

SUBJECT:	Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report
REPORT OF:	Portfolio for Health and Housing - Cllr Peter Hudson
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities
REPORT AUTHOR	Louise Quinn, 01494 732234
WARD/S AFFECTED	All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to:-

1. Advise Members of the draft Home Energy Conservation Progress Report and revised Action Plan
2. Seek Members agreement and endorsement of the draft Home Energy Conservation Progress Report and revised Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to advise the Portfolio Holder to endorse the Home Energy Conservation Progress Report and revised Action Plan, thereby ensuring that the Council meets the statutory timetable.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has a statutory obligation to publish a Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report by 31 March 2015.

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 In 1995, the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) placed a duty on Councils to submit a report to government on the measures required to improve home energy efficiency by 30% over a 10-15 year period.
- 3.2 In 2012 (and latterly March 2013), the government published refreshed guidance under HECA. This required that all relevant local authorities prepare and submit a further report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) setting out:-

‘the energy conservation measures that the Council considers practicable, cost effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the area’¹.

South Bucks and Chiltern Councils delivered their joint HECA report to central government by the end of March 2013 and at the same time, uploaded it onto the Council’s website. The government requires subsequent update reports every two years up to and including 31 March 2027.

- 3.3 HECA has two primary purposes:-
- To reduce households in fuel poverty
 - To increase local energy efficiency
- 3.4 Another key objective behind the new reporting requirements is to ensure that Councils have plans in place to promote and generate momentum around the Green Deal, the government’s policy for funding energy efficiency improvements at no upfront cost to the householder.
- 3.5 The second HECA report is now due, and the draft updated joint HECA Report is contained in **Appendix A**. The report summarises the actions taken since 2013 to improve energy efficiency, it updates the Council’s policy and approach to energy efficiency, and sets out a new Action Plan for the next two years to end of March 2017.
- 3.6 The following aspects of the original report remain intact as they reflect current and future activity:-

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https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180786/Updated_version_of_HECA_guidance_-_March_2013.pdf

- Key areas of work which are already being delivered and which will support HECA - such as Affordable Warmth and Local Planning Policies
- A vision of where both authorities would like to be through HECA
- Local indices of multiple deprivation set out in Appendix 2 to the report
- Local evidence set out in Appendix 3 to the report and available at <http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/HECA>

3.7 The key priorities for the forthcoming two years continue to be as follows:-

- Top up loft insulation to 275mm
- Install cavity wall insulation in unfilled cavities
- Replace gas boilers with A rated condensing boilers
- Install solid wall insulation, especially for those areas off the gas network or high energy use areas
- Encourage the installation of renewable heat technologies such as heat pump and biomass boilers

4. **Consultation**
Not Applicable

5. **Options**
Not applicable

6. **Corporate Implications**

The perceived risks are as follows:-

- The ability of the Green Deal to be accepted by residents, and to support improved energy efficiency measures locally
- The continuation or otherwise of the Green Deal/alternative programme
- The forthcoming general election
- The ability of the Green Homes Together CIC to remain an economic entity to access Energy Obligation (ECO) funding to support fuel poverty initiatives
- Continuation or otherwise of ECO/ alternative subsidy

There are no perceived legal issues

7. **Links to Council Policy Objectives**

Working towards safe and healthier local communities and

Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability

8. **Next Step**

If approved by Cabinet, the Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report will be published on the Council's website. Officers will progress the actions outlined in the Action Plan over the next two years.

<p>Background Papers:</p>	<p>Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities Issued Pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, DECC, July 2012 (revised March 2013) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180786/Updated_version_of_HECA_guidance_-_March_2013.pdf</p> <p>Getting the measure of fuel poverty; Final Report of the Fuel Poverty Review, John Hills, Case Report 72, DECC, March 2012 http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121217150421/http://decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/funding-support/fuel-poverty/4662-getting-measure-fuel-pov-final-hills-rpt.pdf</p>
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