

Fuel Poverty Strategy

Draft

**Epping Forest District Council
May 2007**

Foreword

I believe this document sets out a realistic action plan for dealing with the problems of fuel poverty and the need for affordable warmth.

The Council has identified the main causes of fuel poverty as poor housing conditions, low incomes and high fuel prices. We have also noted how fuel poverty has a more significant effect on those who may be particularly at risk in the district; older people, lone parent families, unemployed people, people with disabilities and young people in receipt of benefits.

Helping our residents to benefit from affordable warmth is a major part of the drive for improving the quality of life for all.

This fuel poverty strategy complements a number of other important initiatives, including social inclusion, health improvement, and energy efficiency that we are working on together.

Epping Forest District Council is committed to working with our partners particularly in the Primary Care Trust, the utility companies, the County Council and the voluntary sector to meet the joint objectives of removing fuel poverty and helping all our residents to have access to affordable warmth.

Councillor Diana Collins
Leader of the Council

Introduction

What are fuel poverty and affordable warmth?

Everyone has the right to sufficient warmth in their own home. In certain circumstances, as a result of factors such as low income, household conditions and lack of information, people may find themselves with insufficient 'affordable' warmth. This is known as 'fuel poverty' and it affects up to 6 million households in England alone. The factors giving rise to it include the following:

- Low income and debt;
- Poor household insulation and ventilation standards;
- Inefficient or expensive heating systems;
- Lack of access or availability of affordable fuel;
- Under-occupation of homes; and
- Limited awareness of cheaper tariff options.

Other factors also cause fuel poverty. For example, not all households have a mains gas supply and therefore are not able to make the most economical and best use of household space and water heating.

Some households also have a greater requirement for heat and hot water than the average household because they spend longer periods of time at home. This might include those households with older people, those with long-term illness or disabilities, the unemployed or young children. These households tend to be on lower incomes, although not necessarily on benefit, and at the same time may have less access to money to ease their situation through improvements to their homes or appliances.

The government is of the view that, to achieve "affordable warmth", householders should, on average, be spending 10% or less of their household income to maintain a level of warmth consistent with health and well being – 21 degrees centigrade in main living areas and 18 degrees centigrade in other areas for healthy adult households. Conditions and circumstances will inevitably vary from household to household and care needs to be taken when using such figures. However, we fully recognise and support the Government's aim to remove fuel poverty.

The aim of this document is to set out realistic and achievable measures for dealing with the factors giving rise to fuel poverty and move towards the ultimate goal of affordable warmth for all.

Tackling fuel poverty

There are an estimated 1,790 (4.1%) dwellings in fuel poverty in Epping Forest compared to approximately 11% in England based on 2001 EHCS data, although the figure for England is likely to have reduced since 2001.

The figure of 1,790 represent a significant number of dwellings that are in fuel poverty and will present issues in terms of both energy efficiency and occupier health. The highest rate of fuel poverty is found in the privately rented sector where 14.8% of dwellings are in fuel poverty, compared to the lowest rate of 3.2% in the owner occupied stock.

By the very nature of fuel poverty, it is always associated with those residents on the lowest incomes. No dwellings were found to be in fuel poverty where household incomes were above £15,000 per annum, only 180 dwellings where income was above £10,000 per annum and the remaining 1,610 (90.2%) were found where household incomes are below £10,000 per annum and this means, for those on the lowest incomes, a rate of fuel poverty of 28.5%.

Fuel poverty is usually associated with dwellings where one or more residents are in receipt of a means tested benefit, due to such benefits being indicative of low income. This is true in Epping Forest where fuel poverty is found in 1,040 households (11.6%) where a benefit is received, compared to 2.2% of dwellings that are not in benefit receipt.

For owner-occupiers assistance in the form of advice can be given, as well as grants and other partnership schemes with energy efficiency companies and other organisations. The total cost of energy efficiency improvements, to dwellings in fuel poverty, in the owner-occupied sector, is just over £2.2 million. This expenditure requirement is distributed between the 1,300 owner-occupied dwellings in fuel poverty.

