

# Scrutiny Review

## Fuel Poverty

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RYEDALE  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



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Scrutiny Committee  
1 October 2015

## Executive Summary

This Report sets out the results of a review of fuel poverty in the Ryedale area. This review has been carried out by Ryedale District Council's Scrutiny Committee.

The aim of the review was to try to answer the following questions:

1. Define the scale of the problem in Ryedale – extent and depth of fuel poverty
2. Review the effectiveness of government initiatives in Ryedale
3. Determine the potential for community led fuel generation schemes to improve energy costs – what role do the community rights play in these?
4. Assess the potential to influence the policy environment and prepare draft responses

The review involved

- Analysis of all available data with a view to
  - Finding the fuel poor in Ryedale
  - With a view towards targeting any efforts or investment to reduce fuel poverty
- Developing a clearer understanding of the two fuel poverty indicators:
  - The 10% indicator and
  - The high cost low income indicator
- Meeting with officers who are working in Ryedale to identify and alleviate fuel poverty including:
  - Serena Williams, Environmental Health Officer, Ryedale District Council
  - Helen James, Oil Buying Co-ordinator, Yorkshire Energy Partnership
  - Kathryn Chapman, North Yorkshire Development Officer, Rural Action Yorkshire
  - Maggie Farey, North Yorkshire Development Officer, Rural Action Yorkshire
- Attending regional events including:
  - Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a consultation to prepare for a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 20.9.14
  - NEA Yorkshire and Humber Fuel Poverty Forum, 20.6.14
  - NEA training event, Improving Energy Efficiency in Communities 14.10.14
  - Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder workshops, 20.1.14
- Responded to consultations relating to the development of nation fuel poverty strategy
- Review of the government programmes and access to these for rural and off gas households

Key findings included:

- Fuel poverty is caused by a combination of the following factors:
  - Energy inefficient housing
  - Fuel costs
  - Household incomes

The severity of the fuel poverty experienced will be influenced by the interplay between these factors as well as household composition and the age and health of members of the household

- It is not possible to find the fuel poor in Ryedale through the analysis of data currently available, it may however be possible to identify the fuel poor if the following data was available:
  - A detailed stock condition survey
  - Energy Performance Certificate data
  - Self reported data collected by front line services
- By mapping the two fuel poverty indicators it is clear that households in the same locations are identified by each indicator. See chart at fig 1.
- Fuel poverty affects the life chances of affected households, damages the health of those living on cold homes and affects their quality of life
- Fuel poor households will struggle to keep warm in cold weather with budgets stretched and difficult choices to be made to heat or eat
- Those who are particularly vulnerable to cold related ill health include older people, families with young children and those who are disabled or have a long term illness
- Those who are particularly vulnerable to cold related ill health include older people, families with young children and those who are disabled or have a long term illness and those who may be socially isolated.
- The Ryedale Plan supports the contribution of community-led and farm scale renewable and low carbon solutions, the experience of partner organisations is that the community rights within the Localism Act do not advance the potential for such schemes.
- The Ryedale Plan requires the application of the Energy Hierarchy to all new development to support carbon reduction, long term energy security and reducing fuel poverty (achieving affordable warmth) and will be implemented in accordance with national building standards – The Code for Sustainable Homes and The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM)

The Committee made the following recommendations:

To Council:

1. That the Council should in future refer to fuel poverty as affordable warmth. Fuel poverty is the problem to be addressed and affordable warmth is the outcome to be achieved.
2. That the Council should continue to report on both of the fuel poverty indicators for Ryedale when reporting on the delivery of the Councils Business Plan
3. That the Council should continue to prioritise increasing wage levels in Ryedale by creating the conditions for economic success
4. To continue to challenge the assumptions made about those most likely to be affected by fuel poverty and continue to lobby for support for solutions which work in rural communities, and for all vulnerable households including young families, and anyone who is socially isolated.
5. To agree the funding for a stock condition survey for all property in Ryedale to provide the data to support the development and targeting of future initiatives to improve affordable warmth throughout the district.

To Planning Committee:

6. That the Council should be seeking new development to be built to the highest current codes for design and construction, lowering energy demand, encouraging

occupants to reduce their energy use and supporting the use of renewable and/or low carbon sources.

7. To train members of the planning committee in the application of the energy hierarchy to new development and existing buildings.

To Management Team:

8. That officers should pursue the routes for accessing the Energy Performance Certificate data, and analysis of the policy implications of the insight provided.
9. To develop a concise set of questions, along the line of 'every contact counts', to help front line staff to identify those who are living in a cold home. Identify key staff and timing for a pilot and link to North Yorkshire Winter Health Strategy and ensure action is taken to help any household to achieve affordable warmth.
10. To gather any self-reported data on the location and incidence of fuel poverty through contact made with front line staff.
11. That officers should explore the feasibility of warm healthy homes type project in partnership with public health and stronger communities, to reduce social isolation and help to connect people - 'Warm communities' and 'winter champions'.
12. Make sure we communicate the key facts about keeping warm affordably at the right time of year to our residents, annually.

The Task Group wishes to thank all those who gave their time in contributing to this review.

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## **2. Scope of the review**

The terms of reference for the Review were agreed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014. (See Appendix A) in summary:

The review will make recommendations to Council, the policy committees of the Council and the Management Team of the Council on the options available for trying to ensure the people in Ryedale can live in warm homes in warm communities.

The review will try to answer the following questions:

- What is the scale of the problem in Ryedale – extent and depth
- Review the effectiveness of government initiatives in Ryedale
- Determine the potential for community led fuel generation schemes to improve energy costs – what role do the community rights play in these?
- Assess the potential to influence the policy environment and prepare draft responses for submission as opportunities arise

### 3. Membership of the Committee

G Acomb, P J Andrews, S L Collinson, D Cussons, G Hawkins, Mrs A D Hopkinson, J R Raper, Mrs E L Shields (Vice Chairman), C R Wainwright (Chairman), S Ward

Meeting dates of the Scrutiny Review Task Group:

07/11/13 Initial meeting of Task Group to draft terms of reference.  
20/01/14 Members attended the Northern Gas Networks Stakeholder workshops  
04/04/14 Terms of reference agreed by Scrutiny Committee  
20/06/14 Officers attended the NEA Yorkshire and Humber Fuel Poverty Forum,  
26/06/14 Task Group Meeting - Presentation by Serena Williams, Environmental Health Officer, Housing Services & Helen James, Fuel Co-operative Officer  
20/09/14 Members attended 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm' – a consultation to prepare for a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for England  
02/10/14 Task Group Meeting - New National Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation Response  
14/10/14 NEA training event, Improving Energy Efficiency in Communities  
25/06/15 Draft report and recommendations agreed by Task Group  
O and S Committee meeting consider draft report and recommendations.

