

**Report for:** Cabinet 14 July 2020

**Title:** Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025

**Report** Mark Baigent, Interim Director of Housing, Regeneration & Planning

**Ward(s) affected:** N/A

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Key

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The Affordable Energy Strategy went to Cabinet for agreement to consult on November 2019. Consultation took place during January to March 2020 via events and a web platform. Following this the Council has mapped all responses and responded to all points made. (As seen in Appendix A). Where appropriate alterations to the Strategy have been made.
- 1.2 Alongside the public consultation feedback, officers have reviewed the Strategy in response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Strategy includes an appendix which prioritises a set of actions in response to an expected increase in fuel poor households. All policies within the document were reviewed in light of increased pressure in this area as a result of COVID-19 and its economic effects.
- 1.3 This report seeks agreement to adopt the strategy following public consultation and agree the new alignment as a result of COVID-19.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1 Over 15,000 households in the borough struggle to pay their energy bills and can face the difficult decision of switching off appliances and heating over food and managing household finances.
- 2.2 Following public consultation, we have addressed some of the issues highlighted by the community. But also during this consultation period the first COVID 19 cases were identified in the UK and the borough. As a result of this pandemic we have reviewed all policies in light of the fuel and energy factors that increase susceptibility of our community to COVID 19, and the expected increase in households in energy poverty.
- 2.3 Tackling fuel poverty has always been important but is even more of a priority when the consequences of a second wave of Covid-19 in a cold winter is considered. I am therefore pleased to recommend adoption of Haringey's Affordable Energy Strategy which sets out our plan to improve the energy

efficiency of homes in all tenures and a referral network throughout the borough to tackle fuel poverty.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

- 3.1. Adopt the revised Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 appearing at Appendix B.
- 3.2. Agree to the prioritised actions identified in the “COVID 19 AND THE AFFORDABLE ENERGY STRATEGY 2020-2025 – PRIORITIES STATEMENT” appended to the Strategy to enable the Council to respond to an increase in fuel poverty this winter.

### **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1. The existing Affordable Warmth Strategy (2009-2019) has now expired. It is estimated that over 15,000 households in Haringey experience fuel poverty. By adopting a new strategy Haringey will have a clear way forward to tackle fuel poverty in the borough and improve the health and wellbeing of its residents.
- 4.2 In November 2019, Cabinet agreed the draft Affordable Energy Strategy for public consultation. The consultation has concluded. Comments have been considered and the strategy amended as appropriate.
- 4.3 The impact of COVID-19 on jobs, incomes and energy use have been considered and it is anticipated that levels of fuel poverty will increase. Priority actions have been identified to enable the Council to react to this situation and support residents.
- 4.4 Approval is sought to adopt the strategy and a COVID-19 impact statement has been inserted into the document to allow the appropriate actions to be undertaken to support residents struggling to power their homes.

### **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 *Do nothing*  
The strategy would not be redrafted and released. The Council will have no coherent strategy to improve the circumstances of around 15,000 households living in fuel poverty in Haringey and meet the ambitions of the Borough Plan by driving up the quality of housing for everyone and exploring setting up an alternative local or regional energy savings company(s). And would be failing in its requirement under the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA).
- 5.2 *Do not prioritise actions as set out in the inserted COVID-19 impact statement.*  
An immediate and targeted response is required to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on fuel poor households. This could divert resources and efforts from where they will be most effective.
- 5.4 *Delay finalising the Strategy*  
The BEIS’s updated Fuel Poverty Strategy for England has been delayed and details of the Home Upgrade Grant Scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation

scheme will not be available until later this year. Again, the GLA are reviewing how their programmes (Warmer Homes and Warm Homes Advice Service) can support an increase in demand and more complex support requirements.

However there is an urgency to act to ensure fuel poor residents are supported if there is a second wave of COVID-19 in the winter. It is therefore recommended that the strategy is adopted. Consultation documents on the proposed Fuel Poverty Strategy for England were considered when the Affordable Energy Strategy was drafted. It is therefore unlikely that the new strategy will have a major impact on Haringey's Affordable Energy strategy. Once publicised the new policies will be reviewed and mitigation measures employed where necessary. If these amendments are major they will be publically reported through the Annual Carbon Report.

## 6. Background information

- 6.1 Haringey's [Affordable Warmth Strategy 2009-2019](#) has expired. This strategy concentrated on assisting residents to adequately heat their homes with a vision *"To make sure that no household in Haringey lives in a cold, unheated home and that people know how to use energy in their homes efficiently, therefore saving money and reducing CO2 emissions"*.
- 6.2 Whilst many fuel poverty interventions have been undertaken in the borough under this strategy. Fuel poverty remains an issue for many Haringey residents. Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator. Under the LIHC indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.
- In 2017 there were 15,189 households living in fuel poverty in Haringey. 14.5% of the households in the borough. This is the 4th highest percentage in London and substantially above the London average (11.8%).
  - Over the past 5 winters, there were 350 Excess Winter Deaths (EWDs) in Haringey. The Office for National Statistics defines EWDs as the additional number of deaths occurring during December to March in any one year compared to the number of deaths that occurred in the preceding August to November and the following April to July. [The Hills Review](#) estimated that some 10 per cent of EWDs are directly attributable to fuel poverty and a World Health Organization report estimates that 30 per cent of EWDs could be attributed to cold housing. This equates to between 35 – 105 deaths in Haringey between 2012 and 2017 where the inability to heat homes adequately may have been a contributory factor. The Excess Winter Mortality index (EWM) is calculated so that comparisons can be made between sexes, age groups and regions, and is calculated as the number of EWD divided by the average non-winter deaths in the winter of 2017/18 the EWM for London was 27.3 compared to 29.8 for Haringey.

