

**LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE – JULY '05  
FUEL POVERTY ACTION PLAN**

Appendix 7

<b>KEY AIM</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<b>TIMESCALES &amp; TARGET</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>MILESTONES &amp; EVALUATION</b>	<b>PROGRESS &amp; UPDATE</b>
<b>1. To assess the extent of fuel poverty within the Council area</b>	Carry out survey, analyse existing sources of data on fuel poverty and set targets	Improved understanding of the extent of fuel poverty	December 2005, NHER level 1 surveys to be completed 2008	HRA General Fund, Scottish Executive LHS & EEC funding	Survey completion; development of forward 'Fuel Poverty Action Plan'	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baseline data on households living in fuel poverty established</li> <li>2. NHER level 1 surveys to be undertaken as part of 'Energy Efficiency Commitment' insulation schemes. Results to be cloned for whole Council stock</li> <li>3. Analysis of 'Social Inclusion' areas, SIMD and census data</li> <li>4. Targets established to improve % households living in fuel poverty</li> <li>5. Utilise the 'Fuel Poverty Mapping' tool produced by EAS and Alembic research to focus specific projects on high risk areas</li> </ol>
	Work with partners to strengthen links and develop new ones	Identification of the most vulnerable households, allowing priorities to be formed	December 2005	As above	Partnership liaison mechanisms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing 'Energy Working Group' established</li> <li>2. Projects undertaken alongside fuel suppliers, contractors, NHS Forth Valley and local EEAC</li> <li>3. Inter-departmental discussions held with Social Work, Development Services and Community Advice Services</li> </ol>
	Ensure 'Fuel Poverty Strategy' links clearly with related strategies and policies	Integrated approach to tackling fuel poverty	December 2005	As above	Revision of relevant strategies over time	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review carried out</li> </ol>

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<b>2. To address the stock condition issues which contribute to fuel poverty</b>	Undertake necessary stock condition surveys	Identification of priority investment needs	2005/06	HRA General Fund, Scottish Executive LHS & EEC funding	Survey completion; development of forward 'Fuel Poverty Action Plan'	1. Yet to be undertaken 2. An action plan is under preparation for on-going local house condition survey work to enable the Council to develop its SHQS database
	Develop HRA investment programme linked to HECA objectives in relation to FP	Improved quality/efficiency of stock	2005 - 2008	HRA & EEC funding	Measure through LHS investment model	1. Provision in place covering energy efficiency works in over 2000 properties. For example: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heating replacements</li> <li>• Re-rendering</li> <li>• Weather envelopes for non-traditionally built properties</li> <li>• CHP plant at Callander flats</li> <li>• Insulation works</li> <li>• Double glazing</li> </ul>
	Promote greater energy efficiency in public and private sector new build and refurbishment projects, through local plan policy	Improved energy efficiency standards in multi-tenure stock	Ongoing from 2004	HRA General & Scottish Executive LHS funding	Introduction of standards to local plan policy	1. Housing staff continue to liaise with planning and design colleagues on sustainability issues in terms of project development and contract specification.
	Introduce minimum energy efficiency targets using NHER	Inform the Council's housing improvement proposals and specifications	2005 – 2008 for data collection, All housing stock to be above NHER 5 by 2015	As above	% Dwellings which have received NHER analysis	1. Awaiting results of level one surveys at which point a spreadsheet will be developed and targets set

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2. Cont...	<p>Fit energy efficiency improvements such as draught-proofing, radiator reflector panels, CFL's and tank jackets through 'HomePack' scheme</p> <p>'Able to Pay' targeted mail drop scheme encouraging owner-occupiers to invest in subsidised cavity wall insulation.</p>	<p>Additional energy efficiency improvements to non-traditional house types. Improve employment opportunities.</p> <p>Improve energy efficiency in the private sector</p>	<p>2005/6, Cover 2,500 properties</p> <p>2005/6, offered to 7,697 with expected 15% take up</p>	<p>GF &amp; Utility funding</p> <p>GF, Scottish Gas and Strathclyde &amp; Central Energy Efficiency Advice Centre</p>	<p>Six month and final review.</p> <p>Analysis of responses</p>	<p>New Project</p> <p>1. initial discussions with 'Employment Training Unit' (ETU) taking place</p> <p>New project</p> <p>1. letters to be sent Aug 2005</p>
3. To minimise fuel poverty through income maximisation measures	<p>Employ 'Fuel Poverty Officer'</p> <p>Take advantage of the deregulated energy market &amp; raise awareness of cheaper payment methods</p>	<p>Improved public awareness of fuel poverty and sources of assistance</p> <p>Improved living conditions for those living in fuel poverty due to increased disposable income</p>	<p>March 2005</p> <p>Ongoing from 2005, Website updated December 2005</p>	<p>HRA/GF to harness other funding sources</p> <p>GF &amp; 'Energywatch / EEAC' publications</p>	<p>Meeting Scottish Executive targets on fuel poverty.</p> <p>'Fuel Poverty Action Plan' monitoring and review mechanisms</p>	<p>1. Recruitment completed as of Dec 2004</p> <p>1. Frontline staff made aware of activities of 'Energywatch/EEAC' etc</p> <p>2. Offer advice to residents on website</p> <p>3. Arrange home visits from the EEAC to discuss bills, heating systems and payment methods.</p> <p>4. Advice mail drops</p>