Despite reasonable levels of energy efficiency and wide-scale use of gas central heating within parts of the District, fuel poverty does pose a significant problem, though it is below the national average.

The Warm Front scheme and fuel poverty

The 'Warm Front' scheme replaced the 'HEES' and 'HEES plus' schemes as a means for providing energy efficiency improvement works for those least able to afford them. The scheme, however, was never designed to pick up all dwellings that are in fuel poverty, but rather to deal with those where residents were on benefit and least able to help themselves.

Much of the work outlined above can be carried out under Warm Front, but it will be of particular interest to the authority to examine those dwellings that fall outside the scheme, but that are in fuel poverty. There are 430 (1.0%) dwellings in Epping Forest ineligible under the Warm Front scheme, but in fuel poverty.

The average cost of improvement works in these dwellings is just over £1,500. The total cost of eliminating fuel poverty from these dwellings across Epping Forest would be £0.6 million.

Beyond fuel poverty

Tackling dwellings in fuel poverty helps those least able to afford either the improvement works necessary, or to afford to heat their homes properly, and as such, this group is a good starting point for carrying out works.

However, the Authority has a duty under the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) to help reduce energy consumption by 30% over 15 years (1996 to 2011) in dwellings within the District.

'Thermal Comfort' is also given a high profile in the Decent Homes Standard, first introduced in 2000 as a standard for social housing but extended to the private sector in 2002. The Government has set targets for a year on year increase in the numbers of vulnerable people living in Decent Homes.

Achieving the 30% target

The authority has carried out extensive work on thermal comfort, fuel poverty and energy efficiency since 1996. The primary focus has been in assisting those most in need, in particular vulnerable people living in fuel poverty and fuel poverty in general. Work has involved a large number of schemes with many different partners and detailed monitoring of progress.

In addition to improving the lives of residents in the District, the works described above have helped to improve energy efficiency. In addition the authority has also put in place schemes specifically aimed at improving energy efficiency.

What is currently being done about Fuel Poverty in EFDC?

Epping Forest District Council

In response to the Home Energy Conservation Act, (HECA (1995), Epping Forest District Council developed a HECA strategy, (produced in 1996). The Strategy describes how the authority plans to improve the energy efficiency of homes in the district, to meet the government's target of reducing carbon dioxide by 30% by 2010.

The Council's Environmental Services is often the first port of call for residents seeking advice on energy efficiency issues. This places it in a unique position regarding the promotion of affordable warmth in the private sector. In recognition of this the Council has developed a 'common sense' approach to energy efficiency matters, which optimises the public money available to deliver affordable warmth to the largest number of private sector residents.

Properly qualified officers are on hand to offer practical advice on energy efficiency

The Council has developed an efficient system of referral to outside agencies that can fund work where it is unable to do so

Energy efficiency issues are always considered where the District Council is already carrying out grant-aided work. Wherever possible, additional measures to assist toward affordable warmth are carried out at the same time as essential repairs

In partnership with National Energy Action, the District Council has trained its C.A.R.E. staff leading to a City & Guilds qualification in Energy Awareness, which covers home heating, paying for fuel, reducing heat loss, condensation and dampness and client advice.

The District Council, with assistance through its partners, has distributed over 3000 low energy light bulbs and 300 jug kettles to 'vulnerable' groups.

The Council has set up an energy efficiency partnership for the benefit of tenants. This includes EAGA, who survey properties on the Council's behalf, Cosytop, who carry out energy efficiency improvements, and British Gas who supply up to 50% of the funding. At least 70% of the beneficiaries are in receipt of housing benefit and works vary from cavity wall insulation, loft insulation to draught proofing.

The Council has approximately 7,000 properties for rent. Of these 459 (6.56%) fail the government's definition of a decent home in terms of thermal comfort. The properties which fail are generally in rural areas, often without access to gas supplies. By 2010 the Council is confident that all properties should be decent under the thermal comfort criteria.

