



Agenda

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport

Time and Date

1.00 pm on Monday, 13th February, 2017

Place

Committee Room 2 - Council House

Public Business

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of Last Meeting** (Pages 3 - 4)
 - a) To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2016.
 - b) Matters arising.
4. **Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Regarding Energy Conservation Measures in the Housing Sector** (Pages 5 - 26)

Report of the Executive Director of Place
5. **Outstanding Issues Report**

Report of the Executive Director of Resources
6. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

Private Business

Nil

Chris West, Executive Director, Resources, Council House Coventry

Friday, 3 February 2017

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Lara Knight Tel: 024 7683 3237 Email: lara.knight@coventry.gov.uk

Membership: Councillors R Ali (Deputy Cabinet Member) and K Caan (Cabinet Member)

By invitation Councillors K Taylor (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Please note: a hearing loop is available in the committee rooms

If you require a British Sign Language interpreter for this meeting
OR if you would like this information in another format or
language please contact us.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

Coventry City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport held at 2.00 pm on Monday, 5 December 2016

Present:

Cabinet Member: Councillor K Caan

Other Members: Councillor K Taylor (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

People J Moore

Place R Baker, S Wiles

Resources L Knight, K Nicholls

Apologies: Councillor R Ali (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Public Business

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the former Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services were noted.

3. Passport to Leisure and Learning - Re-launch and New Online Application Process

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place, which set out proposals for the re-launch of the Passport to Leisure and Learning, to include an online application process.

The report indicated that the Passport to Leisure and Learning (PTLL) scheme was a concessionary scheme primarily for Coventry residents who were eligible for a means tested benefit. The aim of the scheme being to increase accessibility and encourage participation in learning and leisure opportunities across Coventry.

The current take up of the PTLL scheme was extremely low, with only 1,548 cards in circulation and valid. Consultation on the scheme took place in 2013 and indicated that the current application and renewal system was expensive, outdated and bureaucratic. The process involved completing a lengthy manual application / renewal form and providing suitable identification alongside eligibility / benefit verification.

The Council could not accurately quantify how many residents in the City would be eligible for the PTLL scheme due to Data Protection rules within the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP).

There were 34,507 homes in the City that were in receipt of either a Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support payment via the Council's internal Benefits and Revenues Team. Citizens receiving Housing Tax Benefit and Council Tax Support would meet the eligibility criteria for the PTLL scheme and it was recommended that these homes be targeted as part of a re-launch of the PTLL Scheme.

Coventry residents on other qualifying benefits which were registered with the DWP would be able to apply for the PTLL card through an online application process.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member approves:-

- 1. That the Council distributes Passport to Leisure and Learning cards to the 34,607 households in Coventry that currently received Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.**
 - 2. The Passport to Leisure and Learning scheme will be free of charge, verification of proof of benefits will not be required and cards issued will be valid until a unified card is implemented.**
 - 3. All other residents who are eligible for Passport to Leisure and Learning scheme through alternative qualifying benefits will have the opportunity to apply for a card through an online application process.**
 - 4. The Passport to Leisure and Learning card will be issued to all foster carers, looked after children and any children that are deemed to be at risk in Coventry.**
 - 5. A project team is established, to include all stakeholders, which will examine the feasibility of a unified concession card for all Coventry residents.**
 - 6. That a 6-month progress report on the uptake of the re-launched Passport to Leisure and Learning scheme be submitted to the Cabinet Member.**
- 4. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as a matter of urgency because of the special circumstances involved.**

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 2.25 pm)



Public report Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport

13 February 2017

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport – Councillor K Caan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Regarding Energy Conservation Measures in the Housing Sector

Is this a key decision?

No.

Executive Summary:

Local authorities have duties under Sections 2 and 5 of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) to prepare reports on measures to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation for submission to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. From time to time the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) issues guidance to local authorities on the reporting requirements.

In response to guidance issued in 2013, an initial report (referred to as a 'further report' in the guidance) was submitted to the Secretary of State by the 31 March 2013 deadline by the Council after it had been approved by the relevant Cabinet Members at the time.

A subsequent report (referred to as a 'progress report' in the guidance) was submitted to the Secretary of State in March 2015 after approval by the Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Employment. This was in response to the requirement that local authorities must review the progress made in implementing the measures set out in the 2013 initial report. These progress reports must be prepared at two yearly intervals until 2027 and submitted to the Secretary of State on each occasion. There is also a continuing requirement that each subsequent report is made available to the public on the Council's website.

