

28 MARCH 2017

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Report Title	TENANT SERVICES ENERGY STRATEGY
Purpose of Report	For Committee to approve the Strategy
Decisions	The Committee RESOLVES to adopt the Energy Strategy in Appendix 1 to the report.
Consultation and Feedback	Workshops consisting of Officers, Members, and Tenants took place on 10 October 2016 and 15 November 2016. The draft document was presented to Corporate Team 07/03/17
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>Investment in this area must represent value for money, meet affordability criteria, and be taken into account when undertaking medium term financial planning.</p> <p>Simon Merrett – Interim Principal Accountant Tel: 01453 754344 Email: simon.merrett@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>The Strategy is a guiding principle which will allow the Council to make informed decisions based on a sound analytical approach. Adoption of the Strategy will ensure that the Council has a robust policy which addresses issues of carbon management, and fuel poverty, in accordance with its stated aims. There are specific health consequences of exposure to low temperatures and the drivers of fuel poverty are significant.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>No significant legal implications to report.</p> <p>Karen Trickey Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Joe Gordon, Asset Operations Manager Tel: 01453 754190 Email: joe.gordon@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	None
Performance Management Follow Up	<p>Annual review and briefing paper to members on the status and effectiveness of the strategy in light of any legislative or other impacts.</p> <p>Annual update to senior management, members and stakeholders on progress against the stated aims and objectives within the action plan.</p>

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Since the adoption of the Energy Strategy in October 2011, and the subsequent revision in April 2012, there have been significant changes to local and national policy, and the funding landscape. This new strategy reflects these changes, and underpins other relevant policies and strategies including the Corporate Asset Management Plan, and Environment Strategy.
- 1.2 The Strategy has a five year rolling programme, which now enables delivery of objectives to be strategically aligned to the MTFP, and supports better planning and delivery of projects over the long term.
- 1.3 We have undertaken a comprehensive exercise, in looking at the effects of past energy improvement measures carried out, and through scenario modelling evaluated what other measures can be taken to further improve the energy efficiency of our stock.
- 1.4 Ensuring the success of the strategy will require the Council to work in partnership with both the public and private sector. This strategy now includes objectives to promote behavioural change for both internal and external stakeholders because we believe everyone has a part to play in reducing energy consumption, and this cannot be achieved by simply improving the physical structure of the homes within the Councils stock in isolation.
- 1.5 There is a link between low temperatures and poor mental health, with those living at low temperatures more likely to be affected by and subject to, common mental health disorders. There are also clear links to social isolation amongst adults associated with cold homes, while there appears to be some association between cold homes, truancy, negative impacts on educational attainment and risk of anti-social behaviour amongst adolescents.
- 1.6 New and sustained focus is now required to ensure that investment is appropriate and meets the needs of existing and future customers.

2.0 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Stroud has circa 5,200 homes for rent, around 340 of them were built prior to 1930, a further 600 have non-traditional wall construction, and a significant number of the estimated 1,000 homes with uninsulated cavity walls are likely to need some specialist treatment. These groups will require significant investment to improve their thermal efficiency.
- 2.2 Around 24% of the stock currently has no mains gas connection. While around 500 of these now have modern electric heat-pump wet heating

systems, a further 700 need significant improvements to make their heating more affordable for occupants and reduce carbon emissions.

- 2.3 Most low-cost improvements have already been completed on the majority of homes where practicable; we need to have a comprehensive strategy for what else we need to do to align ourselves with our vision (as set out in the Strategy) as part of an economically viable process.
- 2.4 The Strategy has been developed following the completion of a comprehensive energy scenario modelling exercise (of the domestic portfolio) to assess the best ways for SDC to improve the energy efficiency across its housing stock portfolio.
- 2.5 The Strategy underpins the Councils guiding principles and commitment to reducing carbon, and addressing environmental issues in a responsible way. It will also refer to a new Affordable Warmth Strategy which will be developed to complement existing and future aspirational aims.

3.0 Outcomes

- 3.1 This will be the first time that the Council has:
 - An Energy Strategy which promotes the exchange and sharing of knowledge and best practice in energy management
 - Clear strategic guidance on improving our housing stock energy efficiency for Officers and Members
 - A basis on which the Council can effectively inform and consult with all stakeholders
 - A strategic decision-making and vision-sharing medium