

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Title of report	<b>UPDATED AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY 2014 - 2017</b>
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community Yes
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Purpose of report	To inform members of the issues around Fuel Poverty in North West Leicestershire and understand how the implementation of the revised Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014 – 17 and associated action plan will tackle this.
Reason for Decision	This report is provided for members to inform them of Affordable Warmth and Fuel Poverty nationally and how this affects North West Leicestershire.
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The action plan will be delivered within existing resources
Link to relevant CAT	Private Sector Housing CAT
Risk Management	Risk assessments will be completed as part of the work, if necessary.
Equalities Impact Assessment	Equality Impact Assessment already undertaken, issues identified actioned
Human Rights	None identified

Transformational Government	Not applicable
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	Appropriate Internal Departments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Choices</li> <li>• Street Action</li> <li>• Safer and Stronger Communities</li> <li>• HRA Business Support</li> </ul>
Background papers	<p>Affordable Warmth Strategy October 2014 – October 2017  <a href="https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable_warmth_strategy_october_2014_october_2017/Affordable%20Warmth%20Strategy%20October%202014%20-%20October%202017.doc">https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable_warmth_strategy_october_2014_october_2017/Affordable%20Warmth%20Strategy%20October%202014%20-%20October%202017.doc</a></p> <p>Affordable Warmth Strategy 2008 – 2016  <a href="https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable_warmth_strategy_2008_16/affordable%20warmth%20policy%202008.doc">https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable_warmth_strategy_2008_16/affordable%20warmth%20policy%202008.doc</a></p> <p>Department for Energy and Climate Change – Fuel Poverty Strategy  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-a-framework-for-future-action">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-a-framework-for-future-action</a></p> <p>Home Energy Conservation Acts  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2013-home-energy-conservation-act-heca-reports">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2013-home-energy-conservation-act-heca-reports</a></p> <p>Public Health England Health Profiles  <a href="http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&amp;ArealD=50511">http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=HP_METADATA&amp;ArealD=50511</a></p>
Recommendations	<b>THAT CABINET AGREES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY</b>

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To gain approval from Cabinet to implement the revised Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014 – 17 and associated action plan.

## **2. CONTEXT**

- 2.1 In 2008 North West Leicestershire District Council launched its first Affordable Warmth Strategy to drive forward a focus on fuel poverty, its effects on residents' health and wellbeing and to identify how properties could be improved. This strategy was implemented in 2009 with a review date of 2016.
- 2.2 The national agenda for Affordable Warmth has changed considerably during this period, and the existing strategy requires revising to reflect these changes. It is therefore proposed to review the Affordable Warmth Strategy with an updated version to be implemented from October 2014. **Appendix A**

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Council has a responsibility to its own tenants to ensure that council homes are fit for habitation and are in decent condition. The Council, as a strategic housing authority, also has a statutory responsibility to address the housing needs and conditions of all residential properties within its' district to ensure that homes are of a fit standard for occupancy.
- 3.2 North West Leicestershire is comprised of a variety of new and old homes. Homes built pre 1945 are often of solid brick construction and have no cavity wall insulation, very little loft insulation and can be off-gas networks, i.e with no gas to the property. This makes the homes harder and more expensive to heat.
- 3.3 The Council's Private Sector Housing Condition survey, completed in 2008, considered the issues of old and cold homes in North West Leicestershire where damp, mould and mildew are leading to ongoing health concerns. The survey acknowledged that in North West Leicestershire these older homes are often owned by older people who are potentially more vulnerable to health risks or are let by private landlords to young people who may have babies or young children living with them.
- 3.4 The Council has set out within its' 2014/15 corporate priority for Homes & Communities that 'we aim to improve the wellbeing of people in North West Leicestershire'. The Council is mindful that fuel poverty, which is where the costs of home fuel are disproportionately high in comparison to income, can lead to significant health issues particularly for vulnerable residents. The aims of the Affordable Warmth Strategy support the delivery of this Council priority.