New guidance on the reporting requirements was issued by DBEIS on 5 January 2017. The progress report set out in Appendix A to this report has been prepared with reference to the new guidance. In addition to still reporting on progress since 2013, there is a stronger emphasis now on local authorities stating their future ambitions for the next two years in their progress reports.

Recommendations:

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport is requested to:

- (1) Agree to the submission of the progress report Parts 1 and 2 set out in Appendix A to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy by 31 March 2017.
- (2) Agree to the progress report Parts 1 and 2 being made available to the public on the Coventry City Council website.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix A Part 1– proposed 2017 progress report summarising ambitions and progress for submission to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
Appendix A Part 2 - proposed 2017 progress report summarising project impacts for submission to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
Appendix B - initial 2013 report submitted to the Secretary of State that all subsequent reports have to report progress against.

Other background documents:

None.

Other useful documents:

Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities Issued Pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/581598/HECA_Guidance_2017.pdf

Council Plan 2016 – 2024:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/11778/council_plan_a_top_ten_city

Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/13500/housing_and_homelessness_strategy

Climate Change Strategy 2012 – 2020:
http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/4874/climate_change_strategy_for_coventry

2017/18 Pre-budget Report to Cabinet 29 November 2016:
<http://democraticservices.coventry.gov.uk/documents/s31871/Pre-Budget%20Report%202017-2018.pdf>

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No.

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No.

Will this report go to Council?

No.

Report title: Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Regarding Energy Conservation Measures in the Housing Sector

1. Context

- 1.1 The Council is required by Section 5 of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) to submit a progress report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by no later than 31 March 2017. The progress report must be prepared with reference to the requirements of the guidance issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) in January 2017, and should i) report on progress made with the measures to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation set out in the initial report submitted in 2013, and ii) state ambitions for the next two years.
- 1.2 The measures in the 2013 report had to be limited to those considered 'practicable, cost effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area'. The measures could include 'information, advice, education, promotion, any available financial assistance, making grants and loans and carrying out works'.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Council is obliged to submit a progress report to the Secretary of State by no later than 31 March 2017 and to make it accessible to the public on its website. The progress report needs to refer back to the measures set out in the 2013 report, as well as setting out the Council's ambitions for energy efficiency improvements in the next two years. Whereas the 2013 guidance said that 'an authority may describe any existing (or perhaps future) plan in their further report and progress reports', the new guidance says that 'the expectation of HECA is that local authorities submit their ambitions for the next two years'.
- 2.2 Although the progress report has to refer back to the measures set out in the 2013 report, the context for reporting progress is dramatically different now because of policy changes made by the Government since 2013 that include:
- The demise of the Green Deal.
 - A reduction in the requirements for energy suppliers to invest in insulation and heating measures under the Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
 - Funding competitions not being repeated for DECC's Fuel Poverty Fund, Green Deal Pioneer Places Fund and Cheaper Energy Together Collective Switching Fund.
 - The Department of Health's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund being terminated.
 - The launch of the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy for England in 2015 after the last HECA progress report had been prepared. The Strategy sets a legal target for the current and future Governments to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030.
 - Proposals published in June 2016 to begin re-focusing the ECO on fuel poor households from April 2017, and to give local authorities the opportunity to play a greater part in working with obligated suppliers to identify and contact fuel poor households that could be assisted with insulation and heating measures.

The 2013 initial report is provided for information in Appendix B.

- 2.3 The context for the 2017 progress report has also changed significantly as a result of continuing cuts in Government funding for local authorities and the need for the Council to achieve savings so that it can maintain a balanced budget. The Place Directorate's Affordable Warmth Team has been responsible for delivering most of the measures set out

in the 2015 report, and will continue to be responsible for most of the measures in the 2017 report. However, from the financial year 2015/16 onwards the team has had to deliver cost savings by cutting its staff establishment from three full time posts to two.

