

Meeting: Integrated Housing Board

Date: 11 May 2009

Report Title: Affordable Warmth Strategy – Update Report

Report of: Rosie Green – Housing Strategy and Partnerships Manager

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform the Integrated Housing Board of the development of the Affordable Warmth Strategy
- To outline the Project timetable
- To state when the consultation period will commence

Summary

At the last IHB meeting of 23rd March 2009 a presentation was given on fuel poverty within the Borough. This gave the background information as to why there is a need to develop an Affordable Warmth Strategy that will deliver a partnership approach to tackling fuel poverty.

Legal Implications

There has been increasing legislation to try to eliminate fuel poverty. The government was given a legal duty under the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 to ensure that as far as possible, people in England do not live in fuel poverty after November 2016. Following the 2000 Act the government published the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy in 2001 which has a primary aim of ensuring that by 2010 no older householder, no family with children and no householder who is disabled or has a long-term illness need risk ill health due to a cold home.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications immediately arising from the development of an Affordable Warmth Strategy in Haringey. The action plan arising from the strategy, when developed, may have resource implications requiring consideration at that stage.

Recommendations

That the IHB considers this update report .

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Background

There is an expectation on each Local Authority to develop an Affordable Warmth Strategy to tackle the problems associated with fuel poverty. Although LBOH has undertaken considerable work in this area there is yet to be a strategic framework which involves a coordinated approach across the Borough.

Many of our partners, such as Age Concern, are keen to engage to ensure that this happens and that they contribute to this. It is also essential that the strategy enables the Council to deliver National Indicator 187 to reduce fuel poverty and meets other Council strategies such as the Greenest Borough.

At the last meeting of the IHB a presentation was given about fuel poverty; what is it, what are the causes and how it impacts on people's health and well-being.

The Board requested an update report on the development of this strategy at their meeting on May 11th.

Strategy Development

A draft project plan is attached which shows the timescale for the development and agreement of the strategy. The timescale is short given that we need to consult for 12 weeks and that it is intended to present the strategy to the IHB in September for agreement. This ties in well with the proposed launch in the autumn before the onset of winter.

A project board, made up from member partners, has been established to take forward the development of the strategy and there is an initial meeting on the 15th May where there will be an opportunity to discuss the outline framework and decide who will be responsible for each section.

From this it is intended that a small working group will meet at least twice to complete the document.

A consultation plan is currently being developed and it is intended that there will be wide consultation via Haringey's website, attendance at the 'Green Fair', meeting groups likely to be affected such as the Older People's Partnership Board as well as a workshop event.

An Impact Equalities Assessment will also be undertaken.

Appendices

A draft project plan is attached