

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Asset Management

Fuel Poverty Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the Fuel Poverty Strategy. This is in accordance with the Council's priority of a good quality home for everyone.

2. Recommendation

The Policy Overview Working Group RECOMMEND to Cabinet that the Fuel Poverty Strategy be approved.

3. Detail

Fuel poverty is a significant issue, which affects around one in seven households in the Borough. The Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy includes a commitment to produce a Fuel Poverty Strategy. Fuel poverty relates to households that cannot meet their energy needs at a reasonable cost. This strategy has been developed with input from teams across the Council, and from external stakeholders.

The Strategy sets out targets and actions for tackling fuel poverty over the next five-years. Many of these actions are already planned or progressing; however, this strategy will provide a governance structure to monitor the progress of these activities and continue to identify new opportunities and actions to reduce fuel poverty.

The Strategy is attached within **Appendix 1** with an Equality Impact Assessment included in **Appendix 2**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, as it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

This applies where a policy has been through pre-scrutiny or Policy Overview Working Group.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with activity being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There is no statutory requirement for Local Authorities to produce a Fuel Poverty Strategy or an Action Plan under the Climate Change Act 2008. However, alleviating fuel poverty is important in contributing to the achievement of the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2027 and to the Council's Climate Change and Green Futures Strategy 2023-2027. The UK has legislation which has set specific targets for the removal of homes from fuel poverty. Under the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014 the target is to ensure that for people living in fuel poverty, as many as is reasonably practicable of the houses in which such person live have a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C. This objective is to be achieved by 2030.

The achievement of the objectives in this report may require the procurement of works and services from external providers. In undertaking such procurement the Council must follow, where appropriate, the Council's Financial procedure rules and the relevant procurement legislation in relation to entering into public contracts

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

A fuel poverty strategy is essential in helping to address climate change implications, as it promotes energy efficiency, which will reduce energy consumption and lead to a decrease in associated carbon emissions.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is a new strategy an equality impact assessment is included in the appendix to this report.

13. Background Papers

Nil.