

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Response to Sustainable Development Select Committee referral on home energy conservation		
Key Decision	Yes		
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration		
Class	Open	Date:	7 June 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend the response to a referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee on home energy conservation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor:
- agrees to write to his counterparts in the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark to encourage participation in the Energy Company Obligation;
 - notes officers' plans to publicise the Council's work on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.
 - Reports this response to the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding UK commitment of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases for the year 2050 from a 1990 baseline with an interim milestone of 34% by 2020.
- 3.2 In November 2016 the UK Government ratified the Paris Agreement, part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Agreement commits countries to taking action to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
- 3.3 The Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy published in 2015 sets targets for minimum energy standards for fuel poor households with milestones identified for 2020, 2025 and 2030.
- 3.4 The Home Energy Conservation Act (1995), as amended by 2012 guidance, sets a statutory obligation on local authorities to publish their plans to improve energy efficiency in housing in their local area. Authorities are required to produce reports every two years. Lewisham published its HECA report in March 2017 following discussion at the Sustainable Development Select Committee.

- 3.5 Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy includes the strategic priority 'Clean, green and liveable': where people live in affordable, high quality and adaptable housing, have access to green spaces and take responsibility for their impact on the environment.
- 3.6 Climate Local, the successor to the Nottingham Declaration, was launched by the Local Government Association in 2012 as a means to demonstrate local government's commitment to action on climate change. Lewisham Council signed up to Climate Local in November 2012, and published an action plan setting a new borough-wide carbon reduction target of a 44% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 from a 2005 baseline.

4. Referral from the Sustainable Development Select Committee

- 4.1 On Wednesday 8 March 2017, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered an officer report about the Home Energy Conservation Act. The Committee resolved to advise Mayor and Cabinet of the following:

The Committee commends the work of officers in delivering the Council's sustainable energy ambitions. The Committee believes that the Council should find ways to further publicise its good work in reducing carbon emissions.

The Committee recommends that the Mayor write to his counterparts in the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark to encourage them to work collaboratively with Lewisham in order to access the benefits of the energy company obligation affordable warmth scheme.

- 4.2 The Energy Company Obligation is an important opportunity for local authorities to bring much needed support to vulnerable households living in cold homes. Joint working across London boroughs will help maximise the benefits for London as a whole. It is recommended that the Mayor agrees to write to the boroughs identified by the select committee. A draft letter is provided at Annex A.
- 4.3 In addition to this, officers will seek to publicise the council's work on fuel poverty and domestic energy efficiency through various channels including the Council's website, Lewisham Life magazine, Facebook and Twitter accounts and staff intranet news pages.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications resulting from this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1 The Council's Constitution sets out the procedures relating to reports referred to the Mayor from a scrutiny committee. The Constitution sets a timescale of two months (not including recess) for a formal reply from receipt of such reports.

7. Crime and disorder implications

- 7.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

8. Equalities implications

8.1 There are no specific equalities implications resulting from this report.

9. Environmental implications

9.1 There are no specific environmental implications resulting from this report.

10. Conclusion

10.1 It is recommended that the Mayor:

- agrees to write to his counterparts in the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark to encourage participation in the Energy Company Obligation;
- notes officers' plans to publicise the Council's work on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

If there are any queries on this report please contact **Martin O'Brien, Asset Management Planning Manager**, 020 8314 6605.

Background Documents

8 March 2017 report to Sustainable Development Select Committee on

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s48246/05%20Home%20energy%20conservation%20act%20update%20080317.pdf>

Lewisham Council 2017 Home Energy Conservation Act report

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/environment/energyefficiency/taking-the-lead/Documents/LewishamHECARreport2017.pdf>

Annex A

Draft letter from the Mayor of Lewisham to the leaders of the London Boroughs of Bromley, Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Lambeth and Southwark

Dear [name]

The latest data on fuel poverty identifies that London as a region has the highest number of households in England meeting the Government's definition of low income and high heating costs.

Energy suppliers in the United Kingdom are required to fund heating and insulation improvements for fuel poor households, but, despite the need that exists, London as a region has not attracted the same levels of funding as elsewhere.

From April 2017 the Energy Company Obligation: Help to Heat includes a new flexible eligibility specifically enabling local authorities to identify households in their area that can qualify for funding.

I am writing to neighbouring boroughs to raise awareness of this opportunity. One of the ways we can attract suppliers to work with us and bring in much needed funding is by enabling work at greater scale. If working collaboratively on this would be something of interest, officers in Lewisham Council would be happy to work with their counterparts in your borough.

Yours sincerely

Sir Steve Bullock
Mayor of Lewisham
Lewisham Council