## **4. RESEARCH**

- 4.1 The Council has used data from the Department of Energy and Climate Control, (DECC), Energy Performance Certificates, Energy Saving Trust analysis and local knowledge gathered by the Warm Homes Officer to identify the areas in the district that are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty.
- 4.2 The information for North West Leicestershire shows that there are a number of wards which have been assessed as high in potential fuel poverty. These areas will be targeted through the Affordable Warmth Strategy action plan:
  - Greenhill Central

- Greenhill North East
- Measham Centre
- Albert Village/Ashby Wolds/Norris Hill
- Ibstock Centre
- Castle Donington South
- Ellistown and Battleflat
- Ibstock East and Battram
- Central Coalville
- Donisthorpe

4.3 The number of households in North West Leicestershire at risk of fuel poverty is 12.5%. This is lower than the average across Leicestershire which is 13.6% but higher than the East Midlands average which is 10.2%.

4.4 An up-to-date Affordable Warmth Strategy and action plan will ensure that the Council has initiatives in place to tackle fuel poverty and its effects, supporting vulnerable people within North West Leicestershire.

4.5 The Council also works in partnership with other statutory and non-statutory organisations such as First Contact, Citizen's Advice and the CCG, (Clinical Commissioning Group), to identify, develop and support initiatives that assist vulnerable people. For example, through the work of the Leicestershire Housing Services Partnership, NWL Housing Choices officers are currently assisting in the development of the countywide 'Light Bulb' project, a tenure neutral service that will offer a single point of access to a trusted and responsive housing support service, part of which will be aimed at reducing fuel poverty, winter deaths and hospital admissions.

## **5. PREVIOUS RESULTS**

5.1 Since the implementation of the previous Affordable Warmth Strategy, £3 million of Energy Company Obligation, (ECO) funding has come to local authorities in Leicestershire and Rutland to fund Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) initiatives including the role of the Warm Homes Officer (WHO) between December 2012 and April 2014. During this time the WHO undertook 215 audits/visits and logged 533 conversations.

5.2 As part of these projects in North West Leicestershire 173 households have received DECC funding measures with some households receiving more than one measure. These include boiler replacements, £150 fuel grants which are known as Jam Jar accounts, fuel tariff switching, emergency off-gas fuel deliveries, fuel vouchers and Green Deal assessments.

5.3 The outcome of these measures is that households are saving money on their fuel bill bringing them out of fuel poverty as assessed by the High Cost Low Indicator framework. The average saving for fuel switching is approximately £100 per household per year. This also helps to reduce the number of excess winter deaths in North West Leicestershire.

## **6. VALIDATION PROCESS**

- 6.1 This strategy has been developed through the Private Sector Housing CAT, (PSH CAT), a cross-departmental team comprising officers from Housing Choices, Housing Management, Street Action, Planning and Engagement and Safer and Stronger Communities.
- 6.2 The PSH CAT identified two main cross cutting themes; “better and warmer buildings”, and “supporting vulnerable groups” as key priority areas for the action plan. The group also identified the private rental sector as the main focus, particularly in the previously mentioned targeted localities in the district.
- 6.3 Objectives for North West Leicestershire identified through the Private Sector Housing CAT:
- Better and warmer buildings in the private sector**
- Residents in priority areas as identified through DECC data have access to quality information on Affordable Warmth
  - Private Sector housing in North West Leicestershire is more energy efficient
- Supporting Vulnerable Groups**
- North West Leicestershire residents in targeted localities have increased awareness of subsidies, benefits and deals for Affordable Warmth
  - There is a reduction on the health impact of Fuel Poverty amongst vulnerable groups
- 6.4 An action plan has subsequently been developed that will ensure we deliver against the above objectives during the 2014-15 financial year. The action plan is included in the Affordable Warmth Strategy and will be monitored by the PSH CAT. It will be reviewed annually to take account of any policy changes and potential funding opportunities that may arise.
- 6.5 An Equality Impact Matrix has been undertaken for the Affordable Warmth Strategy and action plan and has found that there are no identifiable inequalities for protected groups.
- 6.6 The strategy is due to be launched in October 2014. The PSH CAT are working with the Communication Team to ensure that the strategy is customer friendly and in line with the Communication Team’s style guide.

