

Report to	Sustainable development panel	Item
	28 September 2016	
Report of	Director of regeneration and development	7
Subject	Updated Affordable Warmth Strategy	

Purpose

This report informs members of the outcomes of the council's new Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Recommendation

To note the report.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priorities of as safe, clean and low carbon city and prosperous city.

Financial implications

Within existing budgets.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Bremner – Environment and sustainable development
Councillor Thomas – Fairness and Equality

Contact officers

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Background documents

None.

Report

1. This is an update of the council's existing affordable warmth strategy. One of the council's key corporate priorities within our corporate plan is to 'make Norwich a fair city' and within that we have said we will 'reduce financial and social inequalities' and 'reduce fuel poverty in the city' through a programme of affordable warmth activities. This new affordable warmth strategy provides a framework for our ongoing activities.
2. A fuel poor household is one that cannot afford to keep adequately warm at a reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of a fuel poor household is the low income high cost indicator. This means that a household is fuel poor if their fuel costs are above average and if they were to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the poverty line.
3. In Norwich we believe that 10.5 per cent of households, or more than one in every 10 are experiencing fuel poverty. That equates to a staggering 6,523 households. In addition, the new welfare reforms such as universal credit and the benefit cap, will impact some of the most vulnerable residents in the city. During times of financial hardship it is even more important that residents are able to maximise their finances to best effect.
4. This updated strategy takes into account the shift in central government policy in regards to the Green Deal, Green Deal HIF (Home Improvement Fund) ECO (Energy Companies Obligation) and HHCRO (Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation) as reported to the sustainable development panel on 13 January 2016.