Caring and Repairing in Epping Forest (C.A.R.E.)

C.A.R.E. is Epping Forest District Council's in-house Home Improvement Agency. C.A.R.E. offers a service tailored specifically to the private housing sector. Caseworkers visit householders in their homes and advise on a whole range of repair and improvement options, which includes referring residents directly to the most appropriate forms of financial assistance, such as Warm Front grants for heating and insulation measures, and other Energy Efficiency Grants.

Epping Forest PCT

Community nurses working in Epping Forest often visit people in their homes when they are sick or in need of care and advice. They are in an ideal position to identify people who are living in cold and/or damp conditions and at risk from fuel poverty, and to refer the clients on to other agencies for help and advice. This will result in more integrated assessments of care and co-ordinated response and treatment.

London Electricity

London Electricity have promoted and developed a private landlord incentive scheme for discounted energy efficiency measures. They also provide a discount insulation scheme for the private sector.

Through the 'Be Smarter Stay Warmer' programme energy efficiency grants of up to 80% are available from London Electricity

London Electricity is delivering a range of energy efficiency measures to homes throughout the country as part of its Energy Saving Programme. Grants of up to 80% towards the cost of energy efficiency measures are currently available which could help the average household save up to £200 per year on heating costs. Households do not need to be London Electricity customers to qualify for grants under the programme.

Grants are also available for loft and cavity wall insulation, low energy lighting, gas condensing boilers, heating controls and 'A' rated energy efficient appliances. Help is available to the private rented sector, social housing and homeowners.

London Electricity are working hard to address the plight of customers who find it difficult to pay for their fuel, for example, by offering various payment schemes and by opening up access to energy efficiency measures. In addition, customers coping with old age or disability, possibly as well as financial pressures, are helped with a range of measures, from password schemes to large print bills.

Energy efficiency is among the chief weapons at London Electricity's disposal for combating fuel poverty. Since 1994, as part of their energy efficiency programme, London Electricity Group companies, London Electricity, SWEB and SEEBOARD, have supplied nearly three and a half million low energy lamps, insulated around 65,000 homes and provided over 90,000 energy efficient appliances.

Telephone advice on energy efficiency is available to all London Electricity Group customers. Staff at dedicated energy advice centres uses the latest technology to help advise on insulation, lighting, energy efficient household equipment and grants. They handle over 600 calls a week. The free phone number is 0800 512 012.

Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF)

Tackling fuel poverty is an area where the voluntary sector plays a crucial role. It works with those hard-to-reach groups that are often unable to heat their homes. VAEF and the wider voluntary sector, plays a pivotal role, through its delivery of services to older people, one-parent families, families with young children and vulnerable people in signposting those people to appropriate services.

The VAEF itself manages a number of projects, supporting older people. They work closely with other services locally to ensure that older people, who want to, can remain at home, living happy and healthy lifestyles. Projects such as Free Fall (Home Check Safety Scheme) and Housing Relocation project provide information, advice and practical services to help people heat their homes

Eaga Warm Front

During the last two years the Warm Front Team has helped over 140,000 homes become warmer, healthier places to live. The Team will be maintaining the delivery of free heating and insulation measures to vulnerable people in the district.

Essex County Council

The County Council, by working in partnership with all relevant agencies and through Social Care assessments of all vulnerable children, adults and older people, and via the delivery of services of Home Care, ensures that all residents in Epping Forest live in warm and healthy homes.

Developing a Fuel Poverty Strategy for EFDC

The process of developing the strategy

It was always clear that the Strategy could not be developed and carried out by the District Council alone. To be achievable, it has to reflect various interest groups' needs, concerns and expertise. A range of organisations in the district therefore agreed to be part of a strategy steering group.

This Steering Group represented a commitment by various agencies to work towards delivering affordable warmth to the residents of the Epping Forest District.

