



Coventry City Council

Briefing note

To: Cabinet Member Business, Enterprise and Employment

Date: 23 March 2015

Subject: Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Regarding Energy Conservation Measures in the Housing Sector

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the outcome of discussions following the consideration of the Progress Report to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Regarding Energy Conservation Measures in the Housing Sector by the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board at their meeting on 11 March 2015

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet Members is requested to accept the recommendations in the report.
- 2.2 The Cabinet Member is also requested to note the concerns that the Scrutiny Board had regarding the change to that way that fuel poverty is calculated and that some vulnerable people may no longer be considered in fuel poverty but that their situation may not have changed.
- 2.3 The Cabinet Member is requested to express the above concern to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the report is submitted.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 At their meeting on 11 March the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board considered the above report.
- 3.2 Members heard about the steps in the City to address fuel poverty and welcomed the work that is being done, particularly with vulnerable groups such as the elderly and disabled people.
- 3.3 However Members were concerned that the change in the way that fuel poverty is calculated could mask a problem. The measure has changed from more than 10% of your income being spent on fuel, to the Low Income, High Cost measure. This has led to a drop in the numbers nationally being in fuel poverty, however, Members were concerned that peoples circumstances were not changed, just the measure and that these people may be missing out on services offered to those in fuel poverty.
- 3.4 Members recognised that this report is only required every two years so requested further information on addressing fuel poverty to the appropriate Scrutiny Board next Municipal year.

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