- 6.3 To assist these households and to meet national targets in the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014 and the Government’s Fuel Energy Strategy 2015, ie to ensure that “as many fuel poor households ensure that as many fuel poor homes ‘as is reasonably practicable’ achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030, it is recommended that a new strategy is adopted. This will ensure that Haringey has a co-ordinated approach to alleviate fuel poverty providing a focus for action and ensuring limited resources are put to best use.
- 6.4 The proposed Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 builds upon previous and existing fuel poverty interventions. However it has a wider scope than previous strategies. This is in recognition that being unable to adequately power a home for lighting, heating, communication can also have an adverse impact on the occupants health, academic attainment and general wellbeing. The strategy also acknowledges that the increasing impacts of climate change will increase overheating risks and that making homes more energy efficient can introduce further overheating problems. Its vision is *“To reduce the number of households struggling to afford to adequately power their homes and improve the health and wellbeing of residents by:-*
- *Improving the energy efficiency of housing and reducing overheating risks,*
  - *Connecting residents to support services and initiatives to overcome the many causes of fuel poverty, such as energy prices, low incomes and unemployment.”*

#### **Public Consultation**

- 6.5 Public consultation was held for 12 weeks between January 2020 and March 2020.
- 6.6 There were 18 responses in total. 83% of the respondents believe the issue of energy poverty is very important and 94% agreed with the vision set out in the strategy.
- 6.7 The following questions were asked within the consultation:-
- Do you worry about the cost of powering your home?
  - Do you think the issue of energy poverty is important in Haringey?
  - Do you agree or disagree with the vision set out in the strategy?
  - Objective 1 looks at how the Council can create and maintain an effective referral network. In addition to our proposed actions, how can the Council reach struggling households in the borough?
  - Objective 2 sets out to increase the energy efficiency and reduce overheating risks in all tenures do you agree with the proposed actions to achieve this?
  - Does the strategy adequately cover overheating risks and how could communities and individuals tackle this issue?
  - Objective 3 explains how the council will maximise the funding and resources available to tackle fuel poverty in the borough. Do you agree that Carbon Offsetting funds and profits from Decentralised Energy Networks should be used to carry out works to reduce fuel poverty?

- How might we improve the draft Affordable Energy Strategy overall? Do you have any general comments about the overall consultation proposals?

6.8 The responses to these questions have been incorporated into the strategy where deemed appropriate. See Appendix A - Draft Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 - main consultation responses for a full list of comments and amendments.

6.9 The alterations to the strategy include:-

- Amending the strategy has been amended to reflect that the first priority of the council will be to ensure homes are built to a zero carbon standard.
- Providing more information to residents on cooling rooms in the summer months and providing tenants with guidance on how to ensure their property meets energy efficiency standards.
- That the benefits and risks of installing Air Source Heat pumps to provide both heating and cooling are considered.”
- Investigating Green loans paid back by energy savings alongside equity release and revolving funds.
- Ensuring that development of the Decentralised Energy Network results in an energy cost that is affordable and manageable to households.

#### **6.10 Updated Fuel Poverty Data**

On 30 April 2020 the government published the 2018 fuel poverty data. This estimates 15,393 households are in fuel poverty in Haringey. This represents 14.4% of the population, which is down 0.1 percent from the previous year.

6.11 In the 2017 data the percentage of fuel poor in Haringey was the fourth highest in London. In the 2018 data, Haringey is now the second highest London borough. Both Brent and Waltham Forest dropped below Haringey with improvements of 1.2 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

6.12 The 2018 data identifies Haringey as one of the “top” 20 fuel poor districts in England along with the London Boroughs of Newham, Waltham Forest and Brent.

6.13 The 2018 figures are based on the current definition of fuel poverty<sup>1</sup>. The government’s draft fuel poverty strategy suggests using a new definition<sup>2</sup> which would further increase the number of households defined as fuel poor.

6.14 The 2018 data now suggests that households that pay for their energy bills by prepayment are no longer the most likely to be fuel poor. The prepayment price

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<sup>1</sup> Fuel poverty in England is measured using the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) indicator. Under the LIHC indicator, a household is considered to be fuel poor if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and if were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

<sup>2</sup> Under the proposed measure, Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE), a household would be classed as fuel poor if they are living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of Band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating Methodology and their disposable income (after housing costs and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.

cap contributed to this. The Strategy has been amended to reflect this. However it is often the case that those on prepayment meters are on lower incomes or have not passed a credit check needed to pay for energy quarterly or monthly. A Citizens Advice good practice guide<sup>3</sup> advises:

- 59% of households with a PPM were on at least one kind of benefit
- 65% of households with a PPM contain a child or someone with long term health issues.

For these reasons encouraging a switch to smart prepayment meters or direct debit will remain a key issue to address.