- 2.4 The work of the Affordable Warmth Team is also restricted by limited funding to enable the implementation of projects to assist fuel poor households. For example, the lack of further Government funding for its Fuel Poverty Fund and Cheaper Energy Together Collective Switching Fund means that Coventry's successful Affordable Warmth for Disabled Households Project cannot be repeated. It also means that the Council is only likely to be able to operate another three Switch and Save Schemes, based on the budget provision currently available to the Affordable Warmth Team. The three further schemes would have to be delivered with reduced provision for marketing and promotion costs. A Switch and Save Scheme is currently open for registrations until 13th February 2017, and is being operated on a reduced budget for marketing and promotion compared to the funding that was previously available.
- 2.5 The Affordable Warmth Team and the Council's Consultant in Public Health have collaborated very effectively on a range of projects since 2013 and this has led to vulnerable and low income households being helped with Public Health funding to have broken boilers repaired, have insulation and heating measures installed, and to receive affordable warmth advice and information. Discussions have recently taken place about whether additional Public Health funding could be made available for affordable warmth projects from 2017/18 onwards and a commitment has been made for £50,000 of Public Health funding to be used in 2017/18, it is hoped that this may increase. This will be the same level of funding as for 2016/17.
- 2.6 The challenge of fuel poverty in Coventry is significant, but future affordable warmth proposals will be limited by the constraints described above. The latest available statistics from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) show that 13% (16,887) of all Coventry households are fuel poor, compared to 10.6% for England. At the neighbourhood level, the Lower Super Output Area 'Gosford and Gulson Roads' still has the highest fuel poverty level in Coventry at 33.6%. Of the 195 Lower Super Output Area neighbourhoods in Coventry, there are now 28 where at least 1 in every 5 households is fuel poor.
- 2.7 Fuel poverty is one of the Marmot indicators. These indicators are issued annually for all local authorities in England to support monitoring of strategic direction in reducing health inequalities. The latest available indicators for Coventry record that fuel poverty is 'significantly worse than the England average'.
- 2.8 The factors that determine whether a household is fuel poor are income, the cost of energy, and energy consumption (which depends on the energy efficiency of the home and the lifestyle of the householders). The DBEIS statistics indicate that of all fuel poor households nationally, 49% are working households, 45% have dependent children, 20% are aged 60 or over, 78% include a person classed as vulnerable, and 37% include a person with a long term illness or disability. The profile for Coventry's fuel poor households is unlikely to vary much from this. The average energy efficiency rating for homes nationally is Energy Performance Certificate Band D, and 17% of all Coventry homes (23,000) have a lower energy efficiency rating than this.
- 2.9 The proposed 2017 progress report for submission to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is presented in two parts and these are provided in Appendix A. Part 1 summarises progress since 2013 and the Council's ambitions for the next two years, and Part 2 summarises the positive impacts of completed and current projects.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 Officers maintain a dialogue with a range of partner and stakeholder organisations that have an interest in residential energy efficiency. Consultation will continue in order to i) identify priorities and issues to be addressed, and ii) explore project and funding opportunities where feasible.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 After Cabinet Member approval, the 2017 progress report will need to be submitted to the Secretary of State by no later than 31 March 2017. The same deadline applies to making the report available on the Council's website.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications within this report as it represents a summary of past and current activity, or planned activity. The budget for this area will become increasingly reliant on grant and trading income rather than core funding. Specific Cabinet Member or Cabinet approval will be sought for new activities where required.

5.2 Legal implications

Under the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, the Council is required to publish reports on energy conservation measures at various times and send a copy to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

The Council Plan for 2016 – 2024 sets out the vision and priorities for Coventry, and was last updated in August 2016. Under the heading of Reducing the Impact of Poverty, the Plan states that supporting those experiencing fuel poverty is a priority. The measures referred to in the 2017 progress report will make a contribution to supporting fuel poor households. They will also make a contribution towards the ambitions of the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and Climate Change Strategy.

Action to tackle fuel poverty has multiple policy benefits. It will have a positive effect in terms of:

- Improving the quality of housing.
- Increasing disposable incomes.
- Creating employment opportunities.
- Preventing ill health and excess winter deaths arising from the effects of excess cold.
- Improving opportunities for home study and therefore educational attainment.
- Reducing carbon emissions.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Any potential risks will be identified during the development of policies and projects, and when considering options to assist Coventry households.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

Staff and project resources will be required to take forward proposals referred to in the 2017 HECA progress report.

Failure to submit the report to the Secretary of State and to post it on the website would result in Government representations to the Chief Executive. It would also result in potential reputational damage to the Council.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Fuel Poverty disproportionately affects householders who are vulnerable, particularly those with ill-health or on low incomes, and those that live in homes that have poor energy efficiency. Implementing the measures in the 2017 progress report will help to support some of these householders.

If the Council were to curtail the support it provides to the fuel poor, this would be likely to have negative equalities impacts because of the disproportionate effect on the following protected groups:

Race

DBEIS national statistics indicate that households with an occupant from an ethnic minority are almost twice as likely to be fuel poor than non-ethnic minority households. For homes across England, 18% of homes occupied by a person from an ethnic minority are classed as fuel poor, compared to 10% for white occupants.

Age

DBEIS national statistics reveal that 20% of all households in fuel poverty consist solely of couples over 60 and single persons over 60, and a total of 26% of all fuel poor households include a person over 60. Furthermore, 45% of fuel poor households include one or more dependent children living with either one parent or both. Just less than three quarters of all fuel poor households therefore include either older persons or children.