Scrutiny Review Task Group supporting officers:

Clare Slater (Head of Corporate Services)  
Jane Robinson (Transformation Officer)  
William Baines (Transformation Officer)

### 4. Methodology

The Committee/Task Group approached the review through:

- Researching the changes to the calculation of the national Fuel Poverty Indicator
- Researching and understanding the contributing factors of Fuel Poverty including:
  - Household income
  - Proportion being spent on keeping warm
  - Access to fuel and the cost of this
  - Amount of fuel required to keep warm
  - Hard to treat homes – fuel efficiency
  - Overlap of facing unreasonable energy costs and having a low income
- Presentation from RDC officers involved in energy efficiency projects
- Attendance at seminars, training events and consultation events
- Inviting officers from partner organisations to the committee to discuss their work and experience to help alleviate and prevent fuel poverty in Ryedale

## 5 Findings

The research undertaken highlighted the following key findings:

### 5.1 What is Fuel Poverty?

The 2001 UK Fuel Poverty Strategy defined a household as fuel poor if it needed to spend more than 10% of its income to achieve adequate energy services in the home, including reaching temperature standards.

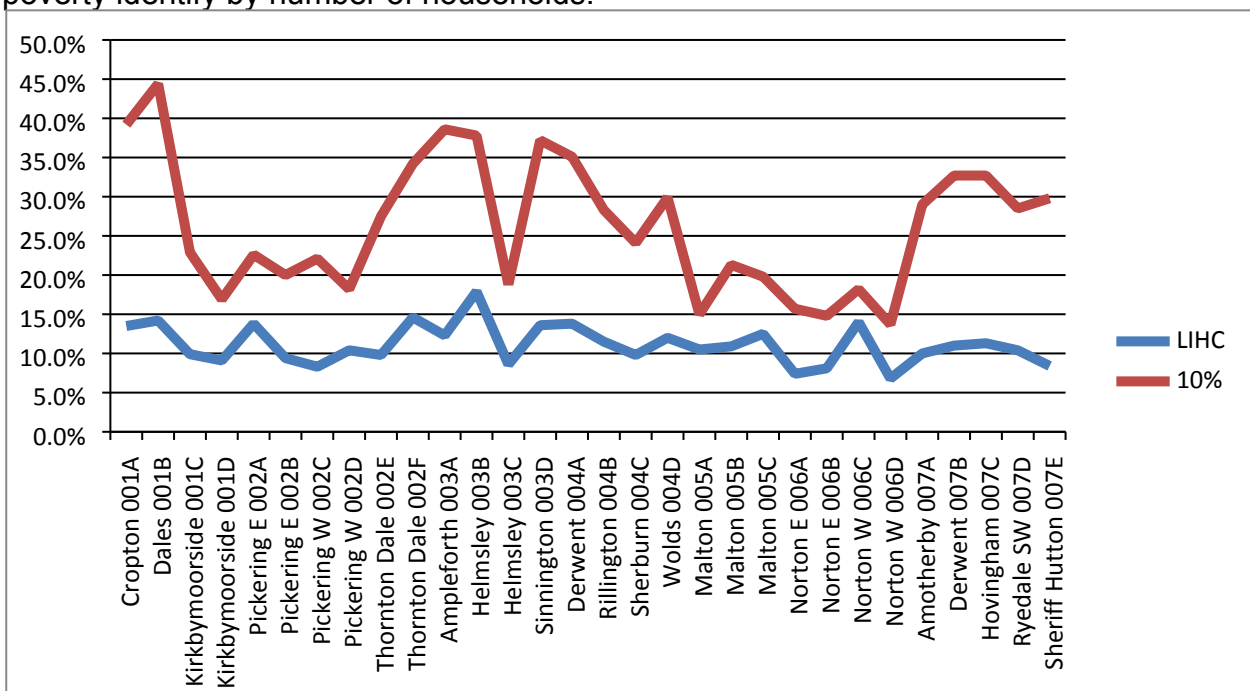
In Ryedale, this equated to 26% (6,049) of households which made Ryedale the third worst in the country for levels of fuel poverty (Ranked: 324 out of 326 authorities) (10% Measure Source: DECC 2011)

In March 2012, the Hills Fuel Poverty Review (an independent review into Fuel Poverty) was published and found that the 10% measure was flawed and that it gave a misleading impression of trends, it excluded some affected by the problem at some times and included people with high income at others. The review recommended that fuel poverty should be measured by a new method called the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) which measures the extent of the problem and the Fuel Poverty Gap which measures its depth.

Under the new LIHC measurement, the % of households in fuel poverty dropped to 11.1% (2,583 households) and Ryedale is now ranked 187 out of 326 authorities. (LIHC Measure Source: DECC 2011)

#### 2.1. Finding the Fuel Poverty In Ryedale:

The chart below shows the comparison of the low income, high cost indicator and the 10 % Fuel Poverty Indicator based on the Ryedale Lower Super Output Areas 2011. This illustrates that the communities experiencing fuel poverty as defined by each of the indicators are in similar locations. The difference in the indicators is the level of fuel poverty identify by number of households.





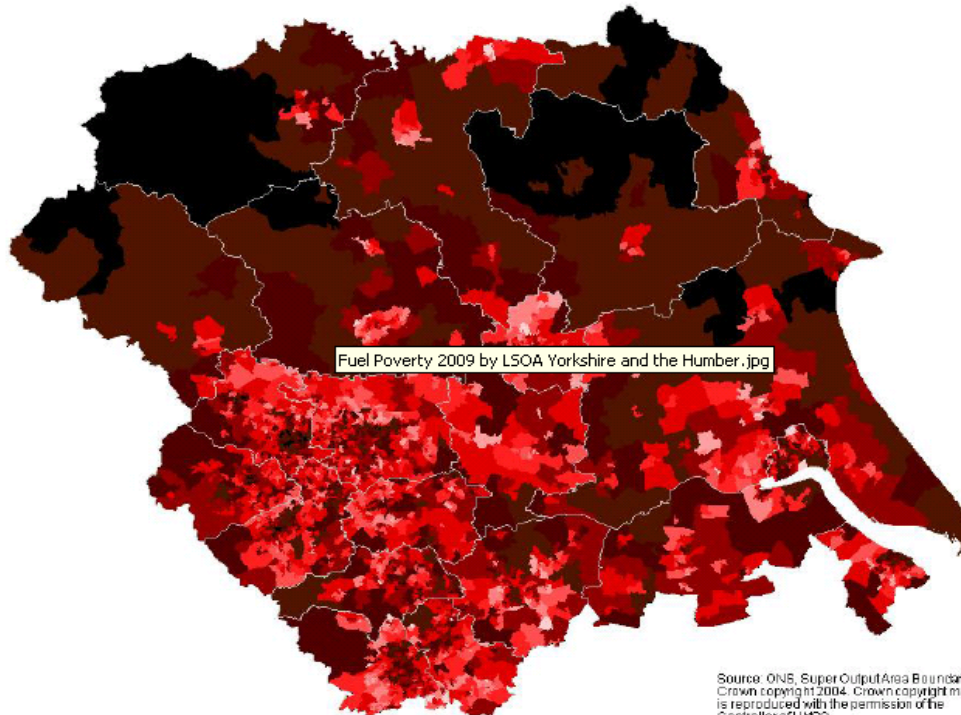
The map below shows the location of the areas most affected by fuel poverty as the darkest in colour.