The Steering Group was led by officers of Epping Forest District Council and included representatives from:

Circle 33 Housing Trust
Epping Forest Council for Voluntary Services
Epping Forest Primary Care Trust
Essex County Council
Essex Energy Efficiency Advice Centre
London Electricity
TXU Warm Front

The Steering Group was vital in directing the process and decided to invite an even wider range of organisations in the district to contribute to the content of the strategy. Two one day workshops were run by National Energy Action and facilitated by representatives from the Steering Group.

A draft strategy was produced by the Steering Group and sent to all the organisations that had taken part in the workshops, as well as other agencies expressing an interest in the development of the strategy but unable to attend the workshops. The comments from this consultation process and from a half-day agency consultation workshop were used to complete the strategy and develop the action plan attached (appendix II).

The main points arising from the development and consultation process were to:

- establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of the Strategy;
- raise awareness of fuel poverty throughout the district;
- provide a good quality advice service to all residents;
- ensure all residents of the district have access to available services;
- target fuel poor households;
- improve the levels of affordable warmth for all tenures.

The strength of the Strategy will lie in the development of partnerships between the agencies involved making good use of combined resources and, more importantly, involving the residents of the district.

The Strategy will be reviewed regularly and key successes will be promoted. The Action Plan will be amended and updated accordingly. This should ensure the Strategy retains a high profile with agencies and the residents of the district. The

reviews will allow the Strategy to remain flexible, to adapt to the changing needs of the community and the availability of resources as well as be responsive to wider local and national policies with a bearing on fuel poverty.

Conclusions

Tackling fuel poverty is a key target for the authority as it aids those residents most in need, as well as improving thermal comfort (required under the Decent Homes Standard) and potentially reduces the number of dwellings that are unfit due to heating.

Focusing particularly on dwellings with older heads of household, dwellings with benefit recipients, households on low incomes, and the privately rented stock, will have the biggest impact on reducing fuel poverty. The authority will have to consider how to encourage landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings in the private rented sector. Under the Decent Homes Standard all dwellings will need to be raised to a higher standard. Achieving targets for energy efficiency are likely to be difficult, though possible, but will need to involve all dwellings that can have improvements made.

In the urban part of the district there is a good provision of mains gas and, therefore, gas central heating. As a result, energy efficiency is generally at a better level although mitigated to some extent by the older age profile of the stock and the proportion of residents in receipt of benefit and on low incomes. This is not the case in the more rural areas.

We believe that no household should have to spend more than 10% of disposable income on fuel to keep comfortably warm. This Fuel Poverty Strategy identifies ways of working towards this aim and has been developed to help address the social, environmental, economic and health problems caused by fuel poverty in the district.

Putting the Strategy into effect will help ensure that energy efficiency improvements are directed at those most in need. It will also introduce wider initiatives to help the fuel poor. Addressing problems of energy efficiency for people living on low incomes will result in improvements to the health and well-being, as well as the comfort, of many local residents.

Appendix I - Links to other strategies and plans

To ensure the most effective action on affordable warmth the Strategy is wide ranging in scope and links in with a number of other strategies and plans.

Climate Change Programme

Action to address domestic home energy efficiency will help the UK meet targets in the Climate Change Programme. Under the programme the UK has committed itself to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12.5%, below 1990 levels, by 2012 and has a goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% before 2010. As the domestic housing sector is responsible for almost 30% of carbon dioxide emissions, the major green house gas, any actions, which seek to improve the energy efficiency of households and reduce domestic energy consumption, will contribute to the achievement of this ambitious target.

Council Plan 2006 – 2010

Affordable warmth priorities and energy efficiency improvements link to a number of priorities in the District Council Plan. Set out below are examples of the specific links between affordable warmth and different issues covered in the Council Plan:

Green and Unique – highlights the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and increase awareness of environmental concerns.

Fit for Life - promotes the concept of working in partnership with agencies such as the Primary Care Trust to promote healthy living, support those living with major illnesses in the community and improve the co-ordination of health and social care for older people.

