



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	4 APRIL 2014
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES CLARE SLATER
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY REVIEWS PROGRESS REPORT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the final report of the previous scrutiny review into membership of outside bodies and to re-launch the scrutiny review into fuel poverty and community fuel initiatives.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That members note the final version of the Scrutiny Review Report (Annex A)
- 2.2 That members agree the terms of reference for the current scrutiny review (Annex B)

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a scrutiny review into fuel poverty and the potential for community fuel initiatives and links to the community rights.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 No significant risks have been identified at this point but this will be reviewed as the review progresses.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The terms of reference for the review were discussed at the inaugural task group meeting and are attached at annex B. These will be reviewed periodically throughout the review.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The aim of the review is to make recommendations to the policy committees of the Council on the options available to the Council and its communities for reducing fuel poverty in Ryedale

6.2 On the 7th November 2013 the first meeting of the review task group was held. A presentation was made including data and information on the various definitions of fuel poverty used nationally and where Ryedale features in this.

The Presentation included the following information:

- Factors which affect fuel poverty
- The key government departments – Defra and DECC
- Government actions taken to tackle fuel poverty
- Getting the measure of fuel poverty – outcomes of a national review
- Data profile for Ryedale

The key considerations when working with fuel poverty are:

- Levels of household income
- Proportion of income 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

Action points for members included:

- Speak with residents in your wards to find out if there are any particular issues for them with fuel poverty
- Find out if there are any particular community schemes already in operation in your ward.
- Speak to other members not on O&S regarding the points above.

And for officers:

- To liaise re: the work of LGA Sparse group on fuel poverty
- To invite the fuel coop lead to a future meeting of the task group
- To identify other invitees such as Energy Savings Trust, representatives of communities who are already involved in community energy generation
- To investigate the Permitted development rights relating to micro- energy generation e.g. solar panels and the potential for publicising these
- Of those households measured by the LIHC indicator as in fuel poverty, what percentage are on benefits and how would this impact on targeting of future campaigns?
- Mapping of hard to treat homes (those built after 1920)

6.3 The Department for Energy and Climate Change published the Community Energy Strategy on 27 January 2014. The strategy aims to broaden the support available for community energy projects, whereby people come together to reduce their energy use or purchase and generate their own energy. Plans include:

- £10m Urban Community Energy Fund to kick-start community energy generation projects in England;
- £1m Big Energy Saving Network funding to support the work of volunteers helping vulnerable consumers to reduce their energy;
- a community energy saving competition, offering £100,000 to communities to develop innovative approaches to saving energy and money; and
- a “one-stop shop” information resource for people interested in developing community energy projects.

Alongside the Community Energy Strategy, DECC has also published today a series of research reports assessing the scale, ambition and achievements of current

community energy projects.

6.4 The schedule for future task group meetings is as follows:

Date	Tasks
Thurs 26 June 2014	Speaker to be arranged Presentation on the work of LGA Sparse Group on Fuel Poverty Briefing for members on the Community Energy Strategy and research into community energy projects.
Thurs 2 October 2014	TBC
Thurs 11 December 2014	Draft Report and recommendations agreed by task group

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Background Papers:

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

UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001:

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

Community Energy Strategy January 2014:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275163/20140126Community_Energy_Strategy.pdf