

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET – 8 DECEMBER 2015

Title of report	HOUSING ENERGY STRATEGY
Key Decision	a) Financial No b) Community Yes
Contacts	Councillor Roger Bayliss 01530 411055 roger.bayliss@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Director of Housing 01530 454819 glyn.jones@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Housing 01530 454780 chris.lambert@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the 2015-2020 Housing Energy Strategy.
Council Priorities	Value for Money Business and Jobs Homes and Communities Green Footprints Challenge
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	Any costs associated with the adoption of the Strategy, including staffing implications, will be met from within existing budgets.
Link to relevant CAT	Not Applicable
Risk Management	A risk register will be developed as part of the action planning process subject to approval of the Strategy.
Equalities Impact Screening	An equalities impact screening assessment will be undertaken subject to approval of the Strategy
Human Rights	None
Transformational Government	Delivering housing in a sustainable way, considering the environmental and social impacts and benefits.

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	NWL Tenants and Leaseholders Consultation Forum
Background papers	HRA Asset Management Strategy 2015 -2020
Recommendations	<p>IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CABINET:</p> <p>1) NOTES THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT; AND 2) APPROVES THE 2015-2020 HOUSING ENERGY STRATEGY.</p>

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The implementation of a Housing Energy Strategy 2015 -20 to support the HRA Asset Management Strategy 2015 -20, approved by Cabinet on 20 October 2015, is key to ensure we deliver our objectives to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock and to reduce fuel poverty in the area.
- 1.2 The aim is to ensure that our tenants benefit from homes which meet a good standard of energy efficiency and which can be heated comfortably without excessive cost. This means providing homes that are well insulated and have modern, low cost heating systems which can meet present and future needs.

2.0 FUTURE ACTIVITY

- 2.1 The Strategy, action plan and supporting appendices attached to this report, describe our future activity over the next five years, including how we aim to achieve a minimum energy standard for our homes and our ambitions to maximise the use of renewable energy systems where feasible within our existing capital budgets and investment plans.
- 2.2 The investment made in improving the energy efficiency of our homes will benefit both the Council and our tenants by:
- Helping to maintain and improve the condition and value of the Council's housing stock;
 - Reducing the repair costs associated with cold or unheated homes;
 - Reducing energy costs for tenants resulting in greater household income and a positive effect on rent arrears;
 - Improving the health and wellbeing of Council tenants;

- Making properties more attractive to let reducing the costs associated with empty homes and re-letting.

3.0 CONSULTATION

3.1 Prior to presentation to Cabinet, there has already been some consultation activity relating to the production of the Energy Strategy, principally with respect to agreeing principles and initial outcomes with tenants' representatives.

3.2 The formal approval process is detailed as follows:

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| • Tenant and Leaseholder Consultation Forum | 26 October 2015 |
| • Housing Senior Management Team | 29 October 2015 |
| • Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) | 17 November 2015 |
| • Strategy Group | 24 November 2015 |
| • Cabinet | 8 December 2015 |
| • Adoption and implementation | 1 January 2016 |

3.3 This timetable will allow the Energy Strategy to be used to shape the commissioning decisions for the 2016/17 improvement programme.

3.4 A communications plan will also be developed whilst the Strategy is being approved to ensure that we share the key outcomes from the adoption with tenants, key partners and other stakeholders.

3.5 Delivery of the actions required by the plan (Appendix D) will be overseen by the Housing Services Senior Management Team, with appropriate reference for approval to other groups (CLT/Cabinet etc) as appropriate.

3.6 It is anticipated that specific actions arising from the Strategy will be key drivers in the Team and Service planning processes for 2016/17 and beyond.

4.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Implementing the HRA Asset Management Strategy and supporting Energy Strategy will require the right level of skills and experience, to both commission and deliver the works required, both in terms of revenue maintenance / planned cyclical works, and capital improvements, as well as new build and acquisitions.

4.2 A reorganisation and restructure of the Planned Investment Team is proposed to be in place in quarter one of the financial year 2016-17 that will support this, and will be the subject of a further report to Corporate Management Team in February / March 2016. This piece of work has been put back pending the outcome of the VFM study of the reactive repairs service, as it is sensible to consider proposed changes to both service areas together. The trade unions will be consulted as part of any restructuring process.

4.3 There is capacity within the existing Planned Investment Team, of which the Energy Strategy Officer is now a member, to implement the Strategy and associated Action Plan. Any new structure will take account of the need to maintain this capacity, and it is intended that the Energy Strategy Officer post, which will lead on implementation of the Strategy, will remain in its current form.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial implications of delivering the proposals within the Energy Strategy were contained within the Asset Management Strategy approved by Cabinet on 20 October 2015. There are no additional financial implications arising from the Energy Strategy