**Fuel Poverty Ratios for Yorkshire and the Humber, 2009**  
Percentage of households in fuel poverty by LSOA



**Key:**

- Above 35.0% (64)
- 26.1 to 35.0% (412)
- 22.1 to 26.0% (494)
- 19.1 to 22.0% (628)
- 16.1 to 19.0% (680)
- 14.1 to 16.0% (411)
- 12.1 to 14.0% (318)
- 10.1 to 12.0% (189)
- 8.1 to 10.0% (66)
- 5.1 to 8.0% (31)
- Below 5.0% (2)



Source: ONS, Super Output Area Boundaries. Crown copyright 2004. Crown copyright material is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

In an attempt to find the fuel poor we compared the data for households in receipt of Council Tax single person discount (SPDC), by ward, with the census data for lone parent households and the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) fuel poverty indicator.

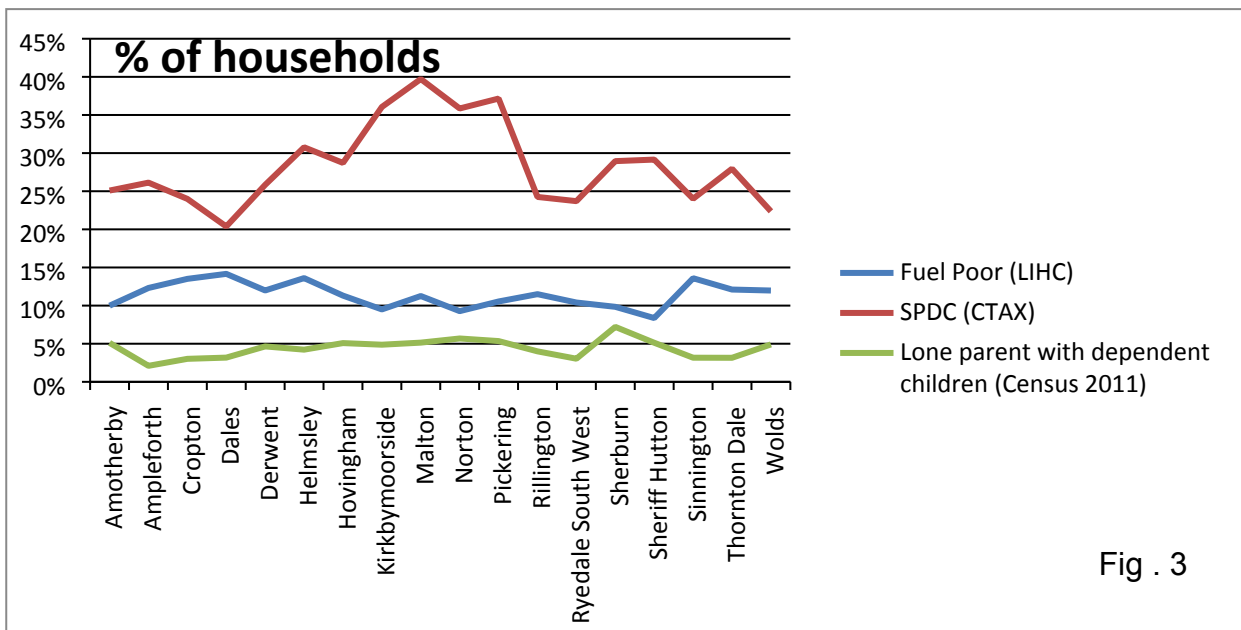


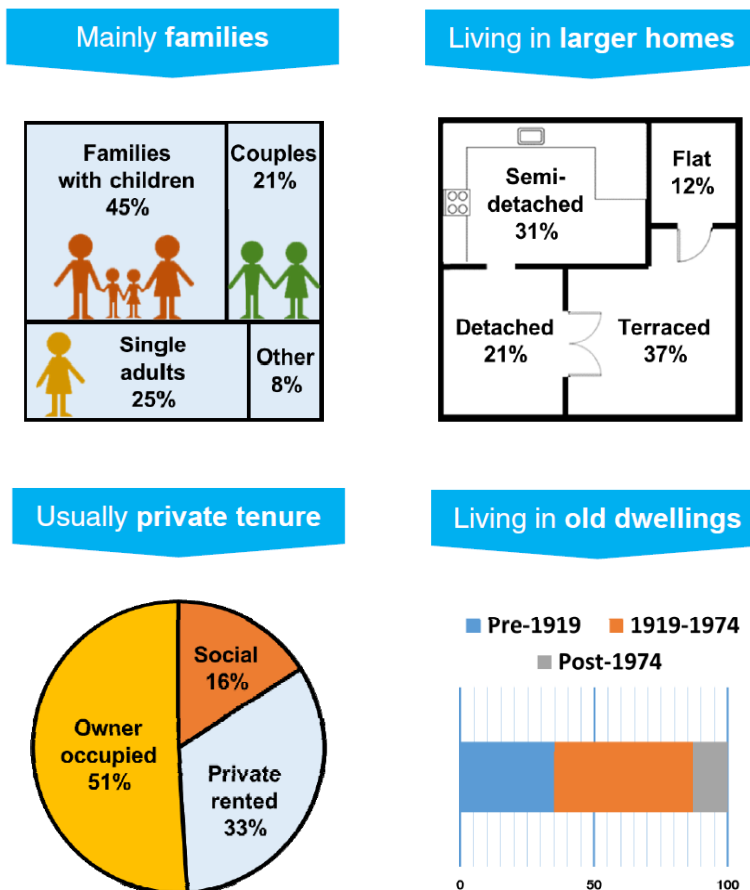
Fig . 3

This comparison failed show any correlation between single person households and fuel poverty in Ryedale. Contrary to a number of recent studies, single person households in Ryedale do not seem to be the most likely to experience fuel poverty.

It is clear from the analysis of the data currently available to officers of the Council that it is not possible to identify those households which are not achieving affordable warmth, through the use of data only.

### 5.3 Factors contributing to Fuel Poverty

The profile of fuel poor households described in the recent national fuel poverty consultation document was that they are mainly families, living in larger homes which are owner occupied and built pre 1974, illustrated as follows in the report:



The factors which contribute to fuel poverty in Ryedale are not the same as those identified nationally. In Ryedale the housing stock type is as follows compared to the national average and the national fuel poverty profile:

	GB	Ryedale	National Fuel Poverty Profile %
Flat	24.3	7.8	12%
Terraced	24.5	19.8	37%
Semi-detached	30.7	31.7	31%
Detached	20.5	40.7	21%

A national study of fuel poverty is therefore likely to identify a very different profile of household from that in Ryedale. However the finding is consistent in that those living in newer purpose built accommodation such as flats will be less likely to be living in a cold home as their home is newer and may be more thermally efficient. In Ryedale the mapping of the fuel poverty indicators supports the view that it is people living in the more

remote areas in older, larger detached homes that are more likely to be living in a cold home, with fewer choices for supply of energy.

