

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF THE HOUSING AND CUSTOMER SERVICES WORKING GROUP ON 6 FEBRUARY 2020

PART A : REPORT

SUBJECT: Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025

REPORT AUTHOR: Nat Slade, Group Head of Technical Services

DATE: 11th December 2019

EXTN: 37683

PORTFOLIO AREA: Technical Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The current trend is for energy usage to rise, not fall, so tackling this trend is a challenge which the attached strategy aims to address. Arun District Council is investing in the future and putting energy efficiency and support for those in fuel poverty at the heart of its decisions. This is supported by the recently adopted Council Strategic targets, one of which is Climate and Environment Change, this updated strategy will help support Arun's response to the climate and environment emergency.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to recommend to Cabinet:

- That the Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025 appended to this report is adopted.

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1 Local authorities play a key role in contributing to the UK's ambitious national carbon reduction targets, reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their areas. Arun District Council has regularly produced the required Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) reports. The last was submitted and published on the website in May 2019. This Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025 will address more specific local concerns and will greatly expand on measures included in the Council's HECA report.

1.2 Fuel poverty is an important issue and can have several serious negative effects on health and well-being. Whether the situation occurs in a small or large home, energy efficiency has a clear role to play in assisting these households.

1.3 Recognising that energy efficiency actions can have multiple benefits for the local area; environmentally, socially and economically, the strategy explains the local impact and extent of fuel poverty across the district and identifies the opportunities for energy efficiency action in the area. This includes details of local work streams and programmes already in place which are addressing these issues such as the Arun Wellbeing Home Energy Visitor service, the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), Decent Homes and the Safe and Warm Home Grant scheme.

1.4 The primary aims of the strategy are:

- To contribute to the Council's strategic target of preparing Arun's response to the Environment and Climate Emergency.
- To contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in residential o help meet the Government target of reaching 'net zero' by 2050.
- To encourage and support the insulation of any remaining wall cavities and lofts in the district
- To encourage and support the uptake of solid wall insulation in the district
- To encourage and support the uptake of domestic renewable energy systems
- To further improve the energy efficiency of the Council's own housing stock
- To target areas, known to contain Hard To Treat (HTT)
- To work towards reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty across West Sussex using both practical and behavioural measures
- To inform and enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the domestic private rental sector

1.5 In addition to the annual action plan which describes future activities and ambitions for the area, the appendices also include current and completed projects, fuel poverty data for the district and a glossary of energy terms.

1.6 The action plan for the strategy will be reviewed annually and updated against previously set targets and a revised action plan produced for the following year. However, a detailed review of the strategy itself will take place in 2024 with implementation from 2025.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

Members are requested to recommend to Cabinet:

- That the Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025 appended to this report is adopted.

3. OPTIONS:		
- To not adopt the Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025 appended to this report		
4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		x
Relevant District Ward Councillors		x
Other groups/persons (please specify) Consultation has taken place internally with Residential Services, Community and Well Being, Property & Estates, Planning Policy, Council's Advice and Monitoring Officer and externally with West Sussex Fuel Poverty Co-ordinator.	x	
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	x	
Legal		x
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment	x	
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		x
Sustainability	x	
Asset Management/Property/Land		x
Technology		x
Other (please explain)		
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
Financial: Funding for initiatives to support the strategy are reliant on securing partnerships for funding from utilities and other sources.		
Sustainability – Implementing the strategy will assist in delivering environmental benefits by reducing carbon emissions and making homes warmer, which benefits the health of occupants.		
Equalities – No adverse impact identified on protected characteristics. Many interventions will be targeted at and for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups.		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To support the Council's strategic target of preparing Arun's response to the Climate and Environmental emergency and to meet the Council's obligations under the Home Energy Conservation Act.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Strategy 2020-2025