

## SCRUTINY REVIEW – SCOPING RECORD

### PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

#### SECTION 1 – TO BE COMPLETED BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The purpose of this document is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with information to make a decision on whether a scrutiny review could proceed on this topic. The following guidelines have been agreed as a basis for making decisions on topics for scrutiny reviews.

*It is important that in-depth reviews are:*

- *deliverable within a set timetable*
- *sufficiently focused on a particular aspect of a service*
- *not duplicating other significant review activity*
- *not related to a specific individual grievance or complaint*

*Reviews should also, wherever possible:-*

- *contribute to the overall objectives of the organisation*
- *reflect community concerns*
- *lead to potential achievable outcomes or improvements for the people of Lincolnshire*

#### DETAILS OF PROPOSED SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPIC

<b>Title</b>	Tackling fuel poverty in Lincolnshire
<b>Committee</b>	Environmental Scrutiny Committee
<b>Purpose of the Review</b>	<p>To review progress on the implementation of the Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy which was launched in 2010, with particular reference to the opportunities presented by -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Deal Government framework to enable private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes at no upfront cost, and to recoup payments through a charge in instalments on the energy bill.</li> <li>• Energy Company Obligation (ECO) This will replace existing obligations and underpin the Green Deal. It will target the most vulnerable householders and hard to treat homes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed-In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentive These are Government incentives promoting renewable technologies. Feed-In Tariffs are the part of the scheme that pays people for creating their own "green electricity". The second part of the scheme is the Renewable Heat Incentive which is a similar measure for heat.</li> </ul>
<b>Benefits of the Review</b>	<p>A more integrated and effective approach to fuel poverty, which amongst other things would benefit Lincolnshire residents by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving physical and mental health (reduction in hospital admissions; decrease in excess winter deaths in the elderly; reduction of respiratory problems in children for example)</li> <li>• improved quality of life</li> <li>• improved housing stock</li> <li>• improved fuel security and reduced costs for off gas areas of Lincolnshire</li> <li>• tackling the causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from households</li> </ul>
<b>Is there anything excluded from the review?</b>	<p>At the outset of the Review no areas of enquiry are specifically excluded. However, it is intended that attention will be focused on the opportunities presented by Green Deal, Energy Company Obligation, Feed-In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentive.</p>
<b>Timescale for Completion</b>	<p>Subject to approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the review will begin in October or early November 2011. The date for completion would be 13 April 2012.</p>
<b>Executive Councillor Comment</b>	<p>Tackling fuel poverty in Lincolnshire cannot be under-estimated. As a county council we have to do all we can to explore every possibility to make all homes as efficient in conserving warmth as is possible. We also need to explore with suppliers ways of providing cheaper energy for the elderly, who really do need to keep warm in winter weather. The future is very bleak, with soaring energy bills, unless ourselves and National Government grasp this nettle.</p>

<p><b>Executive Director Comment</b></p>	<p>The Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy has been important because it addresses two issues. For households it can ensure that people have decent homes that will improve health outcomes and provide more comfort. For society as a whole the measures reduce consumption of energy, thus improving our overall environment by mitigating adverse affects of energy consumption.</p> <p>The review should evaluate the specific schemes but given that the Coalition Government has indicated that local authorities should use their own initiative, councillors should consider how fuel poverty might be addressed in future.</p>
<p><b>Any further information (including any relevant information relating to the guidelines)</b></p>	<p>The Affordable Warmth Strategy was signed by Lincolnshire County Council and all seven district councils in 2010. The Strategy's vision is 'To work towards achieving Affordable Warmth and carbon reductions for all Lincolnshire residents'.</p> <p>The strategy runs until 2016 and has 5 main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness</li> <li>• Targeting actions at fuel poor households</li> <li>• Improving energy efficiency for all housing</li> <li>• Maximising income for at risk households</li> <li>• Improving access to fuel services and renewables</li> </ul> <p>The Strategy is implemented by the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP) with representatives from all councils.</p>

## SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR SCRUTINY REVIEW

### SECTION 2 – TO BE COMPLETED BY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Title of Scrutiny Review</b>	Tackling fuel poverty in Lincolnshire
<b>Membership of Task and Finish Group (as appointed by Group Leaders)</b>	Councillor Chris Brewis Councillor Colin Davie Councillor Mike Exton Councillor Graham Gooding Councillor Nev Jackson Councillor John Marriott Councillor Paul Skinner
<b>Lead Member (from Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee)</b>	Councillor Colin Davie
<b>Co-options</b>	
<b>Relevant Executive Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Lewis Strange
<b>Lead Officer(s) from Theme Area</b>	Doug Robinson, Environmental Services Team Leader (Sustainability) Vanessa O'Brien, Sustainability Project Assistant
<b>Scrutiny Officer</b>	Liz Jones
<b>Democratic Services Officer</b>	Steve Blagg

