

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing Review Panel 25 February 2004

Report of the Energy Efficiency Officer

This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Garner

Energy Efficiency Review

1. Executive Summary

1.1. This report is intended to inform members of the work in progress towards the Home Energy Conservation Act (1995) target of a 30% improvement in Energy Efficiency by 2011.

2. Background

2.1. The authority is currently undergoing a Best Value Review and the Energy Efficiency Service is part of this review under the Decent Homes Group.

2.2. In the last two years, Taunton Deane Borough Council has reported to DEFRA an improvement figure of 4.17% in 2001-02 and 2.5% in 2002-03. This is reported in the HECA annual progress report in August.

2.3. In November 2002 the Housing Review Panel approved the Energy Efficiency Strategy.

3. The Current Position

3.1. The activities to improve the Energy Efficiency of Housing in Taunton Deane in 2003-04 will be reported in the Eighth progress report for HECA in August 2004. So far this includes:

3.2. The set up and launch of the Somerset Warm and Well Scheme with Taunton Deane as the lead authority on this partnership.

3.3. A health referral scheme has been successfully launched with referrals from Occupational Therapists of those at risk from fuel poverty and suffering as a result of energy inefficient homes.

3.4. The successful operation of the Deane Warmth scheme in partnership with SWEB who have match funded the scheme. The present value of customer benefit from the scheme is £67,098.

3.5. Monthly Promotional and Publicity plan produced to ensure maximum awareness of the Energy Efficiency Service offered by Taunton Deane Borough Council.

3.6. The Best Value Review currently being conducted includes the energy efficiency service as part of the Decent Homes Group.

3.7. In March and April 2004 a review of the Energy Efficiency Strategy will take place. This will be similar to the review that took place in March 2002. The review is being facilitated by consultation of the residents of Taunton Deane on awareness of the Energy Efficiency Service. This consultation will inform TDBC on the effectiveness

of the publicity and promotions that have taken place during 2003. It is designed to consult users and non users as part of a random sample of residents in the Deane.

3.8. When the consultation is complete it will input into the Best Value review and will be the beginning of the Energy Efficiency Strategy Review. The next step of which will be to consult with stakeholders on innovative marketing, developing schemes, referral mechanisms and partnership working.

3.9. Once completed the consultation of residents and stakeholders will be used to develop the improvement plan and to update the Energy Efficiency Strategy.

4. Recommendations

4.1. Members are requested to either –

- a) accept this review in its entirety, or
- b) Make suggestions to alter or add to the review, which should then be accepted.

The panel should then recommend the acceptance of this report to the Executive.

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