## **7. RESOURCE COMMITMENTS**

- 7.1 With the cessation of the ECO funding for the WHO, there is no specific role for developing the work around the Affordable Warmth Strategy. Therefore the action plan is based on capitalising on existing resources to ensure that quality information about affordable warmth and fuel poverty is available to residents.
- 7.2 Through representation on the Local Housing Services Partnership, the Council continues to work with a range of agencies to identify funding opportunities that address Affordable Warmth and Fuel Poverty issues.
- 7.3 The Affordable Warmth action plan will be monitored, reviewed and updated by the Private Sector Housing CAT to ensure it is responsive to new initiatives and funding opportunities.





## **Affordable Warmth Strategy 2014 – 2017**



**IMPLEMENTATION DATE: October 2014**  
**REVIEW DATE: October 2015**

Owner: Private Sector Housing Corporate Action Team

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## 1 Executive Summary

### **Background:**

North West Leicestershire District Council has a responsibility to its own tenants to ensure that homes are fit for habitation and are in decent condition. The Council's statutory responsibilities as a strategic housing authority extend this to all tenures including the private sector, comprising the owner/occupier and private rental market. The District Council is not responsible for repairs and maintenance to private sector accommodation but does have powers to make sure that homes are of a fit standard, that private landlords are aware of their responsibilities and that owners have information about how they can access deals to make homes warmer, cheaper to run and more eco friendly.

The District Council has set out within its 2014/15 corporate priority for *Homes & Communities* that 'we aim to improve the wellbeing of people in North west Leicestershire'. The council is mindful that fuel poverty, which is where the costs of home fuel are disproportionately high in comparison to income, can lead to significant health issues particularly in vulnerable residents. The aims of the Affordable Warmth Strategy support the delivery of this council priority

### **Reason for local policy**

North West Leicestershire is comprised of a variety of new and old homes with 36.2 percent of houses built pre 1945. These homes are usually of solid brick construction with no cavity wall insulation, very little loft insulation and are sometimes off Gas networks. This makes the homes harder and more expensive to heat. A cold home leads to a number of issues with damp, mould and mildew and ongoing health concerns.

### **Data and information**

In order to develop this strategy and associated action plan for Affordable Warmth, North West Leicestershire District Council has used a range of data sources supplied by the Department of Energy and Climate Control, (DECC), Carbon Saving Community Obligation, (CSCo) and also used local knowledge gathered by the Warm Homes Officer (WHO) to target areas in the district that are particularly vulnerable to fuel poverty due to house type.

The DECC information for North West Leicestershire shows that the percentage of households in North West Leicestershire at risk of fuel poverty is 12.5 percent. This is lower than Leicestershire County which is 13.6 percent but higher than the East Midlands as a whole which comes out at 10.2 percent. An appendix is attached to show the areas in NWL that have the highest percentages of fuel poverty as assessed by DECC.

Included in this document is an action plan to target these areas to ensure that residents have quality accessible information on home improvements. This is based on emerging objectives as identified through the Private Sector Housing CAT workshop:

*Objective 1 - Better and warmer buildings in the private sector*

- Residents in priority areas as identified through DECC data have access to quality information on Affordable Warmth
- Private Sector housing in NWL is more energy efficient

*Objective 2 - Supporting Vulnerable Groups*

- NWL residents in targeted localities have increased awareness of subsidies, benefits and deals for Affordable Warmth
- There is a reduction on the health impact of Fuel Poverty amongst vulnerable groups

## **2 Introduction from Portfolio Holder – Councillor Roger Bayliss**

Our vision for North West Leicestershire is that it will be a place where people and business feel they belong and are proud to call home. Essential to this vision is that residents have suitable quality housing that is adequately warm and comfortable ensuring a better standard of health. As a Council we committed to our Green Footprints challenge, motivating residents to be greener and consider their carbon footprint. It is essential that our current and planned housing keeps this as a priority.

However, we are mindful that more than one third of the District's homes were built before 1945, many of which are of solid wall construction. We know that a number of our residents who are struggling with low incomes find it difficult to heat their homes to the level required for their comfort and health. These residents are said to be in Fuel Poverty and the aim of this Affordable Warmth strategy is to ensure that the impacts of Fuel Poverty within the District are tackled.

Fuel poverty is calculated by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), by offsetting household fuel costs against household income, using the poverty line as a basis for demonstrating if that household is fuel poor. This helps us to identify the people in the District who are struggling to make ends meet and are spending a significant portion of their income on heating their homes. In North West Leicestershire it is estimated that 12.5 percent of households are affected by Fuel Poverty. This is 1 percent lower than the county but 2 percent higher than the East Midland regional average.