6.15 The strategy has been amended to reflect this new data.

### 6.16 COVID-19 Impact

Whilst there are currently no official estimates on the impact of Covid-19 on the numbers of households in fuel poverty we can expect fuel poverty to increase even further due to :-

- Reduction in household income. With job losses and reduced incomes there have been huge increases in the number of people applying for Universal Credit suggesting that many more may be struggling with their energy costs. Low earners are seven times as likely as high earners to work in a business sector that has shut down, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The body's analysis found a third of the bottom 10% of earners worked in the worst-hit sectors, against one in 20 (5%) of those in the top 10%.
- Increased domestic energy use. Reports suggest that domestic energy use has increased 15% in the UK during lockdown as people self isolate and/or work from home.

6.17 Alongside the direct impact, respiratory disease has been linked to living in a home that is cold and damp<sup>4</sup>. The consequences of a second wave of Covid-19 in a cold winter is therefore alarming. It's now even more crucial to help people keep their homes warm creating a living environment which gives people the best possible chance of remaining healthy or recovering from COVID-19. Damp housing will exacerbate upper respiratory tract infections which could add to the risk of poor outcomes should anyone living in it contract COVID-19. If families can only afford to heat one room this will affect their ability to self-isolate away from other family members.

6.18 The government has agreed some new emergency measures with the energy industry to protect the domestic energy supply of those most in need during the disruption caused by COVID-19.

6.19 The national fuel poverty charity, National Energy Action (NEA ) has reviewed how effective these emergency measures have been. It has found:-

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<sup>3</sup> Good Practice Guide - Holistic support for energy consumers who self-disconnect from their prepayment meter

<sup>4</sup> Cold air can cause airways to constrict and stimulate mucus production. This affects the bronchial lining of the respiratory tract and can reduce resistance to infection (risking bronchitis, pneumonia, and bronchoconstriction in asthma or COPD sufferers). Homes which have damp or mould have been linked with a 30-50% increase in respiratory problems (with asthma sufferers two to three times more likely to live in a damp home than non-sufferers). Damp can encourage mould and bacteria to grow (known allergens), thus leading to negative impacts such as allergies, upper respiratory tract infections and asthma – especially in children. Studies have found a dose-response relationship between the severity of damp and the severity of respiratory obstruction

**A lack of awareness.** Many residents will be unaware or confused about the support they can receive from their supplier during the pandemic.

**Challenges accessing support.**

- Some customers are reluctant to get in touch with their supplier to request assistance.
- Some suppliers are limiting their interaction by only taking 'emergency calls'.
- Information on the support available is often difficult to identify on supplier websites.
- There can be language/accessibility barriers both over the telephone and online.

**Variation in support provided**

There is a lack of consistency in the debt relief offered and the eligibility criteria adopted by suppliers.

6.20 BEIS has decided not to publish any fuel poverty projections for 2020 due to the unprecedented nature of the ongoing pandemic. They say that there is not enough information to develop assumptions for what is likely to happen to incomes, energy efficiency installations and energy prices between April 2020 and March 2021. Publication of the updated Fuel Poverty Strategy for England has been delayed and details of the Home Upgrade Grant Scheme and Social Housing Decarbonisation scheme will not be available until later this year.

6.21 The GLA are reviewing how their programmes (Warmer Homes and Warm Homes Advice Service) can support an increase in demand and more complex support requirements. How the programmes can play a role in individual recovery given the risk posed to respiratory disease sufferers in particular is also under consideration.

6.22 Haringey's proposed Affordable Energy Strategy sets a 5 year plan to reduce fuel poverty in the borough but we need to act quickly to support residents at risk due to the pandemic. The objectives have been reviewed to identify risks, mitigation measures and priority actions. A statement detailing these is included at the front of the Strategy.

**6.23 Summary of the impact of COVID-19 on current Fuel Poverty Support activities:-**

- The energy advice service SHINE London reported a clear spike in referrals in late March-early April when the lockdown first took effect. This was around 30% higher than usual. This has now calmed down significantly and referrals are about what is expected for this time of year. However, the call lengths are generally longer and more intensive with an ongoing increase of complex debt cases, for reasons that you would expect related to COVID-19. Whilst budgets are tight there is currently capacity within SHINE London to cope with these increases.
- Energy Doctor home visits are currently suspended. SHINE visits are currently conducted 'virtually' or over the phone. It is intended to resume

home visits in line with government guidance, Working safely during COVID-19 in other people's homes, as soon as possible.

- The Mayor of London's Warmer Homes programme is still operating and is currently funded until March 2021. This provides free heating, insulation and ventilation improvements for low income Londoners who own their own homes or rent privately and landlords. All qualifying applications are being processed but works are only taking place if the resident has health issues and has a broken heating system. However it is hoped that activity will be resumed for the vast majority of applicants by the start of June. The only applicants who would be excluded post start of June are those in self-isolating households or who are shielding (unless they have no means to heat water).
- Engagement and training activities are currently being undertaken via the web.
- Since lockdown, there has been an increase in the number of requests received by the Carbon Management team for "emergency" assistance. Casestudies include:-
  - Assisting a mental health social worker find a contractor to restore electricity supplies to a residents property. The resident was an owner occupier without lighting and cooking facilities. The property needed rewiring to allow Network Power to safely restore electricity.
  - Signposting a resident with COPD and emphysema (and at high risk during the pandemic) to apply for a grant to replace a broken down cooker and to SHINE London for assistance with their energy bills. The resident was on a prepayment meter and was struggling to find funds to top-up.