Disability

Disabled persons often have a greater need for heat within their homes because of reduced mobility or as a result of their specific condition. DBEIS statistics show that 37% of fuel poor households include a person with a long-term illness or disability.

The figures for Coventry's fuel poor households are unlikely to be significantly different from the DBEIS ones given above.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The housing sector is responsible for a substantial proportion of air emissions in the city. The latest DECC figures for carbon dioxide available for 2014 show that Coventry's domestic emissions were 491,200 tonnes, which is 32.8% of total city emissions. Energy efficiency improvements to the housing stock will play an important part in reducing carbon emissions.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Implementing the measures in the report will have potentially positive implications for partner organisations with a shared interest in improving the energy efficiency of homes in Coventry.

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Place

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Martin Yardley	Executive Director, Place	Place	23.1.17	24.1.17
Councillor K Caan	Cabinet Member for Public Health and Sport	-	25.1.17	30.1.17

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Appendix A Part 1: Coventry City Council Report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in accordance with the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

March 2017 Progress Report – Ambitions and Progress

POLICY	POSITION
i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES	
Tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions in the housing sector	<p>The Council Plan for 2016 – 2024 sets out the vision and priorities for Coventry, and was last updated in August 2016. Under the heading of Reducing the Impact of Poverty, the Plan states that supporting those experiencing fuel poverty is a priority.</p> <p>The Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2013 – 2018 states that improving energy efficiency and affordable warmth across all tenures is a priority and that the Council will continue to work with partners to play a leading role in the development and implementation of projects to improve home insulation and heating efficiency, provide help to reduce fuel costs, maximise incomes and support householders with fuel debt arrears.</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Strategy 2012 – 2020 aims to influence Coventry residents to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency at home. The visions for the Strategy include improving home energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty, and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. One of the Strategy's objectives is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 27.5 % by 2020, and it is intended that this will be achieved in the housing sector by i) raising householders' awareness of their energy use and providing advice managing and reducing it, ii) insulating homes, and iii) investigating how renewable sources of energy may be used. The latest figures available for 2014 show that carbon dioxide emissions from housing in Coventry have reduced by 18% since 2012.</p> <p>The Council aims to act upon these ambitions and priorities. Progress will be dependent upon Government policy and funding enabling projects to be developed and implemented, and upon the continuing effects of austerity necessitating savings in, and cuts to, some Council services. In particular, the future scope for the Council's Affordable Warmth Team to develop and implement projects may be impacted by the proposals set out in the Pre-Budget Report 2017/18 presented to Cabinet on 29 November 2016. The Affordable Warmth Team comprises two members of staff, with a specific remit to tackle fuel poverty.</p>
ii) MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR	
Green Deal	<p>The Green Deal was launched by the Government in January 2013. Unfortunately the concept of a loan being used to fund energy efficiency improvements struggled to find widespread public appeal. The Affordable Warmth Team considered how the Council could either become a Green Deal Provider, or enter into a partnership with one, to promote the Green Deal but it was concluded that neither option was appropriate given the limited appeal of the Green Deal.</p> <p>The Government subsequently introduced a number of changes to the Green Deal, notably 'cash-back' grants that would partially fund the cost of energy efficiency work. These grants were popular and the Affordable Warmth Team promoted them through advice and information given to the public, and through specific area-based schemes in collaboration with the energy supplier</p>

