

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2008**

**Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Strategy and Action Plan**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	A better environment for today and tomorrow/Improving health and wellbeing
<b>CORPORATE PLAN AIM:</b>	A Sustainable Environment/A Better Quality of Life
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Councillor Mrs Anne Hingley
<b>HEAD OF SERVICE:</b>	Mike Parker, Head of Planning, Health and Environment.
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Jenny Moreton, Principal Health and Sustainability Officer. (01562) 732569. <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Moreton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk">Jennifer.Moreton@wyreforestdc.gov.uk</a>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix A - Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2007/8 Report  Appendix B - Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2008/9

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members of the Cabinet on progress made in delivering the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Strategy in 2007/8 and to ask them to endorse the actions planned for 2008/9.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that:**

- 2.1 the 2008/9 Affordable Warmth Action Plan is endorsed and that the 2007/8 Affordable Warmth Action Plan Report is noted.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Health and Sustainability Team in Housing Services leads on the co-ordination and delivery of the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Strategy.
- 3.2 Following detailed consultation with partners, and having regard to the Worcestershire Affordable Warmth Strategy, the Council adopted the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Strategy 2004-7 in April 2004.

- 3.3 The strategy is delivered through an annual action plan, developed by the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Steering Group. In addition to Wyre Forest District Council, the Group includes various partner organisations including the Primary Care Trust, Age Concern, the Fire and Rescue Service and the Worcestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

##### **4.1 Progress on the 2007/8 Affordable Warmth Action Plan**

- 4.1.1 As detailed in Appendix A, good progress was made in delivering the Affordable Warmth Strategy during 2007/8.
- 4.1.2 Highlights included regular steering group meetings, ongoing inclusion of affordable warmth issues in the referral scheme, the distribution of free low energy light bulbs and awareness raising through training, at public events and through production of various promotional materials.
- 4.1.3 In addition, 400 households in the district benefited from a total of over £500,000 worth of measures carried out through the Warmfront grant scheme in 2007/8. A further 200 households received free loft and/or cavity wall insulation through the Wyre 65 scheme.

##### **4.2 Affordable Warmth work in 2008/9**

- 4.2.1 The Health and Sustainability team is currently undertaking a review of the Council's strategic framework on sustainability and climate change, including work on Affordable Warmth.
- 4.2.2 The review is being carried out in response to a number of factors, including increasing government emphasis upon these issues, the inclusion of statutory indicators in the new National Performance Framework and the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement, and the revised Wyre Forest matters Community Strategy. It is being carried out alongside the review of the Worcestershire Partnership's Climate Change Strategy.
- 4.2.3 The draft new strategy will be available in October 2008. The final version will be published in April 2009, to coincide with the publication of the countywide strategy.
- 4.2.4 In order to carry on delivery of this important area of work, the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Steering Group has developed an action plan for 2008/9, as detailed in Appendix B.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 To be funded within existing internal and external budgets, including through a service level agreement with the Worcestershire Energy Efficiency Advice Centre.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 No legal implications to the Council. Falls within existing Council policy.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 As fuel costs continue to rise, affordable warmth is likely to become an increasingly important issue. Failing to have an action plan in place to address the issue could have negative consequences for the Council and the residents of Wyre Forest.

**8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 Cabinet are asked to note the 2007/8 Affordable Warmth Action Plan report and endorse the 2008/9 Affordable Warmth Action Plan.

**9. CONSULTEES**

9.1 Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Steering Group.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 The Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Strategy 2004-7 is available at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/sustainability](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/sustainability)

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