#### **6.24 Risks and Challenges to the Affordable Energy Strategy during COVID**

- Many of the fuel poor are already hard to reach and the curtailment on face to face engagement activities could exacerbate this. Especially as established sources of support for digital access to services are currently not available e.g. libraries and community centres, leaving people with additional barriers to accessing support.
- The referral network heavily relies on the community groups operating in the borough. However many third sector organisations are facing more pressure on the services they offer at the same time as losing out on fundraising income.
- Retrofit activities are currently on hold except in emergency situations. This could cause delays / waiting lists which will reduce the number of homes retrofitted before the winter.
- Demand could outstrip capacity, staff resources and funding.

#### **6.25 The Councils response to Energy Poverty in light of COVID.**

In light of the COVID pandemic the Strategy's objectives have been reviewed, and mitigation measures and actions have been altered and/or prioritised. These changes are mapped out below.

**6.26 Objective 1: Increase the number of struggling households receiving energy advice and expand the support available**

- We will give greater prominence to increase the visibility of fuel poverty support measures on the council website. *This action was included in the consultation document but has been strengthened and prioritised.*
  
- We will widen the number of institutes that the Council targets with energy advice. Strengthening awareness and referral pathways between SHINE London and LEAP and the following organisations:-
  - Homes for Hospital
  - Connected Communities
  - Reach and Connect
  - Children's Centres
  - Job support agencies
  - Food Banks
  - Local Health services and CCG
  - Employment and adult education centres

The consultation document discusses creating and maintaining an effective referral network. *This action has been prioritised and amended to include organisations which should be engaged first as they are likely to have the most impact.*

- We will investigate more opportunities to assist residents to switch to cheaper energy tariffs to provide some immediate financial relief. *This was included in the consultation document and is now a prioritised action.*
  
- We have added that we will investigate the possibility of setting up a Fuel Bank scheme with an energy supplier and a food bank. This would provide a top up voucher for approximately two weeks' worth of fuel to clients with a prepayment meter and who have been deemed as in 'crisis need' by an independent Foodbank referrer. Such schemes have already been piloted by NPower and the Trussel Trust. The scheme helps prevent self-disconnection (where a client cannot afford to top up their meter) and ensures people are not left without energy for the basics like cooking and heating. *This is an addition which was not included in the consultation document.*

**6.27 Objective 2 -Improve housing energy performance to reduce fuel poverty, cold homes and overheating priorities include:-**

- We will expediate work with Homes for Haringey to develop a retrofit programme to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's own existing housing stock. Aiming to ensure that the least efficient stock is prioritised for the installation of energy efficiency measures where funding is available. *This was included in the consultation document but has now been prioritised.*

- We will further increase our level of engagement with the PRS sector through council communication channels, landlord forums and associations and letting agents. Raising awareness of the implications of living in a cold home and COVID-19, and make them aware of their legal obligations under the Minimum Energy Performance regulations and inform them of grant funding opportunities. *Engaging private landlords was included in the consultation document but has been amended to include providing information relating to COVID-19.*

## **6.28 Objective 3 - Maximise the funding and resources secured within Haringey to alleviate fuel poverty**

- We will channel more people to use the GLA Warmer Homes grants and increase the number of applications made by residents and landlords to the GLA Warmer Homes grant scheme. We will do this by using a targeting mailing service. Which whilst expensive, has proved successful in increasing applications from previous energy efficiency schemes and this will be investigated along with data protection requirements. *This is an additional action and one which was suggested during the consultation – see response 3 in Appendix A, Draft Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 - main consultation responses.*
- Increase the number of households who can benefit from the Warmer Homes Scheme and the depth of retrofit offered per property by allocating and aligning carbon offsetting funds to this scheme. This could be further increased by investigating the possibility of securing additional funding from external sources such as the Better Care Fund. The consultation document sets a priority to “Allocate some of Haringey’s Carbon Offsetting Fund to fund retrofit schemes” and suggests that it can be used to matchfund schemes. *The Warmer Homes scheme has been prioritised as it can deliver energy efficiency measures this winter.*
- Explore opportunities to fund and resource an emergency service to provide prompt assistance to residents to support and relieve health services. *This is an addition following the increase in emergency cases that have already been encountered during COVID-19.*
- Lobby government for adequate resources to support local authorities alleviate fuel poverty particularly in response to COVID-19. *This is an additional action in response to COVID-19.*
- The Affordable Energy Strategy will be reviewed on publication of the Governments Fuel Poverty Strategy for England and following any amendments to the Mayors Fuel Poverty Action plan and support measures. Any major alterations will be reported to Cabinet and will be publically reported in the Annual Carbon Report. *It was anticipated that the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England would already have been published. However this has been delayed due to COVID-19. This is therefore an addition which was not included in the consultation document.*

- 6.29 Delivery of these actions to mitigate COVID-19 can be resourced by: -
- Making use of existing communication channels such as Haringey People, Haringey web pages
  - Existing internal staff resources
  - Seeking external grant opportunities
  - Supporting community groups to bid for grant opportunities
  - Capital Projects
  - Carbon Offsetting funds secured by planning

### **6.30 Funding - Carbon Offsetting Funds**

As of 5 May 2020, the Council has £619,836.29 in Carbon Offsetting contributions collected through Section 106 Planning obligations. This funding is collected from new developments that fail to achieve the required planning standard of being Zero Carbon on site. A further £2,208,689.40 has been negotiated through approved developments. But this additional funding is not yet collected and will only be given to the Council once the developments have been completed.