Homes and Neighbourhoods - recognises that housing has a major impact on issues such as quality of life, health and educational achievement. The District Council is committed to improving the energy efficiency of housing, providing good quality social housing and assisting and supporting those in most need. It looks to work with landlords to improve houses in the private sector, allocates resources for improvements and adaptations to homes, reduce under-occupation and provide residents in all housing sectors with good quality advice.

Essex County Strategy

The priorities and energy efficiency improvements in the Affordable Warmth Strategy link to a number of priorities in the County Strategy (Making Essex a Better Place to Live and Work) and the Essex Approach - Building on Success. In turn, these documents build on a number of pledges to the people of Essex.

The County Council believes the Strategy is key in ensuring an equitable quality of life for all residents in the Epping Forest District and, accordingly, is in full support of taking this document forward.

The County Council is seeking a prosperous and sustainable future for all parts of the County and works with partners to care for the environment by:

Taking action and campaigning for an attractive and cleaner environment

Producing an integrated approach to planning and ensuring the energy efficiency of housing

Informing and promoting public involvement in caring for the environment

Through welfare benefits and other mechanism to ensure affordable warmth for all

London Electricity Strategy

Besides maximising the benefits of energy efficiency there are other LE Group products and services that target vulnerable or disadvantaged individuals and communities. These fall within the scope of LE Group's social action plan activity:

There is a range of routinely available options to help make it easier for customers to pay for their energy. Prominent among them are payment methods, such as prepayment, direct debit, energy cards, payment via 'paypoints' and post offices and prepayment emergency credit.

Council Housing Strategy

The key targets in the Council Housing Strategy in relation to fuel poverty are:

Increase the energy efficiency of residential properties in the District by 30% between 1996 and 2011;
Increase the average SAP rating of the Council's housing stock to 62 by March 2005, and to 68 by the end of 2008/9;
Achieve the thermal comfort criterion of the Decent Homes Standard for all Council properties by 2010;
Install double glazing in all Council homes by 2008;
Spend over £7m on energy efficiency improvements to the Council's housing stock between 2004 and 2009.

Private Sector Housing Strategy

The Housing Act 2004 replaced the Fitness Standard with the Health and Safety Hazard Rating System (HHSRS) as the enforcement standard for housing. In the Hazard Rating System a much higher profile is given to heating and thermal efficiency. In addition, unlike the Fitness Standard, the HHSRS considers the groups of people who are particularly vulnerable to suffering harm from individual hazards. In the case of the hazard of 'Excess Cold' people who are over 65 are identified as the most vulnerable group.

'Thermal Comfort' is also given a high profile in the Decent Homes Standard, first introduced in 2000 as a standard for social housing but extended to the private sector in 2002. The Government has set targets for a year on year increase in the numbers of vulnerable people living in Decent Homes and the Private Sector Housing Strategy sets out the Council's new Housing Association Policy to meet these objectives.

Taking these legislative changes and new targets into consideration, Environmental Services commissioned a Private Sector House Condition and Energy Efficiency Survey in the Autumn of 2005. The Council's revised Private Sector Housing Strategy 2006-2010, due to be issued in the Summer of 2006 will be based on the findings of the Survey and will state the aims that the Council hopes to achieve in its new grants policy, the Private Sector Renewal Policy 2006-2010, which it hopes to launch in September 2006.

Epping Forest District Council recognises the valuable part that Home Improvement Agencies can play in helping meet the aims identified in private sector housing strategies. In recognition of this, the Council has supported a Home Improvement Agency since 1991. Originally managed by Circle 33 Housing Trust, Caring and Repairing in Epping Forest (C.A.R.E.), was taken in-house in 2003 and is now managed by the Council. Because C.A.R.E. caseworkers visit people in their own homes they are both able to identify those who are living in fuel poverty and help them achieve 'Affordable Warmth'.

Epping Forest PCT

Epping Forest PCT is committed to improving the health of people living in Epping Forest. Reducing health inequalities is a key Government health target and a priority for the PCT. The effects of fuel poverty are likely to contribute to health inequalities, as people living in cold environments are more vulnerable to illness and death. Working with partners to help reduce fuel poverty will help to reduce health inequalities.