### 5.31. Household Income

The committee found that Ryedale residents have the lowest median gross weekly pay in the Yorkshire & Humber region. As income levels are a key factor in having a warm home the committee have included a recommendation that the Council should become a Living Wage employer and lead the increase in wage levels in Ryedale by example.

Local Authority	Weekly Pay £
Ryedale	399.7
Kingston upon Hull	419.0
Wakefield	426.6
Bradford	426.7
Scarborough	443.7
Doncaster	449.1
Craven	451.0
North East Lincolnshire	458.7
Barnsley	464.8
Rotherham	465.7
Sheffield	471.4
Leeds	475.6
Kirklees	479.1
Harrogate	481.3
Hambleton	484.5
East Riding of Yorkshire	499.9
North Lincolnshire	502.0
Richmondshire	506.7
Calderdale	508.6
Selby	513.2
York	519.4

Source: ONS annual survey of hours and earnings - resident analysis [2012]

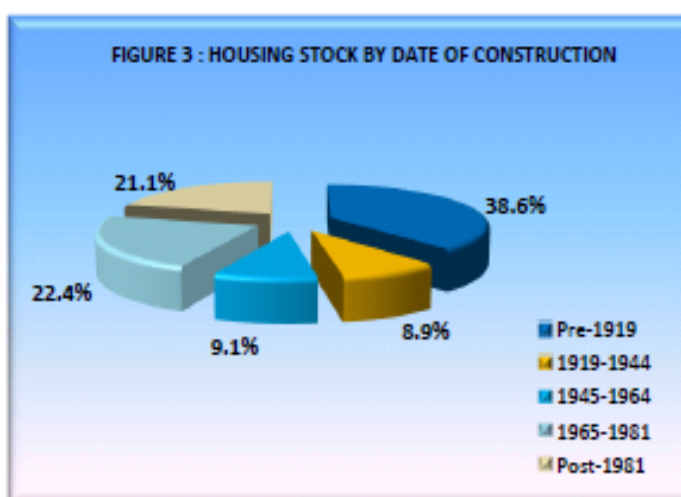
Note: Median earnings in pounds for employees living in the area

### 5.32. Energy Inefficient Housing

The age of the housing stock in an area is a key factor in the levels of fuel poverty experienced in that area. Research has shown that those living in housing stock built pre

1974 are most likely to be living in fuel poverty. In Ryedale 70% of the housing stock was built before 1974.

Additionally, housing stock is considered hard-to-treat where it has no mains gas heating system and/or is a solid wall property. In England 38% of properties are considered hard to treat. This is a significant factor in fuel poverty in rural areas such as Ryedale. 70% of properties in the most rural areas of England ('hamlets and isolated dwellings') are defined as hard-to-treat; double the proportion in urban areas. In rural areas a lack of a mains gas heating systems dominates the make-up of hard-to-treat properties (45% and 51% of properties are without mains gas heating in villages and isolated areas respectively). In the most isolated rural areas the majority (28%) of hard to treat houses are both without mains gas and have solid walls.



Housing age distributions vary across the District with rural housing exhibiting a significantly older profile. The most modern housing profile is associated with the Malton/Norton sub-area where 40% of private housing was constructed post-1975.

TABLE 4: HOUSING AGE DISTRIBUTION BY SURVEY AREA

SURVEY AREA	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION												Table Total	
	pre-1919		1919-1944		1945-1964		1965-1974		1975-1981		post-1981		dwgs	%
	dwgs	%	dwgs	%	dwgs	%	dwgs	%	dwgs	%	dwgs	%		
Group 1-Malton/Norton	1193	27.2	529	12.0	409	9.3	508	11.6	396	9.0	1357	30.9	4392	100.0
Group 2-Pickering/Kirkbymoorside/Hemsley	1375	28.2	351	7.2	522	10.7	910	18.7	498	10.2	1213	24.9	4869	100.0
Group 3-North	1623	62.4	118	4.6	205	7.9	141	5.4	141	5.4	371	14.3	2599	100.0
Group 4-SouthEast	1623	51.3	267	8.4	314	9.9	376	11.9	213	6.7	373	11.8	3166	100.0
Group 5-South West	1196	57.6	169	8.1	174	8.4	107	5.1	176	8.5	253	12.2	2074	100.0
Group 6-Service Villages	1091	28.0	435	11.2	283	7.3	680	17.5	542	13.9	861	22.1	3892	100.0
<b>TABLE TOTAL</b>	<b>8101</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>1870</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>1905</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>2722</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>4428</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>20992</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Ryedale Housing Conditions Survey - 2008

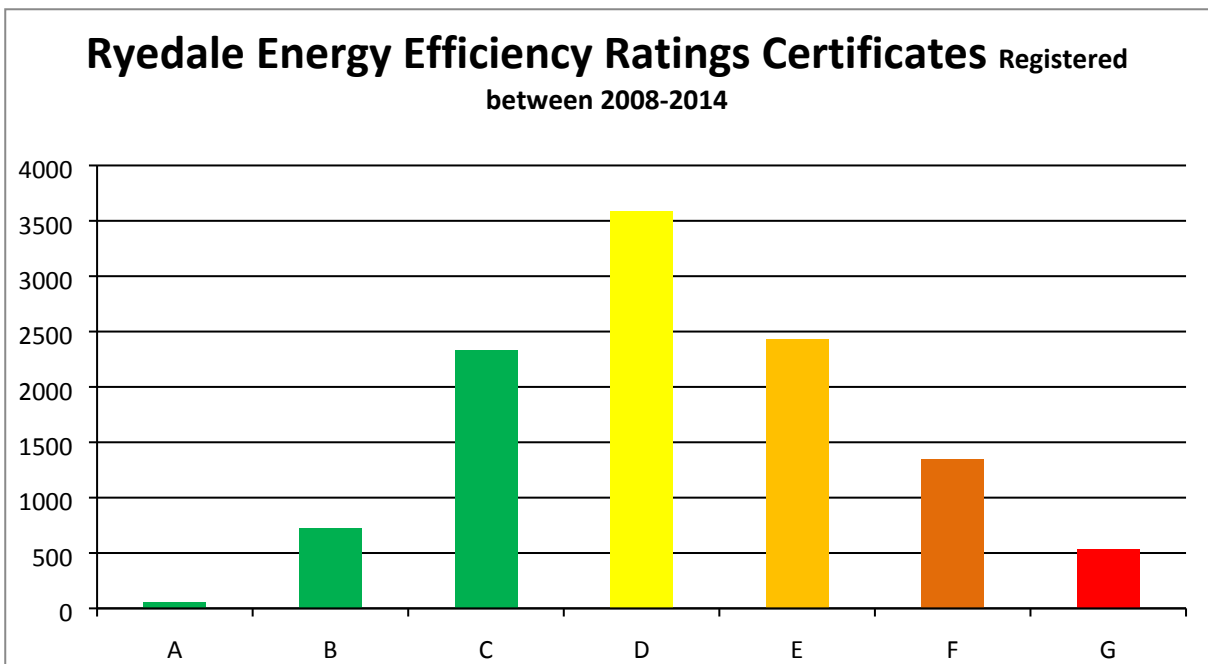
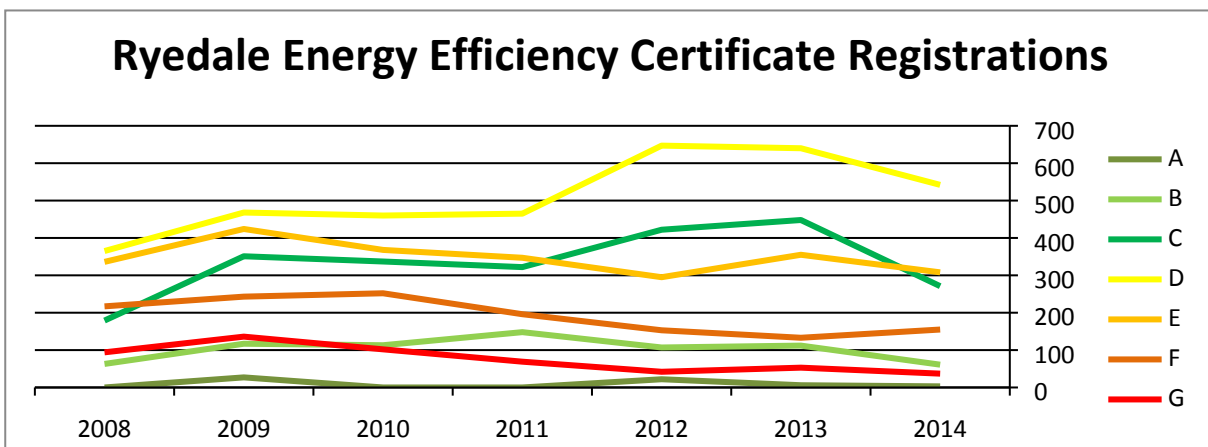
### Energy Efficiency