	<p>E.ON, and the Mark Group.</p> <p>The Green Deal was effectively terminated by the Government in July 2015. A replacement for the Green Deal may be announced in 2017. When a replacement scheme has been announced by the Government, the Affordable Warmth Team will be able to consider how this might benefit Coventry residents and what options there may be for supporting or promoting it.</p>
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	<p>The ECO was introduced by the Government in January 2013. Under this scheme, obligated energy suppliers can provide funding towards the cost of insulation and heating in accordance with eligibility criteria prescribed by the Government and the regulator, Ofgem.</p> <p>Building on the successes that the Council had with the previous obligation schemes, partnership arrangements were developed by the Affordable Warmth Team during 2013 with energy suppliers and contractors to deliver external wall insulation for private householders on a significant scale. The announcement of changes to green levies made by the Government in the December 2013 Autumn Statement regrettably led to major changes in the ECO. This caused the energy suppliers to advise the Council that they would no longer be able to fund the external wall insulation. A number of projects had to be abandoned, including one to offer external wall insulation to up to 1500 private householders.</p> <p>Whitefriars, the largest housing association in the city, continues to carry out external wall insulation schemes for some of their properties using ECO funding to subsidise part of the cost. Since 2013, Whitefriars have improved 2,324 homes with external wall insulation. Orbit Homes have also improved 294 homes in the same way.</p> <p>The latest available Government statistics show that for the period January 2013 - September 2016, 15,900 ECO insulation or heating measures were installed in Coventry homes of all tenures. However, the Government's own estimates indicate that only 2,921 of these measures would have benefited fuel poor households because of the way that the eligibility criteria have worked.</p> <p>The Government has recently consulted on new proposals for the ECO for the period April 2017 - April 2022. The consultation document stated that whilst the overall value of work to be carried out under the obligation would be reduced, the amount to be focused on fuel poor households would be increased. Of particular interest are the Government's 'flexible eligibility' proposals which will give local authorities the option of playing a prominent role in defining which households can be eligible for ECO assistance, and then identifying these households and promoting the assistance to them. The Affordable Warmth Team has already engaged with a number of obligated suppliers to initially explore how a partnership arrangement could work. Once the Government has issued its formal guidance to local authorities on 'flexible eligibility', the Team intends to develop this further with the objective of maximising the amount of ECO funding invested in Coventry by energy suppliers.</p>

<p>DECC funding competitions</p>	<p>Following a successful bid to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Council received £597,000 from DECC in March 2013 to implement an affordable warmth project to help fuel poor disabled householders. A further £223,000 of ECO funding was also subsequently secured, enabling the scope and duration of the project to be extended. The project was developed and implemented by the Affordable Warmth Team and was completed after three phases of work. A total of 83 disabled householders benefitted from external wall insulation for their homes, whilst others received new boilers, and loft and cavity wall insulation. Feedback from householders showed positive health improvements after completion of the insulation and heating work. No further competitions of a similar nature have since been run by DECC or the successor department, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS).</p> <p>The Affordable Warmth Team also secured DECC funding of £63,000 following a bid for support from the Cheaper Energy Together Collective Switching Fund. This enabled the team to run two Coventry Switch and Save schemes in 2013 and 2015. No further competitions of a similar nature have since been run by DECC or the successor department, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS). For the 2013 scheme 3035 households registered and the average annual saving for those who switched was £105, and for the 2015 scheme 1688 registered with an average annual saving for those who switched of £285.</p> <p>Another Switch and Scheme is now open for registrations until 14th February 2017, albeit that the budget for marketing and promotion is substantially less than in 2013 and 2015. There is currently a limited budget available to the Affordable Warmth Team for future Switch And Save Schemes. The budget is non-recurring and means that the Council is only likely to be able to operate another three Switch and Save Schemes with reduced provision for marketing and promotion costs.</p> <p>In 2015 the Affordable Warmth Team participated in a consortium bid led by Worcestershire County Council for a share of DECC's £25m Central Heating Fund. The consortium bid was for first-time central heating for low income and vulnerable households in 20 local authority areas, but was unsuccessful. A total of 82 bids were submitted by local authorities to DECC, but only 20 could be funded. Feedback from DECC suggested that the bid failed because other local authorities were able to provide greater levels of match funding.</p> <p>The Council successfully received funding in 2015 for a bid prepared in partnership with Warwick University and Whitefriars housing association to access funding from the Government's Heat Networks Delivery Unit. The funding was to commission a feasibility study into a district heating system that could potentially include homes in Canley. The feasibility study has now been completed and the consultant's report is expected shortly.</p>
<p>Warm Homes Healthy</p>	<p>In September 2013 the Government announced that the Department of Health's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund would not be</p>