With energy prices set to continue to rise over the coming years it is important that residents are able to manage their energy costs within their household budget.

This strategy and action plan are key to North West Leicestershire District Council understanding our residents and the circumstances that impact on their health and identifying initiatives to help them make heating their homes more efficiently.

### 3 Background: Why is it important to have an Affordable Warmth Strategy

North West Leicestershire District Council launched its first Affordable Warmth Strategy in 2008 to drive forward a focus on fuel poverty, its effects on residents' health and wellbeing and an identification of how properties could be improved. This strategy was implemented in 2009 with a review date of 2016. It is considered, however, that the cessation of DEFRA funding, resulting in the loss of our energy efficiency officer post, prioritised the review of the strategy with refreshed version to be implemented from October 2014.

Fuel Poverty is defined by The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) through a Low Income High Costs (LIHC) framework and states that a household is fuel poor if:

- **They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)**
- **Were they to spend that money they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line (DECC July 2013)**

Government and local authority targets for fuel poverty have been refocused towards ensuring that there should be ongoing efforts to mitigate and reduce fuel poverty to minimise the number of fuel poor households.

In North West Leicestershire we have used the DECC definition to give us a clear and relevant statement about Affordable Warmth:



**“Affordable Warmth means a household can afford to heat their home to the level required for their comfort and health. It follows therefore that Affordable Warmth will depend on the household’s circumstances. Any household without the means to heat their home to the level required is said to be in Fuel Poverty.”**

Efforts will be focusing primarily on ensuring that those houses who are fuel poor (as defined by the LIHC indicator) attain a certain standard of energy efficiency in their homes.

There are a number of issues which give rise to fuel poverty and should be considered as part of an Affordable Warmth strategy:

- low income
- old dwelling (pre 1945)
- private rented sector
- old/inefficient boiler (or no heating system)
- non-gas heating.



Increases in fuel costs and other household expenses caused by inflation, combined with welfare reform and a weak economy, are exacerbating the problems of fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire. This strategy and associated action plan seek

to identify those most vulnerable to and prioritise work within these community to ensure residents have clear options to make their houses and homes warm and efficient.

## **4 Legislative Framework**

### **The Housing Act 2004**

The Housing Act 2004 identifies 29 hazards that landlords should be aware of that can be detrimental to people's wellbeing. The first 2 of these hazards are:

1) Damp and mould growth – threats to physical and mental wellbeing from living with dampness, mould and fungus growth and dust mites



2) Excess Cold – threats to health from exposure to sub-optimal indoor temperatures

### **Home Energy Conservation Act**

Guidance issued by DECC in July 2012, under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA), required all English authorities with housing responsibilities to prepare a report by 31 March 2013 setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area. NWLDCs report can be found at:

[https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/home\\_energy\\_conservation\\_act\\_heca\\_delivery\\_proposals\\_for\\_2013\\_2015/HECA%20report%20August%202013.pdf](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/home_energy_conservation_act_heca_delivery_proposals_for_2013_2015/HECA%20report%20August%202013.pdf)

### **The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) 2012**

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a new domestic energy efficiency programme which works alongside the Green Deal, the government initiative to ensure houses are more energy efficient, to provide added support for packages of measures.

These measures can help with cutting down energy loss from a building and lead to less energy use. Support includes insulation and heating packages to low income and vulnerable households and insulation measures to low income communities.

Energy efficiency plays a key role in helping to lower energy bills. Following installation of most measures the difference will be immediate. Assuming that a consumer has been heating their home to an adequate level, they can continue doing so, but by using their heating less, resulting in significant bill reductions. Each house will require different measures for the optimum result, which is why it is important for the householder to work closely with their provider or installer to select the best options

ECO creates a legal obligation on energy suppliers to improve the energy efficiency of households through the establishment of three distinct targets:

### ***Carbon Saving Community Obligation (CSCo)***

This provides measures to households in specified areas of low income. It uses the Indices of Multiple Deprivation to target the lowest 25 percent of areas regardless of whether the household is on benefits. It also makes sure that 15 percent of each supplier's obligation is used to upgrade more hard-to-reach low-income households in rural areas.