Officers were not able to access the detailed data relating to Energy Performance Certificate's (EPC). If this could be accessed then analysis of the band G properties could be undertaken looking for any common features of properties or locations. Possible solutions could then be explored to try to target these properties for energy efficiency and improvement measures.

The committee have therefore recommended that officers should explore the route to accessing the EPC data for Ryedale and also that members should allocate resources to commission a stock condition survey to enable the targeting of resources to households experiencing fuel poverty to enable them to achieve affordable warmth.

The target included in the consultation document 'Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm, A new fuel poverty strategy for England' (DECC July 2014) is 'to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of Band C, by 2030.'

The graphs below show that the majority of registrations for which data was available were in band D. These are the newer properties which should be the better performing properties if the target is to be achieved



Energy efficiency ratings are defined by SAP ratings as follows:

Band	Rating Points
A	92-100 SAP points (Most efficient)
B	81-91 SAP points
C	69-80 SAP points
D	55-68 SAP points
E	39-54 SAP points
F	21-38 SAP points
G	1-20 SAP points (Least efficient)

Improvements in the rating can be achieved by making modifications to a property as follows:

Improvement	Rating can be improved by	Estimated Savings
Condensing Boiler	*47 SAP points	£225+ per year
Cavity Insulation	*13 SAP points	£100-£125 per year
Roof Insulation	*10 SAP points	£100-£125 per year
Cylinder Stat & Insulation	*8 SAP points	£100-£125 per year
Double Glazing	*4 SAP points	£10-£15 per year
Low Energy Lighting	*2 SAP points	£10-£15 per year

#### 5.4. Government Initiatives to improve energy efficiency:

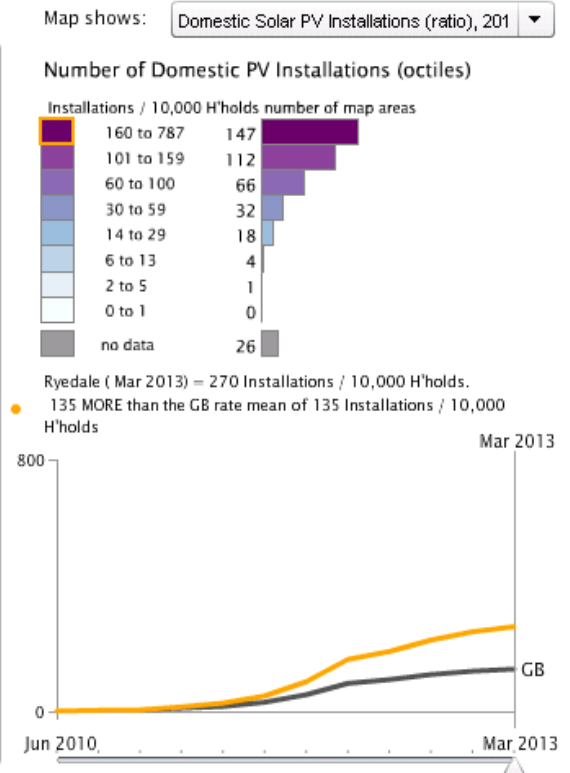
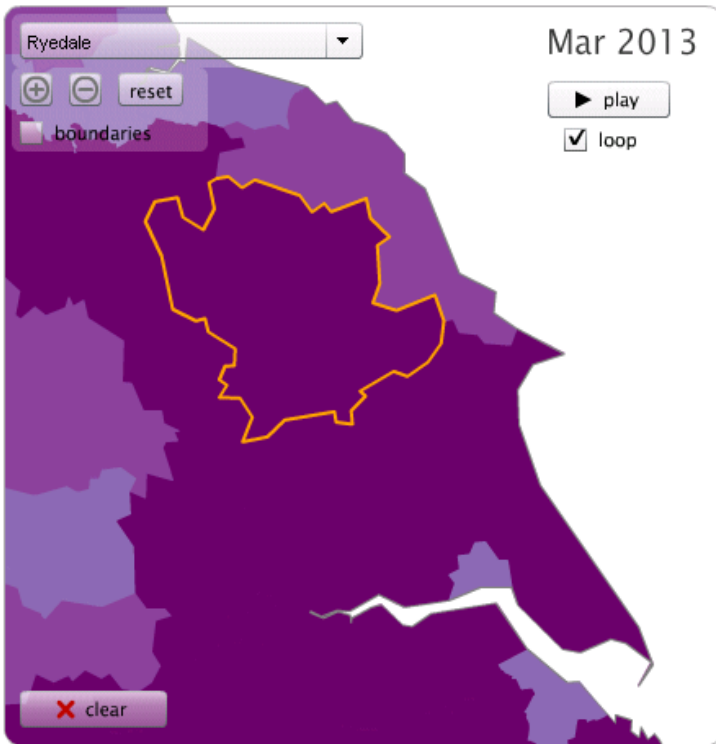
The government has introduced a number of programmes to improve energy efficiency and reducing energy bills

