

SUBJECT:	<i>Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Portfolio for Health and Housing – Cllr Paul Kelly</i>
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt, Head of Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the comments of the PAG on the draft Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report contained in Appendix 1 prior to its approval by the Portfolio Holder.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That the Portfolio Holder approves the draft Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2017.**

2. Reasons for Recommendations

The Council has a statutory obligation to publish a Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report by 31 March 2017.

3. Content of Report

In 1995, the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) placed a duty on Councils to submit a report on the measures required to improve home energy efficiency by 30% over a 10-15 year period.

In 2012 the government published new, refreshed guidance under HECA requiring local authorities to prepare and submit a further report to government by the end of March 2013, 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’.

The guidance requires the report to be published on the Council’s website and progress reports prepared and published every two years.

A draft Progress Report dated March 2017 for Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils is contained in Appendix 1, and has been published in draft on the Council’s websites in order to meet statutory timescales to publish by 31 March 2017:
<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/homeenergy>

The report summarises the progress made since 2013 to improve energy efficiency, updates the Council's policy and approach to energy efficiency and sets out actions and priorities for the next two years.

The report pledges that the Councils will work with partners to promote locally and nationally available financial incentives and advice services to improve energy efficiency and tackle fuel poverty. These include the Flexible Home Improvement Loan scheme, the Energy Company Obligation and the Affordable Warmth Helpline.

The key delivery outcomes are:

- Improved insulation to dwellings, including loft, cavity and solid walls, double glazed windows and doors
- More efficient heating systems
- Increased uptake of renewable energy technologies such as solar PV and renewable heat
- Increased awareness of energy efficiency
- Reduced carbon dioxide emissions
- Reduced incidence of fuel poverty

4. Consultation

Not Applicable

5. Options

Not Applicable

7. Corporate Implications

Financial	There are no financial implications. The actions under the report can be met within existing budgets and resources.
Legal	There is a statutory obligation to publish a Progress report.
Sustainability	The proposed actions set out in the report will help to reduce carbon emissions by reducing the use of fossil fuels.

8. Links to Council Policy Objectives

This item links to the 'Working towards safe and healthier local communities' and 'Striving to conserve the environment and promote sustainability' aims of the Joint Business Plan 2014-19.

9. Next Step

Officers will progress the actions outlined in the report over the next two years.

Background Papers:	None
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