- 6.31 Subject to the approval process for s106 via the Economy Board, we are proposing to use £520,000 of the funds collected, and allocate this to retrofit properties to reduce carbon in the private sector over a three year period.
- 6.32 £50k of this fund will be available for emergency measures for eligible owner occupiers / private tenants who have old inefficient or recently broken systems (no heating or hot water). These will be replaced with new low carbon alternatives. Eligible residents would be referred to the Council for approval via our Energy Advice partners - SHINE London. This could include ancillary works required to support the carbon reduction measures. Subject to funding, the works could include heating controls and insulation measures to deliver further carbon reductions. The maximum grant per intervention will be £2,000. We will also use some of this funding to promote energy schemes across the community
- 6.33 £480k of money for Retrofit Measures would be spent on future-proofing measures that improve energy efficiency of homes with a fabric first approach (eg loft, wall, floor, roof insulation, glazing). These measures will improve people's long term thermal comfort and are the primary way to reduce energy bills and the need to heat homes. Where possible these grants will be aligned with other external funding streams to enable the installation of a package of energy efficiency measures to a property to significantly reduce energy bills and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. And this external funding will reduce the call on our fund.

### **6.34 Funding - Breakdown of the spend for Public Housing**

Homes for Haringey (HfH) has a Housing Revenue Account budget of £101m to spend on energy efficiency measures. With £1m for 2020/21. A retrofit plan is currently in development which will prioritise the least energy efficiency stock. In parallel to this a mapping exercise is planned to attempt to identify fuel poor tenants to ensure that these households are also prioritised.

- 6.35 In the event that HfH households come forward in a home that need a whole house response of measures (Glazing, boilers, wall insulation etc) which dramatically reduce carbon and reduce fuel poverty. These could be delivered

by this funding stream. And like the s106 can be match funded against government and energy company funding streams (as below).

- 6.36 Alongside this HfH has funding for routine maintenance which can be used to deliver emergency measures in homes in the HfH stock.

### **6.37 Funding - External Opportunities**

In addition to Carbon Offsetting, we will target the following external funding streams:-

#### *Warmer Homes*

Whilst the GLA Warmer Homes scheme is open, funds would be supplied as a top-up to enable whole-house retrofits. The Warmer Homes scheme provides free heating, insulation and ventilation improvements for low-income Londoners who own their own homes or rent privately. The maximum amount of funding available per household is £4,000. Measures could include renewable technologies. This round of the Warmer Homes scheme is open until March 2021. The GLA are currently reviewing their fuel poverty initiatives in response to covid-19.

### **6.39 Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding will be added to the funding packages where appropriate. ECO places an obligation on large energy suppliers to provide funds to reduce the cost of certain carbon saving measures. There are criteria about the eligibility of measures and under what circumstances they are eligible that is fairly detailed, but a broad range of measures are eligible including wall insulation, window glazing and heating controls.

Accredited installers enter into agreements with the obligated suppliers to deliver the energy efficiency measures and access the funding to reduce the cost to the customer. The amount of funding available depends on the amount of carbon which the measure will save. All contractors employed by the Council to install energy efficiency measures will be required to have access to ECO funding. The current phase ECO3 runs until March 2022.

### **6.40 Home Upgrade Grant (HUG)**

Information is awaited on the launch of the governments Home Upgrade Grant scheme (HUG). It is expected that this programme will replace boilers, provide insulation and will cover costs up to £12,000. It will apply to fuel poor households, both private and social, with poor energy efficiency. This launch and scheme detail has been delayed due to Covid-19.

### **6.41 Social Decarbonisation Scheme**

It is expected that the government will introduce a new Social Housing Decarbonisation scheme in 2021. The scheme will target and fund insulation improvements.

### **6.42 Funding - Demand for Measures**

At this time, we do not know the level of increase in the number of households that will move into fuel poverty over the next few years. But there is an

expectation that this number could be high as the recession and economic downturn takes hold.

What we are proposing is a dramatic increase in funding available to the community to support them. With match funding in place this is over a £1m for private homeowners, and the HRA can deliver a similar funding level.

In line with the Affordable Energy Strategy we will review the level of demand and review the approaches to deliver measures. Ensuring that we are flexible in our approach to maximise impact.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1. This strategy supports the Borough Plan by driving up the quality of housing for everyone (Housing), promoting health and wellbeing (People) and delivering a reduction in carbon emissions (Place). This strategy will also assist the delivery of other Council priorities including the Fairness Commission, Housing, Air Quality and Carbon Reduction.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **8.1 Strategic Procurement Comments**

Strategic Procurement has read the report and the accompanying affordable energy strategic report and concurs with the policy of trying to secure free funding from wherever possible. Clearly, free funding is a very desirable outcome for the Borough of Haringey. Strategic Procurement, of course, also strongly supports the attempts to alleviate fuel poverty from the Borough of Haringey. The situation appears to be worsening and it is desirable and humanitarian to correct this situation as expediently as possible. Strategic Procurement is also in agreement with the reports comments of accessing funding to facilitate a reduction in fuel poverty across the Borough. Strategic Procurement confirms that any procurement activities related to this report will be managed via the correct, compliant route to market. Strategic Procurement is ready to support any further developments / initiatives apropos fuel poverty as and when they arise.