- Green Deal - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-households-to-cut-their-energy-bills/supporting-pages/green-deal>
- Smart meters - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-households-to-cut-their-energy-bills/supporting-pages/smart-meters>
- The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-households-to-cut-their-energy-bills/supporting-pages/energy-companies-obligation-eco> – a subsidy from energy suppliers that will work alongside the [Green Deal](#)
- Electricity Demand Reduction project - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-demand-for-energy-from-industry-businesses-and-the-public-sector--2/supporting-pages/electricity-demand-reduction-project>
- Smarter Heating Controls Research Programme - <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/helping-households-to-cut-their-energy-bills/supporting-pages/smarter-heating-controls-research-programme>
- The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), supported by DECC, is also working to improve the energy efficiency of buildings. -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-energy-efficiency-of-buildings-and-using-planning-to-protect-the-environment>

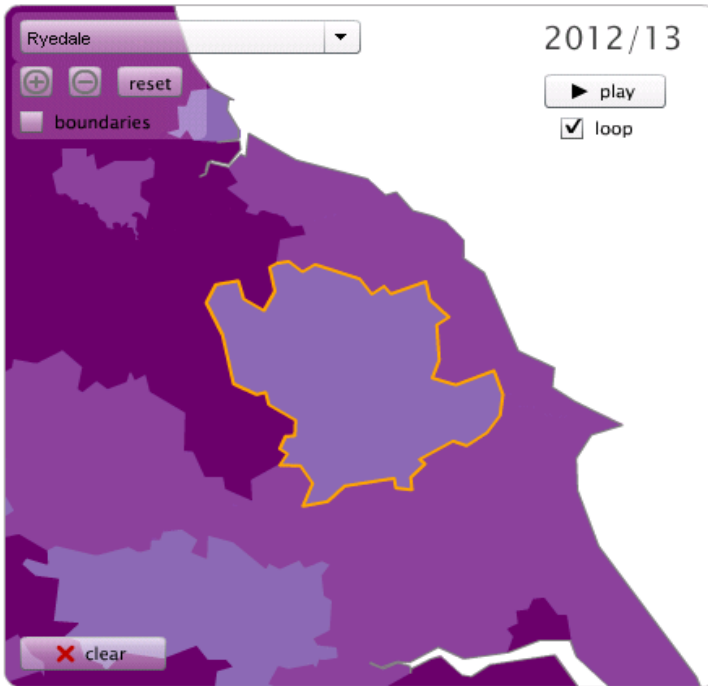
The impact of central government energy efficiency initiatives is hard to assess however the following information summarises the rate of take up of various energy efficiency measures in Ryedale, comparing this to the GB figures between 2010 and 2013:

### Domestic Solar PV Installations (ratio), 2010-13 By 2009 Local Authority District



## Loft Insulations (ratio)

By 2009 Local Authority District

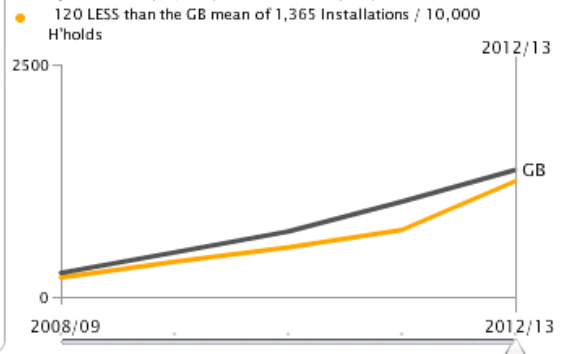


Map shows: Loft Insulations (ratio)

### Number of Loft Insulations per 10,000 Households

Installations / 10,000 H'holds	number of map areas
1,500 to 2,447	132
1,300 to 1,499	86
1,100 to 1,299	69
1,000 to 1,099	31
850 to 999	36
700 to 849	6
400 to 699	9
0 to 399	11
no data	26

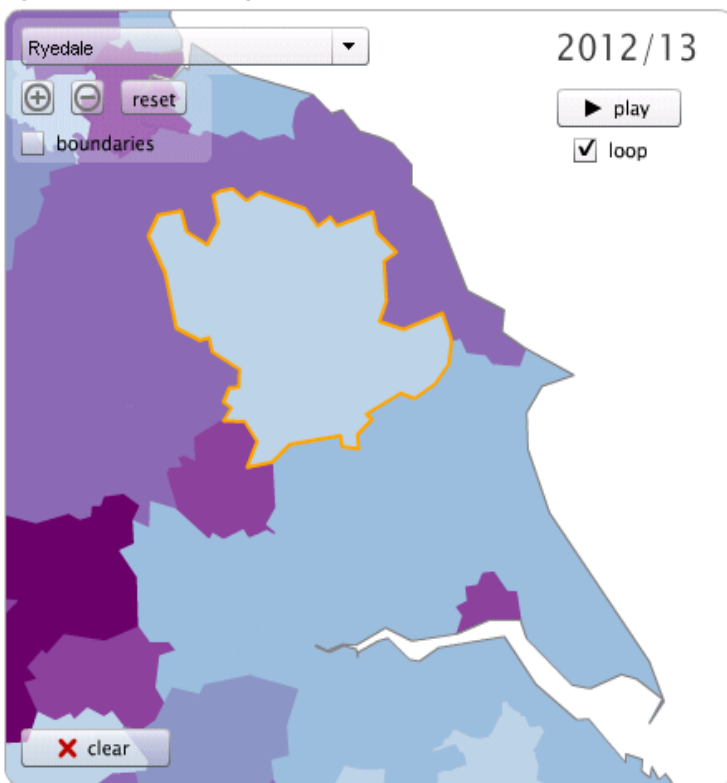
Ryedale (2012/13) = 1,245 Installations / 10,000 H'holds.



## Energy Statistics:

### Cavity Wall Insulations (ratio)

By 2009 Local Authority District



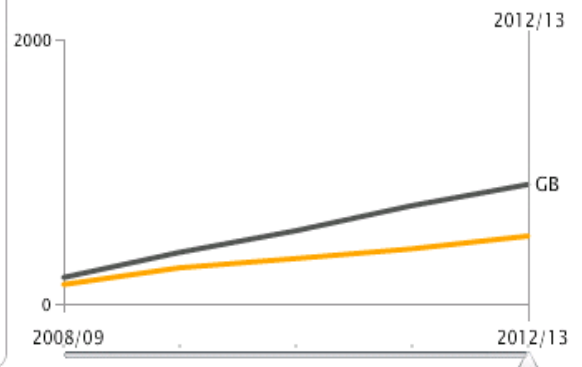
Map shows: Cavity Wall Insulations (ratio)

### Cavity Wall Insulations per 10,000 Households

Installations / 10,000 H'holds	number of map areas
1200 to 1834	59
1000 to 1199	66
850 to 999	95
750 to 849	40
600 to 749	48
450 to 599	35
250 to 449	27
0 to 249	10
no data	26

Ryedale (2012/13) = 515 Installations / 10,000 H'holds.