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<b>3. Cont...</b>	Offer debt/benefits advice services	Raise welfare benefits claims and disposable income levels	Ongoing, benefits health checks to be distributed 2005- 2008	GF and EEC funding	Community Services evaluation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to offer debt advice and benefits helpline/one-on-one assistance.</li> <li>2. Information on Community Advice Services available on Library bookmarks.</li> <li>3. Offer benefits health check information to 9000 homes as part of large scale Cavity Wall scheme.</li> </ol>
<b>4. Research innovative/ technical solutions to improve energy efficiency in the home</b>	Employ 'Home Energy Strategy Officer'	Improved energy conservation and efficiency	March 2005	HRA /GF to harness other funding sources	Housing/Development Services liaison mechanisms	1. Recruitment completed as of Feb 2005.
	Explore the possibility of developing a district heating scheme in the Grangemouth area	Improved energy conservation and efficiency	March 2005 +	HRA/GF, to harness other sources	HECA Strategy monitoring and review mechanisms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feasibility study completed</li> <li>2. Discussion with potential stakeholders have taken place and highlighted a number of development issues associated with the scale and complexity of this project. Further discussions needed to determine viability.</li> </ol>
	Promote use of condensing boilers and mechanical heat recovery units	Improved energy conservation and efficiency	March 2005 +	HRA/GF, to harness other sources	Compliance with boiler standards when imposed	1. Promotion undertaken
	Utilise Combined Heat & Power units to provide low cost 'heat with rent' payment options	Carbon dioxide savings through utilising waste heat aligned with low cost unlimited heat for tenants.	Salmon Court monitoring 2005 + Callender park 2005 – 8	HRA/GF, Energy Saving Trust 'Community Energy' funding.	Monitor plant at Salmon Court in Bo'ness for success. Works commencing on Callender Park infrastructure.	<p>New Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Salmon Court due to be switched on and electricity switched to Falkirk Council</li> <li>2. Funding secured for Callendar Park</li> </ol>

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<b>4. Cont...</b>	Fit 'Air Source Heat Pump' (ASHP) units to four homes in, Bonnybridge to gauge performance	Assess possibility of utilising the technology as a lower cost alternative to storage heaters in non-gas areas	2005	HRA & EEC	Units installed, Fuel Poverty evaluation before and after units installed planned	New Project 1. New Project 2. Funding researched 3. Works on site Aug 2005
	Work with fuel companies to expand the gas supply network.	Expand fuel choice and access to lower cost fuel for both Council and private householders	Hallglen 2005, Future projects 2006 +	HRA, ES Pipelines & other sources of funding	Tenant feedback	1. Gas extension in Hallglen area. 2. Consideration is being given to a programme for further extensions to areas lacking gas supply where this is economically viable.
	Pilot project utilising small scale 'Swift' wind turbines.	Make use of available renewable resources, reduce fuel costs	2005 +	Energy Saving Trust, fuel supplier and HRA funding	Fuel Poverty 'before and after' evaluation taking place	New Project 1. Funding researched and applications made. 2. Awaiting decision.
	Raise funding for energy efficiency projects through preferred supplier scheme	Increased scale of action on fuel poverty	2005 +	None required; fuel supplier funding generated	Scheme put in place, annual evaluation	New Project 1. Process researched. 2. Awaiting Council approval
<b>5. To raise the awareness of fuel poverty issues</b>	Introduce a wider 'Housing Information and Advice Strategy'.	Increased public awareness of fuel poverty issues	2006	HRA/GF	Meeting Scottish Executive targets on fuel poverty	1. Strategy being produced.
	Awareness raising to frontline staff	Gives information to staff on how to spot fuel poverty and show they can assist	2005 +	NHS, EEAC, HRA	Staff evaluation	New project 1. 'Take Action on Fuel poverty – A Guide for Staff' leaflet produced alongside Forth Valley NHS 2. Briefing sessions arranged and leaflet in process of being distributed

5. Cont...	Instilling public awareness of fuel poverty issues	Capacity building within the general public to seek assistance themselves and attain affordable warmth	2006 +	GF	Monitoring methods to be evaluated	<p>3. Sessions arranged to cover energy efficiency issues for relevant staff members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentations/stalls to be made at public events</li> <li>2. Targeted Information mail drops</li> <li>3. General information on fuel poverty and specific advice relating to assistance available on Falkirk Council website</li> </ol>
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