Epping Forest PCT is committed to the further development of intermediate care and older people's services, in line with the National Service Framework for Older People. Improved assessment of older people's needs and more effective care pathways integrated with Local Authority and voluntary sector services will create a more effective service. Enabling people to stay in their own homes and wherever possible reducing reliance on hospital and other institutional care is a key element of our strategy for improving health, and making sure that people are warm enough is essential to that.

We know that people are more vulnerable to illness and death if they are not warm enough. They are more likely to suffer from respiratory diseases and symptoms of heart disease are exacerbated in cold and damp conditions. Older people are also more likely to fall in cold weather. Reducing fuel poverty is important in helping the PCT to improve the health of the population and it can be an important contributor to delivering the Strategy for Falls Reduction and to achieving the aims and objectives of the National Service Framework for Coronary Heart Disease.

Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF)

Epping Forest VAEF is committed to representing the local voluntary sector in the development of and consultation on local strategies. We are pleased to have played a part in developing this Strategy for the Epping Forest District and hope the delivery of its targets means people can keep warm in their homes.

Eaga Warm Front

The Warm Front grant is the government's tool in the fight against fuel poverty. The Government want to eradicate fuel poverty in vulnerable households where practicably possible by 2010.

The Warm Front Grant was originally introduced in 2000 and was amended in June 2005 to include central heating for all clients and oil central heating for those not on the gas distribution network. Eaga Partnership Ltd manages the scheme throughout England.

Epping Forest District Community Strategy 2004 - 2021

The Epping Forest Community Strategy was prepared by representatives of the many organisations forming the Local Strategic Partnership. In context with affordable warmth the Community Strategy deals with:

- Rents of properties provided by the Council and Housing Associations should be 'affordable';
- People with special needs should be able to live in housing suitable for meeting those needs;
- All homes in the district should be in good repair, with financial help given where necessary to help owners;
- All Council and Housing Association homes should meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010;
- All homes in the district should have energy efficiency above the national average.

Appendix II – Action Plan

Action/objective	Critical success factor	Responsible Officer	Target Date	Resources/Budget
1. Establish effective mechanism for promotion, implementation, monitoring and developing of Strategy.	Maintain and develop a steering group.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Develop a system to monitor, review and evaluate development and implementation of the strategy.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Identify all relevant performance indicators with a relevance to the strategy.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	October 2006	Existing resources
	Compile an annual progress report detailing all reported outputs and outcomes.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	April annually	Existing resources
2. Raise awareness of fuel poverty	Enabling community based staff by providing information.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Establish mechanism to publicise fuel poverty/affordable warmth issues to local residents.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	April 2007	Existing resources
	Engage schools and colleges and provide them with suitable materials and promotional activities.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	July 2007	Existing resources
	Develop promotional activities to link with curriculum and course development work	Environmental Co-Ordinator	July 2007	Existing resources
	Host/participate promotional event across the District to highlight energy efficiency, affordable warmth and other related services.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	September 2007	Existing resources
	Develop or facilitate an awareness-raising program for key agency staff/trainers.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	April 2007	Existing resources

Action/objective	Critical success factor	Responsible Officer	Target Date	Resources/Budget
	EFDC to host fuel poverty awareness raising seminar for District Council elected members and key agencies to highlight issues and promote key strategy aims.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Energy week 2007	Existing resources
3. Provide a good quality advice service to all residents.	Establish pilot advice and information referral network in Epping Forest.	Environmental Services	Review in May 2007	Existing resources
	Research examples of national good practice in provision of signposting services and referral networks.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Review in May 2007	Existing resources
	Develop and promote 'Handy hints and tips guide' (re energy saving and use, money management, access to grant assistance, staying warm and healthy etc)	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Review in May 2007	Existing resources
	Work with landlords on the promotion of general information and advice services to tenants	Environmental Services	Review in May 2007	Existing resources
	Provide advice on maximising their income by referring to other agencies; give advice on grants; give advice on energy efficiency measures; give advice on dept relief benefits.	Environmental Services	Review in May 2007	Existing resources
4. Ensure all residents of the district have access to available services	Refer that householders have access to independent information on tariffs and contracts from utility companies.	Environmental Services	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources
	Promote the advantages of basic bank accounts to target households.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources