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

<b>Purpose of the Review (as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in Section 1)</b>	<p>To review progress on the implementation of the Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy which was launched in 2010, with particular reference to the opportunities presented by -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Deal Government framework to enable private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes at no upfront cost, and to recoup payments through a charge in instalments on the energy bill.</li> <li>• Energy Company Obligation (ECO) This will replace existing obligations and underpin the Green Deal. It will target the most vulnerable householders and hard to treat homes.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feed-In Tariffs and Renewable Heat Incentive These are Government incentives promoting renewable technologies. Feed-In Tariffs are the part of the scheme that pays people for creating their own "green electricity". The second part of the scheme is the Renewable Heat Incentive which is a similar measure for heat.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main Lines of Enquiry</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the progress made with Lincolnshire's Affordable Warmth Strategy and the HELP project</li> <li>• Investigate current initiatives to tackle fuel poverty in Lincolnshire</li> <li>• Examine proposed government initiatives that may support Lincolnshire in tackling fuel poverty (Green Deal/ECO etc)</li> <li>• To identify examples of best practice in other local authorities and across Europe.</li> </ul>

## ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FROM THE REVIEW

<p><b>Benefits of the Review (as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee in Section 1)</b></p>	<p>A more integrated and effective approach to fuel poverty, which amongst other things would benefit Lincolnshire residents by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving physical and mental health (reduction in hospital admissions; decrease in excess winter deaths in the elderly; reduction of respiratory problems in children for example)</li> <li>• improved quality of life</li> <li>• improved housing stock</li> <li>• improved fuel security and reduced costs for off gas areas of Lincolnshire</li> <li>• tackling the causes of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from households</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contribution to performance indicators and/or current corporate priorities</b></p>	<p>The County Council's Business Plan 2011/12 which was approved by the County Council on 16 September 2011 includes the following statement:</p> <p><i>"We will invest in energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty in the county through the <b>Affordable Warmth/HELP</b> project. This started in April 2009 and will finish in March 2012."</i></p>

## RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS

<p><b>Risks</b></p>	<p>There are no major identified risks with this review. However, the subject area for the Review is broad and the Group will need to remain focussed in order to complete the Review in the time allocated.</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications</b></p>	<p>None identified. There may be legal issues identified during the course of the review and appropriate advice will be taken at the time.</p>
<p><b>Financial Implications</b></p>	<p>None identified. There may be financial issues identified during the course of the review and appropriate advice will be taken at the time.</p>
<p><b>Resource Implications</b></p>	<p>The major resource during this review relates to the time committed by Councillors, County Council officers and contributors from external organisations.</p>

## PROJECTED TIMESCALES

<b>Date for Approval of Scoping Document by Scrutiny Committee or Chairman and Vice Chairman of Parent Scrutiny Committee</b>	25 November 2011
<b>Dates of Task and Finish Group Meetings (to be established as far as possible)</b>	Monday 5 December at 10am Thursday 5 January at 2.30pm Monday 6 February at 10am Tuesday 6 March at 10am Tuesday 20 March at 10am
<b>Date of Submission of Draft Final Report to Scrutiny Committee</b>	13 April 2012
<b>Date of Submission to the Executive or Executive Councillor</b>	1 May 2012

## RESEARCH METHODS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

<b>Key Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lincolnshire fuel poverty data – hi4em</li> <li>Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2016</li> <li>Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation consultations – Autumn 2012</li> <li>Interim report of the Hills Fuel Poverty Review</li> </ul>
<b>Best Practice Guidance</b>	Fuel Poverty Policies and Progress, A guidance note for Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)
<b>Key Contributors which may include key officers, councillors, expert witnesses, and stakeholders (to be established as far as possible)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District Councils' officers and appropriate Portfolio Holders</li> <li>David George – Housing Intelligence for the East Midlands (hi4em)</li> <li>Sean Johnson, Chair - Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP)</li> <li>Utility company/companies</li> <li>Teresa Roche - Primary Care Trust (PCT)</li> <li>Martin Wilson, Head of Community Engagement, Lincolnshire County Council</li> <li>Community Lincs</li> <li>Groundwork</li> <li>Age UK</li> <li>National Energy Association</li> </ul>

<p><b>Potential Site Visits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to insulation depot/measure install site (as install being done)</li> <li>• Visit to Grantham College or Centre for Renewable Energy (CORE) to view house scale renewables; or house with renewables</li> <li>• Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Green Deal/ECO workshops (as appropriate)</li> <li>• Members to undertake site visits to projects and schemes in their local areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Consultation (Questionnaires / Focus Groups / Workshops / Website / Public Meetings)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customer Service Centre survey</li> <li>• Attendance at HELP Green Deal/ECO update workshop (Likely to be January 2012)</li> <li>• DECC Green Deal/ECO workshops (as appropriate)</li> <li>• Workshops to be held in Lincoln and in East Lindsey</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communications (Inside Lincolnshire / Website / Newsletters)</b></p>	