People Fund	<p>repeated and it was suggested that local authorities should look to Government funding made available to local authority Public Health Departments to address public health priorities. For the two previous winter periods, the Council had been successful in securing money from the Department of Health to meet heightened winter demand for affordable warmth assistance as a supplement to the year-round services provided to vulnerable and low income households by the Affordable Warmth Team.</p> <p>In response to the announcement, the Council's Public Health Department provided £125,000 for the winter of 2013/14. For the next two winters, Public Health funding was £100,000 for 2014/15 and £113,499 for 2015/16. The amount of funding has since been reduced to £50,000 for winter 2016/17.</p> <p>Over the period 2013/14 – 2016/17 the Council's Consultant in Public Health and the Affordable Warmth Team have collaborated very effectively on a range of projects. The Public Health funding has been specifically targeted to support low income households and those with health conditions impacted by the cold, to receive repairs to broken down boilers, insulation and heating, and advice and information. The Affordable Warmth Team has managed projects to deliver the boiler and insulation assistance, and the funding has enabled external organisations to be commissioned to provide information and advice to supplement the teams work.</p> <p>A sum of £50,000 has been allocated by Public Health for the financial year 2017/18, and the same sum has been provisionally identified for 2018/19 but will be subject to confirmation.</p>
Energy efficiency information and advice	<p>Since 2013 the Affordable Warmth Team has provided year-round affordable warmth information and advice to homeowners, tenants and private landlords. The team's focus is to help those Coventry residents who are vulnerable, suffering with ill health or living in low income households. The information and advice provided is wide-ranging, and can include help with switching to cheaper fuel tariffs, how to access assistance with insulation and heating improvements, help to ensure due financial support is being claimed, negotiations with energy suppliers over fuel debts, and advice on the best use of heating controls and other ways to keep warm at less cost.</p> <p>The Affordable Warmth Team provides information and advice by i) phone, email, surgeries, events and home visits, and ii) the Council's website. For the calendar years 2015 and 2016, the team helped 1,908 Coventry residents through i), and for ii) there were 29,031 webpage views. The Team currently provides weekly surgeries at AgeUK's city centre office and at the Foleshill Children's Centre.</p> <p>In 2016 the Affordable Warmth Team and Public Health began to engage with housing, health and social care organisations. The intention was to raise awareness amongst frontline staff of the fuel poverty issues that may affect the vulnerable residents that</p>

	<p>they visit in their homes, and to encourage referrals to the Affordable Warmth Team for assistance. So far there has been engagement with Foleshill Children's Centre, Longford Primary Care Centre, Children's Centres South East Cluster, Coventry Adult Social Care, Whitefriars, the Acting Early Team and the Willenhall and Wood End Health Visitor Teams. This work will be extended to other organisations in the future.</p> <p>During the winter periods of 2013/14 – 2016/17, Public Health funding has allowed more residents to be assisted.</p> <p>There is a potential role for the Affordable Warmth Team as the roll-out of Smart Meters gains momentum nationally. A national campaign is currently operating to encourage household to have Smart Meters installed, and up to this point in time a local campaign has not been considered. The campaign is being led by Smart Energy GB which was set up by the Government and is funded by the energy suppliers. Smart Energy GB has so far invited bids for one round of its grant programme to fund organisations that can promote the benefits of Smart Meters locally. Another funding round is expected to be launched in early 2017 – once the invitation for bids has been published, the Affordable Warmth Team will look at the potential for a project proposal to be submitted.</p>
Affordable Warmth Action Plan	<p>The Affordable Warmth Action Plan was agreed in December 2013 and has been implemented as part of the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy since that time.</p> <p>A new Affordable Warmth Action Plan is now proposed, to reflect the capacity of the Council's Affordable Warmth Team and the limited funding available to support projects.</p>
Private rented sector	<p>The 2011 Census indicated that 19% of all Coventry properties were privately rented, and this figure will have grown since then. Statistics issued by DBEIS show that there are significant fuel poverty issues in the private rented sector; 36 % of all households in the sector are fuel poor compared to 10% of housing association tenants, 9% of local authority tenants and 45% of owner occupied households.</p> <p>A pilot ECO-funded project to encourage landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their properties was developed by the Affordable Warmth Team in 2013. Under the project, the tenants of 357 private lets stood to benefit from the improvements but unfortunately it had to be abandoned early in 2014 due to the impact of changes to green levies announced by the Government.</p> <p>The Council is currently considering whether to introduce a selective licensing scheme for the private rented sector in the St Michaels Ward. If the scheme is implemented, it will present an opportunity to raise energy efficiency standards in up to 4,748 properties and to help tenants affected by fuel poverty. The Affordable Warmth Team plans to i) explore with energy suppliers the</p>

