

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY
10 NOVEMBER 2009**

**EXECUTIVE
24 NOVEMBER 2009**

COUNCIL HOUSING ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the new Housing (Landlord Services) Energy and Sustainability Policy that sets out how we will seek to improve the energy efficiency of our homes and help reduce incidences of fuel poverty for tenants.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The requirement to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes in order to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty is a priority across national and local government.
- 2.2 The Council has a range of policies and strategies that demonstrate its commitment to these aims, together with a number of challenging targets to measure the level of our success.
- 2.3 A major part of any strategy for reducing carbon emissions will be to improve the energy efficiency of the existing housing stock, both in the private and public sectors
- 2.4 This policy, attached as Appendix I, builds on the commitments outlined in the Housing Asset Management Strategy (2009 -15) to ensure that across the Council's own housing stock we take whatever measures we can to improve the energy efficiency of our homes. Such measures will also help to reduce fuel bills for tenants and thereby make a contribution to helping to tackle the problem of fuel poverty among low income households.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The policy identifies the measures the Council currently undertakes to meet these commitments and outlines the need to invest further in new technologies and building products in order to improve energy efficiency within the stock in the future. It commits the Housing Energy and Sustainability Group to develop new priorities and specific targets across a wide range of issues together with identifying best practice and new products that will help to meet the objectives in the policy.
- 3.2 Examples of the use of such new technologies include the installation of solar panels on a recent major renovation scheme and the high energy efficiency levels of the proposed new build properties on the Council's in-fill sites.
- 3.3 The policy is intended as a baseline statement of our commitment and will be developed further as the group explores what other measures we can put in place. Therefore, further updates will be presented to Members as the policy develops in the future.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Housing Capital Programme identifies a number of modernisation and improvement schemes that will be undertaken over the coming years. This programme is reviewed each year and as funding becomes available new schemes will be added that meet the objectives of this policy.

5. RECOMMENDED

- 1) that Scrutiny Committee – Community supports and Executive agrees to adopt the Housing (Landlord Services) Energy and Sustainability Policy.

HEAD OF HOUSING SERVICES

S:PA/LP/Committee/1109SCC3
2.10.09

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling the report:

None