

Title of Report	ESTABLISHMENT OF FUEL POVERTY TASK AND FINISH GROUP	
Presented by	James Arnold Strategic Director	
Background Papers	Minutes from Council – 10 May 2022	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	As the Task and Finish Group will require additional support from East Midlands Councils (EMC), due to the nature of the review, there will be a cost involved for this service.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None identified at this stage	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer:	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The Task and Finish Group will require additional resources to help support it, this will be provided by East Midlands Councils.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service:	
Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee	To ask the Committee to establish a Task & Finish Group comprised of Community Scrutiny Members to review the work which the Council is doing to minimise fuel poverty in NWL in accordance with the motion agreed at Council on 10 May 2022.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>(1) ESTABLISH A TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO REVIEW THE WORK WHICH THE COUNCIL IS DOING TO MINIMISE FUEL POVERTY IN NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE.</p> <p>(2) AGREE THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK & FINISH GROUP, AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX B,</p> <p>(3) DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, TO SEEK NOMINATIONS FROM THE GROUP WHIPS TO FILL THE SEATS ON THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP.</p>	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A motion was tabled at the meeting of Council on 10 May 2022 in relation to the reduction of fuel poverty within North West Leicestershire. The motion as amended and resolved at the meeting is detailed at appendix A.
- 1.2 The newly established Scrutiny Work Programming Group met for its first meeting on 24 May 2022 to discuss work programmes for both Scrutiny Committees including this referral from Council. It was felt that due to the nature of the review request, the establishment of a Task and Finish Group would be the most appropriate way to conduct the review.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that, a Task and Finish Group undertake a review on the work the Council is doing to minimise fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire by 2030.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Work Programming Group considered that as fuel prices are expected to rise again in the Autumn, the result of the review be presented back as soon as possible and it is proposed to target Community Scrutiny at its meeting in November.
- 2.3 It is also proposed that, in order to ensure an appropriate level of support is given to the review, the East Midlands Council be approached to assist. This is an approach that was agreed as part of the general discussion of the Scrutiny Cross Party Working Group and is to be used when a Task and Finish Group is undertaking a large project when officers workloads are such that in-house support would be difficult.
- 2.4 The draft Terms of Reference of the Task and Finish Group are appended to this report and will be formally agreed at the first meeting of the group.
- 2.5 Meetings will be held, as required, culminating in a draft report for consideration by the Community Scrutiny at its meeting scheduled for 23 November 2022.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Safeguarding:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Equalities/Diversity:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Customer Impact:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Economic and Social Impact:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Environment and Climate Change:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Consultation/Community Engagement:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
Risks:	None identified as part of this report but will be considered as part of the work of the T&F Group
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NOTICE OF MOTION: END FUEL POVERTY

This Council notes the work to date on reducing fuel poverty in our area but acknowledges that thousands of households are estimated to be in fuel poverty and more can be done to end fuel poverty by 2030.

This Council resolves:

- To request that Community Scrutiny Committee review the work which the Council is doing to minimise fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire by 2030. This will include the work being done on the following:
 1. continuous improvement in the energy efficiency of Council housing stock
 2. partnership working to improve the energy efficiency standards in housing association stock
 3. enforcement of existing regulations on energy efficiency and property standards in the private rented sector
 4. reviewing the outcomes achieved by the [2017 Statement of Intent](#), eligibility criteria and access to Energy Company Obligation funding via the Local Authority Flexibility arrangements
 5. leveraging in funds to improve the energy efficiency standards of all housing
 6. making private tenants' aware of their rights to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards and help under the Government's ECO scheme
 7. providing accessible information, advice and guidance in a variety of formats to those most in need
 8. maximising the incomes of low-income households through the efficient delivery of Council-administered benefits, sensitive recovery of debt and the provision of advice and support
 9. working in partnership with other agencies and voluntary and community groups to implement and monitor delivery of the Strategy
 10. how the Council reports on progress on these areas of work
- To consider whether this Council can support the work of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group

Terms of Reference

What is the Role of Fuel Poverty Task and Finish Group?

To review the work which the Council is doing to minimise fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire by 2030.

What are the Principles of the Review?

- To review the work being done on the following:
 1. Continuous improvement in the energy efficiency of Council housing stock.
 2. Partnership working to improve the energy efficiency standards in housing association stock.
 3. Enforcement of existing regulations on energy efficiency and property standards in the private rented sector.
 4. Reviewing the outcomes achieved by the [2017 Statement of Intent](#), eligibility criteria and access to Energy Company Obligation funding via the Local Authority Flexibility arrangements.
 5. Levering in funds to improve the energy efficiency standards of all housing making private tenants' aware of their rights to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards and help under the Government's ECO scheme.
 6. Providing accessible information, advice and guidance in a variety of formats to those most in need.
 7. Maximising the incomes of low-income households through the efficient delivery of Council-administered benefits, sensitive recovery of debt and the provision of advice and support.
 8. Working in partnership with other agencies and voluntary and community groups to implement and monitor delivery of the Strategy.
 9. How the Council reports on progress on these areas of work
- To consider whether this Council can support the work of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

What is expected of members of the Housing Strategy Task and Finish Group?

Whilst the Task and Finish Group will not be a decision making body, the group will be asked to:

- Review the information available to review the work being done on points 1 – 9 above and provide recommendations to Cabinet.
- Review the work undertaken by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, consider how the Council can support the work and make recommendations to Cabinet.
- Act as critical friends during key aspects of the report, in relation to the scrutiny function, providing comments and feedback as required.
- Agree a majority consensus for recommendation back to Cabinet.

Who has voting rights on the recommendations?

Only elected Members (or their substitute) have voting rights.

Members of the Task and Finish Group

- Conservative – name tbc
- Conservative – name tbc
- Conservative – name tbc
- Labour– name tbc
- Labour– name tbc
- Lib Dem/Independent– name tbc

Where any of the above councillors are not able to attend a meeting, they may select a councillor of their choosing to take their place drawn from either of the Scrutiny Committees.

What is expected of officers of the Task and Finish Group?

- Provide professional advice, as required, throughout the task;
- Ensure effective administration of the working group including provision of agendas and minutes;
- Help formulate the views of members into a number of recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

Officers of the Task and Finish Group

- James Arnold, Strategic Director of Place
- Rachel Wallace, Democratic Support Officer
- Officer from East Midlands Council to be confirmed
- Other officers/representatives as appropriate or requested

How often will the Group meet?

- Meetings will be held, as required, culminating in a draft report for consideration by the Community Scrutiny at its meeting scheduled for 23 November 2022.