389 LESS than the GB mean of 904 Installations / 10,000 H'holds





Government Actions in Relation to Fuel Prices include:

- OFT study into the off gas domestic fuel market in 2011
- Defra has a four year programme – RCAN support local action such as community fuel purchasing
- Best Practice guide for Oil buying groups

Ryedale District Council has supported the development of fuel buying co-ops

Government Actions to support Renewable Energy

- Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive
- Renewable Heat Premium Payment
- Feed in tariffs for rural communities
- New PD rights for small scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps
- Existing PD rights for solar PV, solar thermal, ground source heat pumps, water source heat pumps and combined heat and power systems.
- £15m rural communities Renewable energy fund for community energy generation schemes

Government Actions in relation to Fuel Poverty

- Warm Front Scheme - ended 19.1.13
- Warm Home Discount – prepay and pay as you go
- Winter Fuel payment – Not means tested
- Cold Weather Payments – Benefit related
- Review of Fuel Poverty Definition – Hill Review

The number of hard to treat homes in Ryedale will always comprise the effectiveness of any geographically targeted energy efficiency initiatives, as favoured by DECC.

The Council does not currently have a statutory responsibility to improve fuel poverty. It does however have a number of other obligations which are affected by fuel poverty including:

- The Housing Act 1985 Section 8 requires local authorities to periodically review the housing needs of its area in relation to housing conditions and the needs of the district. Further legislation requires that when authorities carry out a review under s. 8, that they have regard to the special needs of chronically sick or disabled persons and carry out reviews of accommodation needs of gypsies and travellers residing in or resorting to their district
- The Housing Act 2004 section 5 Places a duty on Local Authorities to take action where condition of a property can cause a risk to health of occupant, and cold is identified as such a hazard
- Home Energy Conservation Act - Using powers under section 5(1)(b) the Act the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change requires all English authorities to prepare reports setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in its area and to report every two years on progress being made.
- The Council has agreed a priority to meet housing need in the Ryedale District Council area and to achieve this by changing and adding to the housing stock and by supporting people to access a suitable home or remain in their existing home.

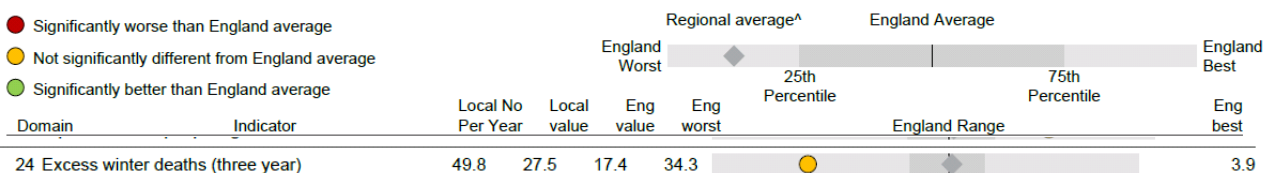
## 5.5 The Impact of Fuel Poverty on Health

Social isolation is a major issue in North Yorkshire and contributes to a deterioration in the health and wellbeing of older people. Social isolation among older people is exacerbated by living in a cold home. Costly fuel bills prevent them from going out, they fear returning, already feeling cold, to a cold home, or they are reluctant to invite friends into a cold house. Older people who are unable to keep their homes warm, who have a health condition exacerbated by the cold or have sustained injuries due to the cold, may be at risk of requiring increased care or losing their independence.

There are clear links between fuel poverty and health. However, monitoring this impact is far from straightforward given the role of other factors – in particular outdoor temperatures – that contribute to adverse health outcomes. For example living in cold homes contributes directly to rate of excess winter deaths. It has been shown that low indoor temperature is associated with higher EWM from cardiovascular disease in England. The cold can have various physiological effects, which may lead to death in vulnerable people. Woodhouse et al (1993) reported that colder home temperature was associated with increased blood pressure in older people. The Eurowinter group (1997) noted that cold causes haemoconcentration, which leads to thrombosis, and that cold can also lower the immune system’s resistance to respiratory infections. The information below is taken from the Public Health Profile for Ryedale

### Health summary for Ryedale

The chart below shows how the health of people in this area compares with the rest of England. This area’s result for each indicator is shown as a circle. The average rate for England is shown by the black line, which is always at the centre of the chart. The range of results for all local areas in England is shown as a grey bar. A red circle means that this area is significantly worse than England for that indicator; however, a green circle may still indicate an important public health problem.



[http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P\\_HEALTH\\_PROFILES](http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HEALTH_PROFILES)

### The role of Community Led Fuel Generation Schemes

Members of the Committee asked the review team to investigate the role of the Community Rights granted within the Localism Act in the development of community led fuel generation schemes. A presentation was given by representatives from Rural Action Yorkshire on a range of activities being supported to help households to achieve affordable warmth. The officers work in partnership with the Council and activities include:

- Supporting the development of fuel buying co-operatives
- Developing community hubs – warm communities
- Communicating key messages on winter warmth to communities

RAY have been working closely with energy providers and community representatives to try to establish some pilot projects to develop community energy generation schemes. Members were informed that this work had not led to the development of any schemes. It was also clear that the Community Rights do not play any part in the development of such schemes and that the existing policy framework is already sufficient to enable any

such scheme but that the issue is not with this but rather with the complexities of establishing joint energy sources. Individual energy generation schemes have been much more successful. See below for a summary of the achievements and ambitions of the Council, working in partnership with organisations such as RAY, NEA and NYCC, to improve levels of affordable warmth.

### **5.6 Achievements and Ambitions for achieving affordable warmth in Ryedale**

The current funding bids and initiatives which are being developed include the following:

- DECC Central Heating Fund - in partnership with NYCC, Yorkshire Energy Partnership, Richmondshire DC, Hambleton DC, Yorkshire Housing and gas networks, results of the bid will be known by the 6th July. The bid involves the installation of central heating systems to properties which do not have any.
- National Energy Action - Warm and Healthy Homes Scheme 'Redressing the Balance'. This will involve working with local health and housing partnerships to provide heating and insulation measures to those most vulnerable to ill health due to a lack of affordable warmth, partners as above including Scarborough
- British Gas Healthy Homes Funding - To fund charities and other third sector organisations to work with local partners to deliver projects which will assist low-income and vulnerable households and demonstrate a positive health impact. Bid lead by Rural Action Yorkshire and including other LA's from North Yorkshire and third sector partners.
- Looking to develop an Energy Repayment Loan scheme with the rest of the Yorkshire LA's, working with the Homes and Loans team in Sheffield, based on the HAL model.
- Looking to develop a Boilers on prescription scheme should funding be available in future, aware that DECC has £2 million put aside for schemes like this.

### **Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities**

- Ryedale District Council, (RDC) have previously signed up to the Nottingham Declaration and have previously investigated the merits of signing up to Climate Local, however staffing capacity makes this unlikely at present
- RDC have previously seen a reduction in fuel poverty and using the new definition of fuel poverty, the current figure stands at 2738 households or 11.9% of Ryedale's households our total per capita emissions are currently (2012 data) 9.4tco<sub>2</sub>, down from 10.8tco<sub>2</sub> with the domestic emissions down to 2.8tco<sub>2</sub> and we will endeavour to reduce this further through engaging with partners and residents to identify vulnerable residents and signpost them accordingly.
- In partnership with Scarborough Borough Council we have actively encouraged Oil Cooperatives throughout the district to assist in alleviating fuel poverty. To date 96 people from 7 communities have benefited from this approach.
- In partnership with Scarborough Borough Council we have joined ichoosr's collective switch. Residents will be offered an opportunity to switch to a lower tariff 3 times per year. It is envisaged that up to £200 per year can be saved from a household's annual fuel bill through this approach.
- In partnership with a local contractor and Yorkshire Energy Partnership Ltd we will pilot a 'fit for free' photo voltaic (PV) panel scheme for our residents. This scheme will offer residents the opportunity to benefit from savings on their electricity bills without the need for the resident to pay for the cost of the panels and installation.