### ***Affordable Warmth Obligation***

This provides heating and insulation measures to consumers living in private tenure properties that receive particular means-tested benefits. This obligation supports low-income consumers that are vulnerable to the impact of living in cold homes, including the elderly, disabled and families.



### ***Carbon Saving Obligation***

This covers the installation of measures like solid wall and hard-to-treat cavity wall insulation, which ordinarily can't be financed solely through the Green Deal

### ***Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH)***

The Code for Sustainable Homes is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. It aims to reduce carbon emissions and create homes that are more sustainable by measuring the sustainability of a new home against categories of sustainable design, rating the 'whole home' as a complete package. The code uses a 1 to 6 star rating system with CSH Level 1 at the lower end to the high performing CSH Level 6 at the top. It also sets minimum standards for energy and water use at each level.

The code provides 9 measures of sustainable design:

- energy/CO2
- water
- materials
- surface water runoff (flooding and flood prevention)
- waste
- pollution
- health and well-being
- management
- ecology.



The code is essentially voluntary, it is not a set of regulations and should not be confused with zero carbon policy or the 2016 zero carbon target. The only circumstances where the code can be enforced are where:

- local councils require developers to comply with the code by including a requirement in their planning policy
- affordable housing is funded by the Homes and Community Agency that requires homes to be built to code level 3
- the level 3 energy standard is now incorporated in the building regulations.



The code applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and is captured in the **North West Leicestershire Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document:**

[https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable\\_housing\\_supplementary\\_planning\\_document\\_spd/Affordable%25FHousingSPDOct2007Inc%255FMap%252Epdf.pdf](https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/affordable_housing_supplementary_planning_document_spd/Affordable%25FHousingSPDOct2007Inc%255FMap%252Epdf.pdf)

## **5 Why is tackling fuel poverty important?**

Fuel poverty impacts on residents in a number of ways:

### **Worsening Health**

Cold homes can increase the risks of strokes and heart attacks. Cold conditions are also thought to lower resistance to respiratory infections and exacerbate asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder.

### **Excess Winter deaths**

During the months of December to March, the number of deaths recorded nationally (winter deaths) exceeds the average death rate for the remainder of the year. A significant number of these are thought to be linked to cold conditions particularly amongst the elderly. In Leicestershire excess winter deaths are higher than the England average according to health profiles published by Public Health England. An assessment of winter deaths, which is observed winter deaths minus expected deaths based on non-winter deaths, from 01 Aug 08 to 31 July 2011 shows the England average to be at 19.1 percent and the Leicestershire average to be 23.5 percent - shown on the Public Health profile as “significantly worse”.

### **Increased accidents**

Mobility and dexterity reduce when people are cold which can increase the risk of falls and injury as well as potentially affecting arthritis.

### **Social exclusion**

People can be reluctant to invite friends to their homes when they are cold, which can result in an increased sense of social isolation.

Consequently, many of the effects of fuel poverty set out above are potentially preventable and in addition to the benefits to the individuals themselves, could result in significant savings in health care costs.

The purpose of this affordable warmth strategy is to provide overall direction and a coordinated framework for council services, contractors and partners in their activities to reduce fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire by increasing the energy efficiency of homes in target areas.

## 6 Properties

The table below shows the North West Leicestershire regional comparison for Fuel Poverty

Area	% Fuel Poverty
North West Leicestershire	12.5%
Leicestershire	13.6%
East Midlands	10.2%



### Causes of inefficient houses

Inefficient heating systems, poor insulation and bad management of existing heating systems can all lead to an excessive household spend on fuel. It is important to understand the status of housing in the district to be able to put in place systems to manage issues.

Often older properties built before 1945 have solid walls, (*Appendix A*) with no cavity wall insulation. They also may have limited loft insulation and inefficient boiler systems. The table below shows that more than one third of NWL homes were built pre 1945.