	<p>potential to offer ECO-funded insulation and heating measures for privately rented properties in the scheme, and ii) to provide information and advice to private tenants.</p> <p>Legislation has been introduced by the Government that will require privately rented properties (with some exceptions) to comply with a minimum energy efficiency standard. The standard will apply to all new tenancies created from April 2018, and all existing tenancies from April 2020, and will make it illegal to let a property that has an Energy Performance Certificate rating below E. The Government is understood to be currently considering making some changes to the way that landlords will have to comply with the standard. Once this position is clearer, and once the Government has issued its guidance to local authorities on the minimum energy efficiency standard, the Council will be able to consider its arrangements for enforcing the standard after April 2018.</p>
Aerial thermal imaging survey	<p>The Affordable Warmth Team commissioned an aerial thermal survey in 2013 following the success of the one carried out in 2010. The survey flight was carried out in November 2013, and arrangements were again made for Coventry residents to view the results for their homes on the Council's website. The results were made available from 31st March 2014 and in the first three days there were 5,573 page views. In the same time period residents went on to make 593 page views to read the information provided on loft insulation. The survey data also helped to direct loft insulation programmes around the city - Midland Heart housing association used it to identify which of their properties in the city were losing the most heat and these were included in their insulation programme.</p> <p>Another survey has recently been commissioned by the Affordable Warmth Team. Subject to the correct weather conditions and air traffic control permissions, the survey flight will take place by the end of February 2017 and the results will be available to Coventry residents during 2017/18. The Affordable Warmth Team intends to use the survey data to identify householders who may need loft insulation and advise them of ECO funding assistance, if an obligated energy supplier wishes to enable this.</p>
Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's)	<p>It is a legal requirement that, in most circumstances, house owners make available EPCs for prospective house purchasers or tenants. The intention is that this will help them to make informed decisions about the likely energy costs of their new home, and the type of work that's needed to improve its energy efficiency.</p> <p>Trading Standards are the enforcing body for EPCs. In 2015 and 2016 Trading Standards had 25 contacts or interactions regarding EPCs. The majority of these involved checks to ensure that advertisements contained the correct information. A small number of complaints about EPCs were also dealt, resulting in the estate agents being brought into compliance.</p> <p>EPC data is made available to the public by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) through its appointed agent, Landmark. The Affordable Warmth Team intends to use EPC data to identify homes with low energy efficiency and to</p>

	advise the owners of ECO funding assistance for insulation and heating improvements, if an obligated energy supplier wishes to enable this.
iii) PROPOSED MEASURES TO DELIVER AREA-BASED DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS	
	The Affordable Warmth Team will explore opportunities to bring inward investment into the city to enable ECO-funded area-based schemes to take place. To do this the team will liaise with energy companies, installers and registered social landlords to encourage investment.
iv) NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS	
	<p>We will work with local and national partners to improve home energy efficiency in Coventry.</p> <p>Our local partners include: housing associations, AgeUK, Coventry Independent Advice Service, Citizens Advice Coventry, Coventry National Energy Action, Coventry Foodbanks, and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>Our national partners include: energy suppliers, the Local Government Association, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.</p>

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Appendix A Part 2: Coventry City Council Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in accordance with the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

March 2017 Progress Report – Project Impacts

PROJECT	IMPACTS
Affordable Warmth for Disabled Households Project: £597,000 Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and £233,000 Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding secured by the Affordable Warmth Team enabled the homes of over 80 disabled people to have insulation and heating improvements.	Annual fuel bill savings: Average saving £211 per household. Fuel bill savings for all households since project completion (2014 – Dec 2016): £54,000 CO2 emission reduction since project completion (2014 – Dec 2016): 205 tonnes Jobs: At the peak of the project the local contractor employed 29 residents (5 from Coventry, remainder from Nuneaton, Bedworth and Hinckley)
Foleshill and Hillfields Energy Company Obligation-funded solid wall insulation: The Affordable Warmth Team worked in partnership with EON to get 439 private homes improved with solid wall insulation at no cost. Housing associations also had 706 homes improved for their tenants.	Annual fuel bill savings: Average saving £166 per household. Fuel bill savings for all households since project completion (2013 – Dec 2016): £727,000 CO2 emission reduction (2013 – Dec 2016): 3195 tonnes
Switch and Save collective switching scheme: Following a Council scheme in 2013, the 2015 scheme was promoted by the Affordable Warmth Team over a 9 week period to help householders switch to cheaper suppliers and tariffs. 1688 householders registered for the scheme (of 41 local authorities participating, Coventry achieved the third highest number of registrations). 77% of registrants had never switched supplier before.	Numbers switching supplier: 501 households Annual fuel bill savings: Average saving for dual fuel monthly direct debit tariffs was £347. Across all tariff categories average saving was £285. 12 month fuel bill savings for all households after switching: £135,279