### **8.2 Financial Comments**

The report requests Cabinet to approve the revised Affordable Energy Strategy. The Strategy proposes a number of actions to achieve the 3 objectives as set out above.

There are financial implications for the council in relation to the adaptation of the Council's housing stock (existing and new).

These potential implications will be thoroughly assessed as part of the current review of the 2020/21 HRA Budget & 2020/21-25 MTFS.

This proposal/initiative is be subject to individual financial appraisals and very much dependent on the availability of external funding.

The availability or extent of external funding will play a major part in determining whether or the extent to which the Council can deliver its affordable energy strategic objectives.

The Council intends to bid for funding streams as they become available to assist owner occupiers and private-rented tenants, whilst utilising the Minimum Energy performance regulations to encourage landlords to upgrade their properties.

The Council will also take advantage of Mayor of London funding for provision of the Energy Advice service and free training opportunities provided by the NEA.

The strategy sets out (in objective 3) how the Council will prepare to ensure that funding is secured successfully.

### **8.3 Legal Comments**

8.3.1 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and comments as follows:

8.3.2 The Affordable Energy Strategy 2020 – 2025 will assist in compliance with the objectives in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000, National targets in the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014 and the Government's updated Fuel Poverty Strategy (originally adopted in 2015) which is currently the subject of consultation.

8.3.3 In the case of R (Moseley) v Haringey the Supreme Court endorsed the following general principles of consultation:

- That consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
- That the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration and response;
- That adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and
- That the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals.

Cabinet can be satisfied that the first three principles are met; they must conscientiously take account of the product of the consultation in their deliberations

### **8.4 Equality**

The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

The proposed decision is to adopt the revised Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 and to agree to the prioritised actions, that enable the Council to respond to the potential increase in fuel poverty this winter. The decision will affect all Haringey residents who have been identified as living in fuel poverty through Council held datasets and/or BEIS Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics 2017. We know that older people, families with young children, people with disabilities, and those on low incomes are overrepresented among those living in fuel poverty. Fuel poverty can exacerbate existing health conditions such as circulatory or respiratory problems thus particularly puts individuals with certain disabilities and/or pre-existing long-term health conditions, children, and the elderly at higher risk.

The objective of the proposed decision is to improve energy efficiency and reduce the number of households in Haringey who struggle to adequately power their homes. The proposed decision also aims to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on residents in Haringey experiencing fuel poverty, who have suffered a reduction in household income and increased domestic energy use due to the lockdown measures. It is expected that this decision will lead to improved health and wellbeing for residents, by enhancing their comfort levels at home, improving housing energy performance to reduce fuel poverty, cold homes and overheating, for those who share protected characteristics of age and disability, alongside, those on low incomes. The decision will address the disproportionate income, health, and wellbeing impacts of fuel poverty on groups including those on low incomes. Therefore, the proposed decision represents a measure to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics, including those on low incomes and therefore mitigate any new inequalities arising because of fuel poverty.

As an organisation carrying out a public function on behalf of a public body, energy advice service, SHINE London will be obliged to have due regard for the need to achieve the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as stated above. Appropriate contract management arrangements will be established to ensure that the delivery of the Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 does not result in any preventable or disproportionate inequality. Service users will be engaged in the design of the new service

The Council will take steps to collect demographic data on service users to identify any inequalities in service provision that may arise and to inform future equalities analysis. *\*Should uptake data from the SHINE and Leap referral services indicates unfair representation our targeting and communication methods will be modified.\**

A full Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out and is attached.

The EqIA process did not identify any issues which would have an adverse or differential impact on protected groups. Officers will continue to monitor for any equalities implications and modify the proposed initiatives to mitigate any issues which arise.

**9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 - main consultation responses

Appendix B: Amended Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025

Appendix C: Affordable Energy Eqia

**10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

None

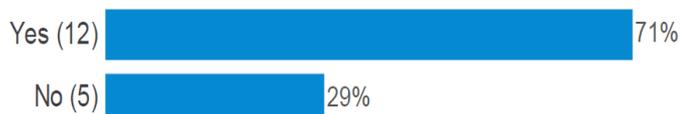
## Appendix A: Draft Affordable Energy Strategy 2020-2025 - main consultation responses

9.1. The draft Affordable Energy Strategy went out for public consultation between 13 January 2020 and 30 March 2020.

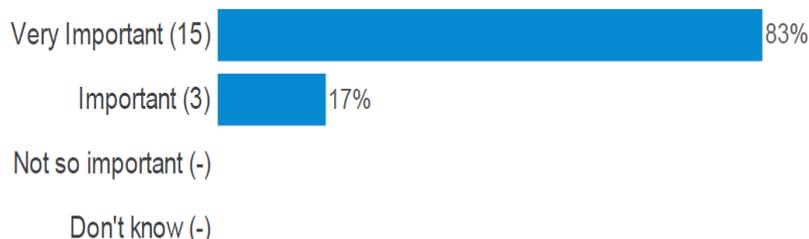
9.2. We received 18 responses.