### Age of houses in NWL

Build date	Number	% of Total	Average SAP*
Pre 1919	9,011	26.9%	41
1919-1944	3,115	9.3%	46
1945-1964	4,993	14.9%	46
1965-1980	8,375	25.0%	48
Post 1980	8,006	23.9%	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,500</b>		

## 7 Plans and strategies that link to the Affordable Warmth Strategy:



### **Corporate Delivery Plan –**

Homes and Communities: We aim to improve the wellbeing of people living in North West Leicestershire

### **Housing Strategy –**

Healthy Homes: There are warm, safe and well maintained homes

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy –**

Supporting an Ageing Population

## 8 Initiatives and successes in North West Leicestershire since 2009:

### **DECC and 4Ways 2Warmth funds**

£3m was awarded to local authorities in Leicestershire and Rutland to fund Department of Energy and Climate Control initiatives. This also funded the post of Warm Homes Officer (WHO) between December 2012 and May 2014. During this time the WHO undertook 215 audits and visits and logged 533 conversations and referrals.

In North West Leicestershire 173 households have received DECC funding measures with some households receiving more than one measure. This includes boiler replacements, £150 fuel grants which are known as Jam Jar accounts, emergency off gas fuel deliveries, fuel vouchers and green deal assessments.



### **DECC initiatives in detail:**

- 177 Green Deal Assessments
- 19 boiler replacements / heating system installations or improvements
- 19 emergency fuel deliveries – coal, oil, LPG
- 77 Jam Jar accounts
- All £5905 worth of prepayment credit vouchers given out, (some addresses received several), 95 of the £49 vouchers and 250 of the £5 vouchers. These are used to pay off debts on meters and as emergency credit.
- 21 energy monitors given out
- 56 audit households have received Energy saving bulbs and TV power downs
- 100 energy saving bulbs and TV power downs given out at Well Families Clinics.



#### **4 Ways 2 Warmth – Warm Homes Healthy People fund:**

- 27 referrals have been made to the Home Improvement Agency Papworth Trust. These have resulted in loft insulation, hatch widening and clearance, boiler servicing and repairs, Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs) and heating controls.
- Six households have also received emergency heaters via Papworth
- Link to GP surgeries flu clinics to give out information. All flu packs contain 4Ways 2Warmth information cards.
- 50 tariff comparison visits with 20 percent switch rate
- HECA (Home Energy Conservation Association) delivery plan for NWL, available online at:  
[http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/home\\_energy\\_conservation\\_act\\_heca\\_delivery\\_proposals\\_for\\_2013\\_2015/HECA%20report%20August%202013.pdf](http://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/home_energy_conservation_act_heca_delivery_proposals_for_2013_2015/HECA%20report%20August%202013.pdf)

#### **Green and Decent Homes**

NWL has identified a number of tenant households who will pilot different energy efficiency technology over 2014/15. This pilot will be regularly assessed with a view to rolling out to a wider number of tenants. As a result of its current green and decent homes initiative, NWL has been selected to demonstrate good practice in a trade publication.



The Housing Management team have recruited an “Energy Strategy Officer” to continue to drive the green and decent homes project.

#### **9 North West Leicestershire 2014 – 2015 Affordable Warmth Action Plan**

In October 2013, the Private Sector Housing Corporate Action Team held a workshop focusing on the issues surrounding affordable warmth in North West Leicestershire. The workshop was attended by officers from council services who have a responsibility regarding Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth.

During the workshop the group identified two main cross cutting themes, “better and warmer buildings” and “supporting vulnerable groups”, particularly focusing on the private rental sector. Specific localities to target have been identified through CSCo initiatives.

#### **CSCo (Carbon Saving Community Obligation)**

The Carbon Savings Community Obligation (CSCo) requires energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures worth £190m per year through to March 2015.

The CSCo will target households across Great Britain in specified areas to improve energy efficiency standards, focusing on low income households. This will contribute to removing families from fuel poverty through ensuring that their properties receive energy efficiency measures.

CSCo areas are worked out based on the lowest 25% of areas in the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation which give in North West Leicestershire areas as:

- Greenhill central
- Greenhill north east
- Measham Centre
- Albert Village/Ashby Woulds/Norris Hill
- Measham Centre
- Ibstock Centre
- Castle Donington south
- Ellistown and Battleflat
- Ibstock East and Battram

All residents in these areas can apply for home improvements identified through CSCo even if the household is not on benefits.

