	Owner Occupier	1577	773	49.02
	Private Rented	105	66	62.86
	Social Housing	899	509	56.62
total fuel poor households in ward		2581	1347	52.19

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Billingham North	Owner Occupier	2662	589	22.13
	Private Rented	72	30	41.67
	Social Housing	92	39	42.39
total fuel poor households in ward		2826	658	23.28

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Billingham South	Owner Occupier	1440	390	27.08
	Private Rented	203	116	57.14
	Social Housing	674	409	60.68
total fuel poor households in ward		2317	915	39.49

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Billingham West	Owner Occupier	2082	678	32.56
	Private Rented	39	21	53.85
	Social Housing	49	23	46.94
total fuel poor households in ward		2170	772	35.58

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Bishopsgarth and Elmtree	Owner Occupier	1917	550	28.69
	Private Rented	45	26	57.78
	Social Housing	283	138	48.76
total fuel poor households in ward		2245	715	31.85

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Eaglescliffe	Owner Occupier	2419	662	27.37
	Private Rented	71	28	39.44
	Social Housing	147	95	64.63
total fuel poor households in ward		2637	785	29.77

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Fairfield	Owner Occupier	1755	504	28.72
	Private Rented	39	12	30.77
	Social Housing	136	61	44.85
total fuel poor households in ward		1930	577	29.90

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Grangefield	Owner Occupier	1498	379	25.30
	Private Rented	27	6	22.22
	Social Housing	210	97	46.19
total fuel poor households in ward		1735	483	27.84

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Hardwick	Owner Occupier	1001	486	48.55
	Private Rented	74	46	62.16
	Social Housing	1258	731	58.11
total fuel poor households in ward		2333	1265	54.22

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Hartburn	Owner Occupier	1868	415	22.22
	Private Rented	38	13	34.21
	Social Housing	8	4	50.00
total fuel poor households in ward		1914	432	22.57

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Ingleby Barwick East	Owner Occupier	1197	134	11.19
	Private Rented	43	9	20.93
	Social Housing	5	1	20.00
total fuel poor households in ward		1245	144	11.57

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Ingleby Barwick West	Owner Occupier	871	72	8.27
	Private Rented	21	6	28.57
	Social Housing	2		0.00
total fuel poor households in ward		894	79	8.84

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Mandale & Victoria	Owner Occupier	1630	906	55.58
	Private Rented	616	183	29.71
	Social Housing	1247	802	64.31
total fuel poor households in ward		3493	1893	54.19

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Newtown	Owner Occupier	1265	620	49.01
	Private Rented	215	151	70.23
	Social Housing	978	653	66.77
total fuel poor households in ward		2458	1424	57.93

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Norton North	Owner Occupier	1559	704	45.16
	Private Rented	138	92	66.67
	Social Housing	659	445	67.53
total fuel poor households in ward		2356	1241	52.67

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Norton South	Owner Occupier	1705	705	41.35
	Private Rented	291	156	53.61
	Social Housing	320	207	64.69
total fuel poor households in ward		2316	1068	46.11

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Norton West	Owner Occupier	1554	377	24.26
	Private Rented	47	20	42.55
	Social Housing	75	30	40.00
total fuel poor households in ward		1676	428	25.54

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Parkfield & Oxbridge	Owner Occupier	1240	560	45.16
	Private Rented	332	218	65.66
	Social Housing	402	188	46.77
total fuel poor households in ward		1974	966	48.94

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Roseworth	Owner Occupier	1627	778	47.82
	Private Rented	65	39	60.00
	Social Housing	874	633	72.43
total fuel poor households in ward		2566	1451	56.55

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Stainsby Hill	Owner Occupier	1474	497	33.72
	Private Rented	41	23	56.10
	Social Housing	805	276	34.29
total fuel poor households in ward		2320	797	34.35

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Stockton Town Centre	Owner Occupier	640	353	55.16
	Private Rented	195	131	67.18
	Social Housing	1596	810	50.75
total fuel poor households in ward		2431	1295	53.27

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Village	Owner Occupier	1533	619	40.38
	Private Rented	52	26	50.00
	Social Housing	566	242	42.76
total fuel poor households in ward		2151	887	41.24

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Western Parishes	Owner Occupier	630	189	30.00
	Private Rented	23	12	52.17
	Social Housing	84	51	60.71
total fuel poor households in ward		737	252	34.19

Ward	Tenure	all households	fuel poor households	fuel poor %
Yarm	Owner Occupier	1801	285	15.82
	Private Rented	70	20	28.57
	Social Housing	232	111	47.84
total fuel poor households in ward		2103	416	19.78

APPENDIX 5



Local authority fuel poverty commitment

Fuel poverty is a scourge on our communities. It harms the physical and psychological health, welfare and quality of life of our residents.

Local authorities can play an important role in tackling fuel poverty through, for example, our new public health responsibilities, our strategic role in improving housing and our concern to encourage residents to contribute to the local economy and community.

We commit our Council to:

- Make sure we understand the extent of fuel poverty in our area, its impact on health, housing and quality of life, and to take action to address it
- Make sure that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, agreed between Councils and local NHS organisations, informs strategies to tackle fuel poverty
- Work with partners such as Health and Wellbeing Boards and advice services to develop effective referral systems to reduce fuel poverty and cold-related ill health
- Develop a strategic approach to improve energy efficiency in all housing and fulfil its potential to create jobs and prosperity in our local communities
- Work with energy companies and related organisations to help make sure the Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and other energy efficiency programmes are delivered effectively in our area
- Administer the benefits we are responsible for efficiently and fairly, and help make sure eligible households receive the benefits to which they are entitled
- Explore ways of reducing fuel poverty that involve the whole community, including community groups and town and parish councils

We want the Government to:

- Help us meet our ambitions to eliminate fuel poverty in our area
- Make sure Public Health Directors can effectively deliver on their responsibility for meeting the public health outcome on fuel poverty
- Work with the LGA to support local authorities provide peer-to-peer support and sign up to locally appropriate actions and targets
- Help disseminate information and guidance on legislation, policy initiatives and best practice
- Help compile standardised housing stock data on all housing in the country
- Require Green Deal and ECO providers to inform local authorities of works taking place in their area, to enable authorities to report on referrals and outcomes
- Make sure we have the resources to make an effective contribution towards meeting the national target to eliminate fuel poverty by 2016

_____ Council
commits to do everything within its powers to help eliminate fuel poverty in its area.

This commitment was written by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition (EFPC) and local authority officers. For more information on the EFPC, go to our website: www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk.

Glossary of Terms

CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CERT	Carbon Emissions Reduction Target
CESP	Community Energy Serving Programme
DECC	Department of Energy & Climate Change
ECO	Energy Company Obligation
HHSRS	Housing Health & Safety rating System
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
ROI	Return on Investment
RP	Registered Providers
SADAIS	Stockton and District Advice and Information Service
SBC	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
SED	Seasonal Excess Deaths
WHHP	Warm Homes Healthy People