9.3 Responses are summarised as follows:-

**Do you worry about the cost of powering your home?**



**Do you think the issue of energy poverty is important in Haringey? (Please tick only one response )**



**Do you agree or disagree with the vision set out in the strategy?**



**Objective 1 looks at how the Council can create and maintain an effective referral network. In addition to our proposed actions, how can the Council reach struggling households in the borough?**

Response number	Summary of response	Council's response
1	Employ professional communicators to use latest marketing techniques to target messages to resident groups according to their needs.	This could be considered where adequate funding is available. However the councils priority will be to allocate funding to physical measures and support services to reduce household energy bills and increase comfort levels.
2	I think you should also look at neighbours keeping an eye on neighbours.	Agreed - a community approach would be a very powerful means of addressing fuel poverty

		and reaching the most vulnerable. The Council seek to foster this by the creation of the recognised referral network.
3	Direct mail to give information and support.	Direct mail is indeed a very successful means of reaching residents. The use of direct mail will be considered where funding is sufficient to meet the communication costs. The priority actions identified in response to COVID-19 include investigating opportunities to promote the GLA Warmer Homes scheme through direct mail.
4	Provide access for more people to obtain a reduction on winter fuel charges.	It is evident that many residents are unaware that they can apply for a £140 warm homes discount. We will endeavour to include this in communications. Residents can be supported by Shine to apply for this discount.
5	On line through local services.	These suggestions will be considered when planning communication campaigns which are suggested within the Strategy eg Public health and Education campaigns.
6	By providing leaflets and ask the tenants to provide the information they need.	
7	Through outreach. Information sessions	
8	Have information made more readily available and not just rely on the internet.	
9	Through GPs	Agreed. The strategy suggests working more closely with local health services and the development of a communications campaign.
10	Carers/coffee mornings eg Abide Church in Crouch End. Shine café in Turnpike Lane.	These are all very good ideas for increasing our referral network and will be included in communications regarding energy advice services and funding schemes.
11	flyers, email, information on council letters - or when accessing council lead services this initiative should be promoted by workers	The strategy suggests training Front-line staff and increasing awareness of the Energy Advice Service both within the council and externally. It will definitely be a focus of the strategy to increase the visibility of fuel poverty services when residents access council lead services.
12	A people-centred approach by associating fuel poverty with health and well being is certainly one of the essential criteria. Particularly, when a community-led new development project such as Selby Urban Village is considering adopting the 'Well Building Standard' certification as part of the design process. Adopting such interventions that marry best practices in design and construction with evidence-based health and wellness seems to be an essential part of a holistic approach in current climatic conditions, where it is estimated that by the 2040s a summer as hot as 2003, when over 2,000 excess heat-related deaths occurred, is expected to be very common in the UK potentially every other year. Council can start by reaching community	Noted. We are supportive of this approach and will work with community partners.

	<p>centres/groups such as the Selby Centre, who are at the planning stage of new development, and collaborating at this early stage can enable creating a sustainable solution to fuel poverty and health &amp; well-being issues. One of the key reasons of such approach is the fact that the Selby Trust, who manages the Selby Centre are deep-rooted within the community for more than 25 years and with a motto of 'Many Cultures, One Community' is guided by five key community-focused objectives of which health and wellbeing form a major part towards improving social justice and social values. The Selby Trust is collaborating with various health care experts such as Cruse Bereavement Care, Embrace UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, North London Partners in Health Care, One Public Estate and some sports advisory experts to meet the needs of local people who may not access mainstream healthcare and would be at risk of developing multiple long-term conditions. For example, if they don't or can't access treatment, or are isolated from their community.</p>	
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**Objective 2 (Sets out to increase the energy efficiency and reduce overheating risks in all tenures. Do you agree with the proposed actions to achieve this?.)**

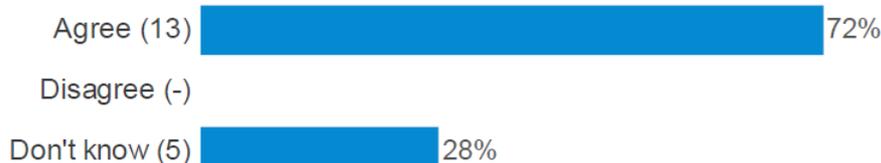


Does the strategy adequately cover overheating risks and how could communities and individuals tackle this issue?		
Response number	Summary of response	Council's response
13	We need good advice on how to reduce overheating in a range of buildings, and reliable and economic suppliers of eg solar blinds and sunshades, reflective paint.	The Strategy has been amended to include "Provide residents with information and advice on cooling rooms in the summer months."