### **Local Knowledge**

Through the work of the Warm Homes Officer and the North West Leicestershire Housing Survey of 2006 alongside information from Department of Energy and Climate Change (appendix B), we know that there are two further areas in North West Leicestershire that are at risk of fuel poverty. These are:

- Central Coalville
- Donisthorpe

These areas will be incorporated into the action plan.

### **Objectives for North West Leicestershire identified through the Private Sector Housing CAT:**

#### *Better and warmer buildings in the private sector*

- Residents in priority areas as identified through DECC data have access to quality information on Affordable Warmth
- Private Sector housing in North West Leicestershire is more energy efficient

#### *Supporting Vulnerable Groups*

- North West Leicestershire residents in targeted localities have increased awareness of subsidies, benefits and deals for Affordable Warmth
- There is a reduction on the health impact of Fuel Poverty amongst vulnerable groups

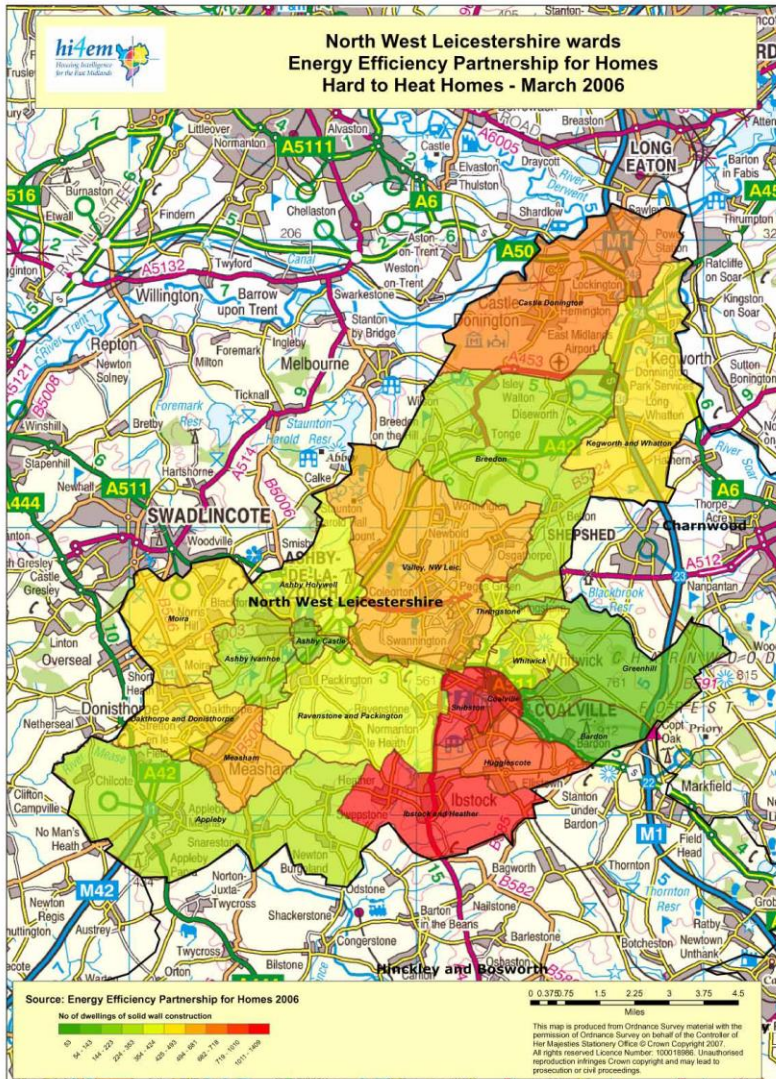
### **Action plan for 2014/15 (Appendix C)**

The action plan is based on the priorities above identified by the Private Sector Housing CAT specifically targeting the CSCo and other identified areas. Affordable Warmth and Fuel Poverty work is not included in any officer's job role so the action plan is based on capitalising on existing resources and ensuring quality information is available.

### **Monitoring**

The action plan will be monitored through the Private Sector Housing CAT.

