

Annex B

Terms of Reference for a Scrutiny Review of Fuel Poverty

<p>Aim of the Review</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"> • 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
<p>Why has this review been selected?</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>Who will carry out the review?</p>	<p>The review will be carried out by a task group including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 members of the O and S committee (but open to all members of O and S) • The Head of Corporate Services • Support will be provided by members of the Business Improvement Team • 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>How the review will be carried out?</p>	<p>The task group will consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing data and evidence • national research on the impact of recent policy decisions made by the government on fuel poverty and community energy and • any local research undertaken. <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>

What are the expected outputs?	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
Timescale	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.