14	Consider the role of air source heat pumps, powered by renewable electricity that could be used as air conditioning during hot spells (when solar electricity is abundant). Ensure that there are sufficient quality heat pump engineers in Haringey, providing training and jobs.	The strategy has been revised to incorporate an action to “Consider the pros and cons retrofitting properties with Air Source Heat pumps to provide both heating and cooling.”
15	It does. I think it's pretty ambitious. I think its going to take a lot of time and people to implement.	This is an ambitious strategy however it builds on activities which are already being undertaken.
16	Yes, people live in older properties which can be inadequately built, where heating is lost, refurbishing properties from council, housing associations, providing grants for private homes, landlords should be further regulated to maintain properties.	The strategy includes a commitment to retrofit properties and to engage landlords through a carrot and stick approach.
17	Yes. Overhead fans. Make it a norm - advertise for example - to watch out for vulnerable people.	Noted
18	Not really but will be useful to inform	It is noted that respondents are unclear if overheating is adequately covered in the strategy. Overheating has not previously been considered in fuel poverty strategies. This the first step in addressing this issue. The effectiveness of the strategy is to be reviewed bi-annually and any risks/mitigation measures implemented will be reported in the Annual Carbon report.
19	No	
20	Unsure	
21	Tackle overheating in winter too ! Older people may not be able to change their thermostat. Education, train carers and home visitors on what to look for. Neighbourhood Watch maybe able to increase by signposting.	
22	make homes energy efficiencies	Agreed. This is a key objective of the strategy.
23	Alongside providing advice to residents with regards to risks of overheating and considering measures such as thermal modelling for all new major building schemes and energy efficiency retrofit programmes, it is time to think about long-term solutions. For instance, adopting stringent measuring and monitoring assessments for all types of buildings, which are not just limited to the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), but also measures complex issues of human health and well-being in the built environment. One such comprehensive and interdisciplinary tool, which is compatible with existing building rating systems (such as LEEDS) is The WELL Building Standard. It draws from multiple disciplines of scientific study, and presents an integrated approach that reinvents	Wider sustainability and the wellbeing of occupant in the built environment will be picked up by the Local Plan review. The Local Plan currently requires Bream and Wellbeing standards.

	the built environment around its occupants, transforming the places we live, work and learn into systems intended to promote and improve human health and well-being.	
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**Objective 3 (Explains how the council will maximise the funding and resources available to tackle fuel poverty in the borough. Do you agree that Carbon Offsetting funds and profits from Decentralised Energy Networks should be used to carry out works to reduce fuel poverty?)**



**How might we improve the draft Affordable Energy Strategy overall? Do you have any general comments about the overall consultation proposals?**

Response number	Summary of response	Council's response
24	I don't believe that there will be profits from Decentralised Energy Networks. Fuel poverty has been caused by energy networks in some cases, where residents have no choice but to pay a high price for these. Fine to use Carbon Offsetting funds, but ideally developers should not be building carbon emissions into new builds, which will hopefully reduce this income. Green loans are probably the best mechanism to funnel capital into energy reduction schemes - with those unable to pay being part of schemes, but the interest being resources via bill savings.	The strategy has been amended to reflect that The first priority of the council will be to ensure homes are built to a zero carbon standard.  Green loans paid back by energy savings will also be considered alongside equity release and revolving funds.
25	It does seem all encompassing. However, there is a lot to get done. I'm not sure it is all achievable.	This is an ambitious strategy however it builds on activities which are already being undertaken.
26	Stop compulsory pay as you go energy keys. Help people to set up direct debits for energy.	The strategy aims to help residents switch to either smart prepayment meters or smart meters and set up a direct debit.
27	How do you prioritise the strategy/vision? Online training/reference for what to look for to be used by Neighbourhood Watch and Bridge renewal trust etc. GP practices might benefit from that online resource as well. make guides easy to read - use basic English but check cultural sensitivities. Use Haringey people to put a guide on what to look for ie how to identify people in need. Look at religious groups, Council of churches, Muswell Hill, group of mosques.	We have included investigating setting up an emergency fund as part of our COVID-19 statement.  Online resource could form part of our communications campaign.

	Look at funds to help people in an emergency with an emergency number if heating fails - ie where to go for help.	
<b>28</b>	Residents need to know about the schemes and plans set by the government for tackling fuel poverty, which the strategy talks about. In particular, I like the idea of council exploring setting up neighbourhood decentralised energy networks (DENS) focussed around the new developments. Nonetheless, with new development projects, such as the Selby Urban Village around the corner, this is an opportunity for the draft to present such upcoming projects as case studies. For instance, by collaborating with the partners involved in the Selby Urban Village to give residents a notion of schemes such as The WELL Building Standard, which is planned to be used as part of the design process. A partnership already in place which is already considering these issues and working this way as the response suggests that this is a new way of working for the London Borough of Haringey and the Selby Trust, however, that is not the case is in place and those issues have already been discussed and are in place. This will not just allow residents to approach the advisory groups to gather more information about such schemes, but can also make places such as the Selby Centre a 'one-shop-stop' for energy advise while keeping the health & wellbeing in mind. Furthermore, the importance of working through and with community centres is extremely important, policy documents and strategies that are borough-wide are important but the community engagement and developing knowledge on these issues needs to be systematic and through community organisations and field/community workers already on the ground.	The strategy sets out to develop a community network which includes training of frontline staff. The Selby Centre will be exactly the type of organisation that will be invited to take part in reaching out to the fuel poor to offer access to support.
<b>29</b>	Could the council not consider a service where private residents can check their own standards? You could advertise what should be happening and then residents can pass this on to their landlords or the council. I think the current situation focuses too much on reaching out to landlords who are less concerned than residents.	Agreed. The Strategy has been revised to include an action to Providing tenants with clear guidance on how to check their rented property meets energy efficiency standards and how to raise non compliance with their landlord or enforcement teams.

<b>30</b>	: A lot of this relies on Shine being able to handle the extra influx of people using their service. Will they not need extra funding to cope with this?	SHINE are currently able to cope with the expected demand. However there may be a need to engage energy suppliers and the GLA in the event that there is extra demand as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>31</b>	I feel the "Encourage developers to build all new homes to zero carbon standards onsite" does not go far enough. Will developers be denied planning permission if the energy design standard is not met?	This has been altered to "Enforcement of London and National planning regulations to ensure developers build zero carbon standards onsite"