No of Dwellings in NWL with Solid Wall Construction (2006)



The 5 top areas where Solid Wall Constructed houses are highest are Ibstock, Hugglescote, Castle Donington, Valley and Measham

**Appendix B**

**DECC table to show specific areas in NWL affected by Fuel Poverty**

<b>Location</b>	<b>no of house-holds</b>	<b>no in fuel poverty</b>	<b>% fuel poverty</b>
Appleby	917	145	15.8%
Ashby Castle	555	49	8.8%
Ashby Castle	488	61	12.5%
Ashby Holywell	637	52	8.2%
Ashby Holywell	880	100	11.4%
Ashby Holywell	718	73	10.2%
Ashby Ivanhoe	618	69	11.2%
Ashby Ivanhoe	642	78	12.1%
Ashby Ivanhoe	705	85	12.1%
Bardon	1,277	86	6.7%
Breedon	566	82	14.5%
Breedon	448	72	16.1%
Castle Donington	1,001	159	15.9%
Castle Donington	647	77	11.9%
Castle Donington	672	80	11.9%
Castle Donington	610	47	7.7%
Coalville	837	117	14.0%
Coalville	683	155	22.7%
Coalville	777	133	17.1%
Greenhill	467	36	7.7%
Greenhill	498	50	10.0%
Greenhill	554	54	9.7%
Greenhill	539	61	11.3%
Greenhill	484	60	12.4%
Hugglescote	630	90	14.3%
Hugglescote	524	48	9.2%
Hugglescote	783	104	13.3%
Ibstock and Heather	791	103	13.0%
Ibstock and Heather	647	71	11.0%
Ibstock and Heather	727	81	11.1%
Ibstock and Heather	813	96	11.8%
Kegworth and Whatton	613	88	14.4%
Kegworth and Whatton	668	93	13.9%
Kegworth and Whatton	702	136	19.4%
Measham	758	82	10.8%
Measham	678	58	8.6%
Measham	715	101	14.1%
Moira	743	75	10.1%
Moira	676	66	9.8%

Moira	663	69	10.4%
Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe	506	71	14.0%
Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe	613	67	10.9%
Ravenstone and Packington	576	66	11.5%
Ravenstone and Packington	461	76	16.5%
Snibston	652	94	14.4%
Snibston	685	70	10.2%
Snibston	847	106	12.5%
Thringstone	629	65	10.3%
Thringstone	643	64	10.0%
Thringstone	603	64	10.6%
Valley	608	84	13.8%
Valley	625	109	17.4%
Valley	1,510	296	19.6%
Whitwick	638	75	11.8%
Whitwick	729	85	11.7%
Whitwick	786	81	10.3%
Whitwick	831	93	11.2%

Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2014/15

Objective	Outcome	Project/work to be delivered	Performance monitoring	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Responsible section
<b>Better and warmer buildings in the private sector</b>	AF1 Residents in priority areas as identified through DECC data have access to quality information	Analyse DECC and other relevant data sources to identify priority areas	Full data set available  Amount of information given out	Develop information leaflet with relevant numbers and web links	Mail out to CSCo areas  Ensure information available on NWL website	Monitor potential data sets	Monitor website hits	Building Control  Street Action
	AF2 Private housing stock in NWL is of better quality and is more energy efficient	Ensure private landlords are aware of energy efficiency deals and measures	No of landlords who take up ECO assessments		Arrange forum and develop information.	Deliver landlord forum		Housing Choices Team Leader  Housing choices senior strategy and partnership officer  Street protection team leader

Objective	Outcome	Project/work to be delivered	Performance monitoring	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Responsible section
<b>Supporting Vulnerable Groups</b>	AF3There is a reduction of health impact of Fuel Poverty on vulnerable groups in NWL	Link with vulnerable people to assess need and suitability  Link with suitable partners and agencies to support events and initiatives	No of information leaflets given to target groups	Map well families clinics and provide leaflets to organiser	Promote Affordable warmth and energy saving at summer events  Link with other district and borough councils to develop the "Lightbulb" Scheme	Ensure Affordable Warmth is included in Health Forum action plan	Implement Lightbulb scheme initiatives	Health Forum  Community Focus  Housing Choices  Housing Management
	AF4NWL residents in targeted localities have Increased awareness of subsidies, benefits, deals for affordable warmth and information on tariffs	Ensure all information is up to date and accessible		Continue to update and refresh website	Develop and approve information leaflet  Distribute leaflets to a wide audience	Distribute information  Scope out Collective Switching and report back to the PSH CAT	Update and distribute information	Health forum  Street Protection team  Housing Choices senior strategy and partnership officer