At the time of preparing this report, a third Switch and Save scheme was being promoted by the Affordable Warmth Team.	
Affordable warmth advice and information: The Affordable Warmth Team provides a year-round service offering advice and information i) by telephone and e-mail, ii) through events, surgeries and home visits and iii) via the Council's website. New referral partnerships are being developed.	Numbers receiving advice and information: For the calendar years 2015 and 2016, the Affordable Warmth Team helped 1,908 households through i) and ii), and for iii) there were 29,031 webpage views. Annual fuel bill savings for 2015 and 2016: Average saving £55 per household.
Keeping Coventry Warm winter programme: Public Health has worked with Affordable Warmth Team and enabled supplementary work over 3 successive winter periods. In 2015/16 this winter support comprised i) extended affordable warmth advice and information provided by Groundwork West Midlands, ii) repair or replacement of broken boilers for low income residents with health conditions affected by the cold. A wide range of referral partners were engaged in referring to the service.	Numbers receiving advice and information: For the winter periods in 2013/14, 204/15 and 2015/16, a total of 2,217 households were assisted. In 2014/15, and 2015/16, 90% of these households included vulnerable individuals (with health conditions). Annual fuel bill savings for 2015/16: Average saving £109 per household. 12 month fuel bill savings from 2015/16 for all households after advice and information: £125,000 Numbers assisted with boiler repairs or replacements: 9 households.
The Affordable Warmth on Prescription Project: This pilot is currently being implemented, working with GP practices in the city, using £50,000 Public Health funding and £100,000 matched Warm Zones funding. It will provide heating and insulation improvements for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). With patient consent, a 'before and after' data analysis will be used to evidence changes in demand for health care services. At the time of preparing this report the Affordable Warmth Team is continuing to assess households for eligibility, and improvement work is underway for those already referred to Warm Zones.	Number of COPD patients assisted with heating and insulation: An estimated 25 – 30 households will benefit, and reduced demand for health and care services is anticipated, based on similar successful pilots.

<p>Fuel vouchers for prepayment meter users visiting foodbanks: Following collaborative work between the Affordable Warmth Team and Coventry Foodbanks, and discussions between them and NPower and the Trussell Trust, NPower has agreed to extend its fuel voucher scheme to Coventry for an initial 12 month period. Fuel vouchers will be available at 8 of the city's food banks from March 2017 (maximum of 3 vouchers available per household).</p>	<p>Number of prepayment meter users assisted: An estimated 1000 households using foodbanks will receive fuel vouchers over 12 months.</p>
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Appendix B: Coventry City Council Report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in accordance with the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

March 2013 Further Report.

POLICY	POSITION AND PROPOSALS	TIMING
i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
Tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions in the housing sector	<p>The City Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy states that improving energy efficiency and affordable warmth across all tenure is a priority.</p> <p>The City Council's Climate Change Strategy aims to influence Coventry residents to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency at home.</p> <p>The Coventry Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy aims to help residents to reduce energy use and carbon emissions.</p>	<p>2013 - 2018</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2014</p>
ii) MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HOUSING SECTOR		
Green Deal	We will continue to track the development of the Green Deal market, and will complete an evaluation of the options available to the City Council to influence Green Deal delivery.	2013
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	We will work to maximise the investment of ECO in the City by energy companies and installers.	2013 - 2015
DECC competition	We will implement the City Council's fuel poverty project following receipt of funding from the Department Energy and Climate Change. We will again bid competitively for funding should further competitions be announced.	2013 - 2014
Warm Homes Healthy People Fund	Following the City's two successful bids to the Department of Health's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund in 2011 and 2012, we will again bid competitively for funding should further funding be announced.	2013
Affordable Warmth Action Plan	In accordance with the City Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy and Climate Change Strategy, we will prepare an Affordable Warmth Action Plan. The Plan will provide further details of proposals to improve the energy efficiency of the housing sector.	2013
Energy efficiency information and advice	We will seek to raise awareness of domestic energy efficiency measures and will provide information about the assistance available to home owners, tenants and private landlords.	Ongoing
Private rented sector	We will seek to raise the awareness of private rented sector landlords of their future legal obligations relating to energy efficiency standards.	2013 - 2016

Aerial thermal imaging survey	We will implement a further survey of the city in 2013 and will use the results to raise awareness of energy efficiency and to identify households that may benefit from assistance.	Ongoing
Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's)	We will seek to raise awareness of EPC's and the information they provide, and will analyse data on EPC's to identify households that may benefit from assistance.	Ongoing
iii) PROPOSED MEASURES TO DELIVER AREA-BASED DOMESTIC ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS		
	We will actively pursue opportunities to bring inward investment into the city to enable ECO-funded area-based schemes to take place. We will liaise with energy companies, installers and registered social landlords to encourage investment.	2013 - 2015
iv) NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS		
	<p>We will work with local and national partners to improve energy efficiency in Coventry.</p> <p>Our local partners include: registered social landlords, AgeUK, Citizens Advice Bureau, Coventry National Energy Action, the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire District and Borough Councils, the Renewable Energy Technology Alliance and local insulation and heating contractors, Act on Energy.</p> <p>Our national partners include: energy companies, the Local Government Association, the Department of Energy and Climate Change.</p>	Ongoing