

FC62. MOTIONS

(a) Gas/Electricity Disconnections

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Thomson moved that:-

Council notes with some disquiet the content of the recently published Ofgem report. This report indicated that:

- The number of gas and electricity disconnections rose to 8,324 in 2007 from 3,270 in 2006
- The total number of customers not reconnected the same quarter almost doubled to 4,028
- The number of pre-paid meters installed under warrant rose by almost 20,000.

With energy costs rising by double digit inflation this year the situation for those suffering financial hardship will only get worse.

Council believes that these trends are unacceptable and calls on the Westminster government to intervene to change the policy of disconnection through legislation, if required.

Council also calls on our local Westminster representatives to raise the issue with the relevant ministers with a view to the production of an action plan to assist those most vulnerable from power disconnections.

By way of an amendment Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that:-

“ Council congratulates Ofgem on its prompt action in the face of rising energy prices to call a summit involving all those who have a part to play, to protect the most vulnerable in our society from the impact of these rising costs. By this prompt action we have seen a 16.4% reduction in disconnections in the first quarter of 2008.

Council welcomes the Fuel Poverty Action (plan) 4 point Programme agreed by the Fuel Poverty Summit in April 2008 and is encouraged by the £1b Home Energy Saving Programme announced by the UK Government in September 2008. These actions agreed by Ofgem and Government Ministers will improve the situation greatly for those who find themselves in fuel poverty.

But Council is concerned that major energy suppliers still have a process of disconnections and for this reason instructs the Chief Executive to write to those major energy suppliers urging them to follow the lead of British Gas which has a policy of no disconnections”.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(ii) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 28 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted.

For the Motion (13) - Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

For the Amendment (15) – Provost Reid and Depute Provost Black; Councillor Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Patrick and Waddell.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.