

ANGUS COUNCIL

Strategic Policy Committee - 16TH March 2004

ANGUS FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of the first Angus Council Fuel Poverty Strategy

1. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to approve the Angus Fuel Poverty Strategy

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Council's original HECA report in 1997, detailed the Council's strategy for promoting an increase in domestic energy efficiency and a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, and at the same time acknowledged the importance of making allowance for personal financial circumstances. As the problem of fuel poverty became increasingly recognised, this acknowledgement was condensed into a more focused fuel poverty statement in the 2001 HECA Progress Report.

As the causes and effects of fuel poverty have become more understood, a requirement has emerged for a stand-alone strategy to address the problem.

Fuel poverty is where a householder cannot heat their home to a comfortable level at a reasonable cost, due to one, or a combination of, three main factors:

- Energy efficiency of the dwelling
- Household income
- The cost of fuel

Under occupation of larger dwellings is also sometimes a contributor.

The eradication of fuel poverty has become a priority for national UK Government (which published the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy in 2001), and The Scottish Parliament, which included a statement in The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Under section 89 (5) (B) of the Act, Local Authorities must produce Local Housing Strategies which 'ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that persons do not live in fuel poverty,' by November 2016.

3. ANGUS FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY

The Angus Fuel Poverty strategy is attached to this report. It will be submitted to Communities Scotland as an appendix to Angus Council's Local Housing Strategy, by 30th April 2004.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report as it is envisaged that work to meet the objectives within the strategy will at present be contained within current budgets, alongside suitable applications for grant funding and partner support.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications resulting from this report

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law & Administration, Director of Property Services, Director of Planning & Transport, Director of Environmental Health & Consumer Protection, Director of Education and Director of Social Work and Health Liaison have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

RON ASHTON
Director of Housing

NOTE:- The following background papers, as defined by Section 50d of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied upon to any material extent in preparing this report.

Angus Council Report No.1211/97 Home Energy Conservation Report. 25/11/97