Action/objective	Critical success factor	Responsible Officer	Target Date	Resources/Budget
	Promote consumer rights information to residents on the sale of energy services.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources
5. Target fuel poor households	Identify households experiencing or at risk of fuel poverty.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	December 2007	Existing resources
	Endeavour to develop partnerships with other agencies to conduct Household energy surveys to map the fuel poor.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	December 2007	Existing resources
	Prioritise areas of greatest needs.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	December 2007	Existing resources
	Map areas which are not supplied with main gas.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	December 2007	Existing resources
	Undertake Household energy surveys to gather information regarding fuel poverty within the district.	Environmental Services	December 2007	Existing resources
	Target suitable initiatives at households/areas most at risk of fuel poverty.	Environmental Co-Ordinator	December 2007	Existing resources
6. Improve the levels of affordable warmth for all tenures	Public Sector Housing			
	Map data on energy efficiency against likely incidence of fuel poverty.	Environmental Services, Housing Services	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources
	Ensure difficult to heat (and/or insulate) void properties (i.e. solid wall/ no cavity wall or without access to gas net) are energy rated prior to letting and prioritised for improvements.	Housing Services	Ongoing June 2007	Existing resources

Action/objective	Critical success factor	Responsible Officer	Target Date	Resources/Budget
	Designate and work towards best practice improvements in energy efficiency, ventilation etc standards for residents.	Housing Services, Environmental Services	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources
	Review and continually improve targets for energy efficiency improvements.	Housing Services, Environmental Services	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Improve tenant awareness of issues underlying fuel poverty and promote concept of warm and healthy homes.	Housing Services	Ongoing January 2007	Existing resources
	Encourage the use of Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) funding for energy efficiency schemes within the District.	Environmental Co-Ordinator, Housing Services	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Encourage the use of energy efficient ventilation products employed in refurbishment and new build schemes meet best practice standards for health and affordable warmth.	Housing Services, Planning Services	Ongoing	Existing resources
	Ensure front-line staff has access to energy advice training.	Housing Services, Environmental Co-Ordinator	Ongoing from April 2007	Existing resources
	Develop and provide every new and existing tenant with an energy awareness pack appropriate to their needs and access to referral for advice or other assistance.	Housing Services, Environmental Co-Ordinator	April 2007	Existing resources

Action/objective	Critical success factor	Responsible Officer	Target Date	Resources/Budget
	<p>Ensure action on under-occupation. Let housing on the basis of informed decisions with under-occupation in mind.</p> <p>Endeavour to source funding assistance from other external sources to support physical energy efficiency improvements or other project developments.</p> <p>Provide incentives and encourage tenants of under-occupied properties to move to more suitable properties</p>	<p>Housing Services</p> <p>Housing Services, Environmental Co-Ordinator</p> <p>Housing Services</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing from April 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Existing resources</p> <p>Existing resources</p> <p>Existing resources</p>
	<p>Private Sector Housing</p> <p>First target the most vulnerable households and ensure maximum is spend on annual grant aid. Endeavour to source funding assistance from other external sources to support physical energy efficiency improvements or other project developments.</p> <p>Investigate new and emerging technology solutions for hard to heat homes.</p> <p>Introduce and enforce where appropriate affordable warmth good practice standards.</p>	<p>Environmental Services</p> <p>Environmental Services, Planning Services</p> <p>Environmental Services</p>	<p>Ongoing from April 2008</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing from April 2007</p>	<p>Existing resources</p> <p>Existing resources</p> <p>Existing resources</p>