- In partnership with Yorkshire Energy Partnership Ltd, we will continue to signpost residents to local, procured installers for a range of renewable technology and finance options. Ryedale will investigate developing initiatives to support Solid wall insulation across the district.

**Measures we propose to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street roll out.**

**Green Deal and ECO**

- RDC in partnership with Yorkshire Energy Partnership, (YEP) who will continue to ensure that Ryedale's residents can benefit from funding through the next ECO funding phase. (Due April 2015).
- We will work with partners to raise awareness of Government Initiatives and will advertise using our website, local press, members' bulletins and through our Parish Councils.
- In partnership with City of York council and other district councils across North Yorkshire; RDC received funding from DECC for the installation of a small number of efficient gas boilers. Through this programme 13 households benefitted from this funding.
- We promoted Carillion's 'go early' free replacement boiler scheme to residents across the district.
- We will continue to develop initiatives to help and support residents with Solid walled properties.

**Feed in Tariffs scheme**

- Between December 2012 and December 2014, a further 385 residents benefited from the Feed in tariff. RDC will continue to support and encourage residents who wish to install these technologies.

**Renewable Heat Premium Payment**

- RDC in partnership with CES; 6 households had 7 technologies installed across the district. We assisted them in installing a mixture of eligible technologies, (Solar Thermal, air source heat pumps and biomass) and supported them through the RHPP Community fund. The funding obtained for this totalled £14700.00.
- In partnership with a local contractor and YEP Ltd we will continue to signpost residents to the most appropriate technologies for their property and support them through the RHi funding process.
- Between April 2014 and February 2015: 138 accredited installations were completed in domestic properties.

**Zero Carbon Homes**

- No data set is available on this presently as Ryedale will follow National Policy and this will be set through Building Regulations and Planning.
- To date no zero carbon homes have been built by the housing provider across this district.

## **Energy Performance Certificates**

- Ryedale will investigate purchasing landmark data and the data available from the Enterprise partnership; Leeds City Region.

## **Minimum standards in the private rental sector**

- Landlords are encouraged to adhere to Statutory requirements.

## **Smart meters**

- RDC will communicate the smart meter roll out to its residents by 2020

## **Measures proposed to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street roll out.**

- Between January 2013 and February 2015; 512 lofts were insulated and a further 81 cavity walls.
- In partnership with the White Rose Home Improvement Agency; Ryedale has received public health funding to produce and disseminate winter warmth packs, small boiler repair funding, and ice grippers to vulnerable residents across the district.
- Ryedale sits on the Health and Wellbeing board which is made up from local authorities and Clinical commissioning groups (CCG's). The group is currently looking to produce a cross agency winter strategy.

## **National and local partners**

RDC actively work with a number of regional and local partners;

- North Yorkshire County Council, City of York council and the other district authorities within North Yorkshire
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Yorkshire Energy Partnership, (YEP) a not for profit making organisation delivering sustainability projects across Yorkshire and the Humber and owned by the local authorities including Ryedale.
- White Rose Home improvement agency
- Age UK
- Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY).
- Kirkbymoorside Environment group
- Elder persons forum
- Choices 4 energy
- ichoosr

## **Supporting Documents**

The fuel poverty statistics methodology and user manuals:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-methodology-handbook-2013>

Fuel Poverty Indicator website:

[www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk](http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk)

Getting the Measure of Fuel Poverty:

Final Report of the Fuel Poverty Review - John Hills March 2012

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/48297/4662-getting-measure-fuel-pov-final-hills-rpt.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/48297/4662-getting-measure-fuel-pov-final-hills-rpt.pdf)

UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file16495.pdf>

Cutting the cost of keeping warm – Consultation document to prepare for a new fuel poverty strategy for England – DECC

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/319280/Fuel\\_Poverty\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/319280/Fuel_Poverty_Report_Final.pdf)

Analysis of Hard to treat Homes

[http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/insulation-and-heating/building-performance/analysis\\_of\\_hard-to-treat\\_housing\\_in\\_england.pdf](http://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/insulation-and-heating/building-performance/analysis_of_hard-to-treat_housing_in_england.pdf)

Health Profile Data:

[http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P\\_HEALTH\\_PROFILES](http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?QN=P_HEALTH_PROFILES) – update for 2015

Ryedale HECA Report

The Ryedale Plan – Pages 162 to 164

Ryedale Housing Strategy 2015-20 Page 23

## Appendix A - Terms of Reference

### Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty

<p><b>Aim of the Review</b></p>	<p>The review will make recommendations to the Policy Committees of the Council, Council and to NY partner organisations if this is appropriate.</p> <p>The review will try to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the scale of the problem in Ryedale – extent and depth</li> <li>• Review the effectiveness of government initiatives in Ryedale</li> <li>• Determine the potential for community led fuel generation schemes to improve energy costs – what role do the community rights play in these?</li> <li>• Assess the potential to influence the policy environment and prepare draft responses for submission as opportunities arise</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why has this review been selected?</b></p>	<p>High levels of fuel poverty experienced in some areas of Ryedale. The review of the definition of fuel poverty has resulted in a redefinition of how fuel poverty is measured and monitored nationally. Members of the committee need to understand the complex nature of the measures and how to interpret these so that we can monitor any progress made on this matter.</p> <p>Legislative changes including the community rights, may provide opportunities for communities in Ryedale to play a part in improving levels of fuel poverty experienced in the District.</p>
<p><b>Who will carry out the review?</b></p>	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all members of O and S)</li> <li>• The Head of Corporate Services</li> <li>• Support will be provided by members of the Business Improvement Team</li> </ul> <p>The task group meeting will take place following the scheduled meetings of the Scrutiny Committee, and by special arrangement on additional dates if required</p>
<p><b>How the review will be carried out?</b></p>	<p>The task group will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• existing data and evidence</li> <li>• national research on the impact of recent policy decisions made by the government on fuel poverty and community energy and</li> <li>• any local research undertaken</li> </ul> <p>The task group will also liaise with representatives from energy providers, voluntary and community sector organisations working to reduce fuel poverty such as Age UK, Energy Savings Trust, and services delivered by RDC to help reduce fuel poverty such as Housing and Planning.</p>
<p><b>What are the expected outputs?</b></p>	<p>It is expected that the task group will produce a report, summarising the evidence they have gathered and containing specific recommendations for the Council and other partner organisations as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Timescale</b></p>	<p>It is anticipated that the group will conclude the outcomes of the review In December 2014. Progress reports will be submitted to the committee throughout the review.</p>