

## REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 4 March 2015)

### 1. ADOPTION OF REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 65)

Having considered a revised Statement of Community Involvement and, insofar as they are empowered by law, approved it, the Cabinet is recommending the revised Statement for approval by the Council.

The Statement, which is used to guide consultations on planning matters in the District, outside the National Park, has been revised to take account of numerous changes in planning legislation, particularly over the last couple of years, with the National Planning Policy Framework, Localism Act 2011 and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The draft Statement was subject to a statutory consultation period. The comments received were reported to the Cabinet, together with the Council's response to the points raised. The Cabinet considered that the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service should be added to the list of bodies that should be consulted.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That, insofar as it is empowered to do so by law, the Council approves and adopts the revised Statement of Community Involvement as attached at Appendix 1 to Report A to the Cabinet, subject to the addition of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the list of bodies that should be consulted.***

### 2. HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT – PROGRESS REPORT 2015 (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 66)

The Cabinet is recommending the approval of the biennial report to the Government on performance in achieving improvements in the energy efficiency of the residential housing stock in the District.

The target for reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions across the District was not achieved over the last 3 years, having risen by 3.75% between 2009 and 2012 (the latest available information). This is probably a result of a greater proportion of electricity being generated from coal, rather than gas. This Council does not therefore have any influence over this factor. The per capita domestic CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in this District, although fluctuating, were however the same in 2012 as in 2009. It is therefore proposed to retain the target of achieving a 10% reduction against 2009 levels for overall CO<sup>2</sup> emissions in the District by 2020.

The second key indicator that is measured is the number of households considered to be in fuel poverty. A change in the statistic used to measure fuel poverty, to the Low Income High Cost indicator, has complicated the assessment of performance. Under the old measure, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in this District fell by 27.5% against 2010 levels, to 9.2%, exceeding the target in the last HECA report. This has been warmly welcomed by the Cabinet, as a number of areas of the District face significant challenges from fuel poverty.

This Council has taken part in a number of initiatives, such as Insulate Hampshire and the energy switching promotion, to tackle this issue. The number of households in fuel poverty in this District is below the national average, but above the average for Hampshire as a whole. The Low Income High Cost Indicator classifies 6.6% of households in this District as being in fuel poverty. By directing all initiatives towards the most vulnerable groups it is hoped to achieve a 25% reduction, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty, by 2020.

The Council has taken a number of pro-active measures with respect to its own buildings. These include the maintenance of its housing stock, with good insulation (including new UPVC windows) and efficient central heating boilers; the installation of solar PV panels on buildings such as Appletree Court, the Town Hall and Health and Leisure Centres; and the construction of the Ringwood Gateway Building to the BREEAM Excellent standard. Local Plan Policies now require all new residential dwellings to meet a minimum of Code Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, while new commercial buildings should achieve at least a BREEAM Good Standard.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel has considered this report and supports its adoption.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (a) ***That the current target of a 10% reduction in domestic CO<sup>2</sup> emissions on 2009 levels by 2020 remain unchanged;***
- (b) ***That the Low Income High Cost definition for fuel poverty be adopted together with a target of a 25% reduction on 2012 levels by 2020, to 4.95% of households in fuel poverty; and***
- (c) ***That the Home Energy Conservation Act progress report, as attached at Appendix 1 to Report B to the Cabinet, be formally adopted for submission to Government.***

**3. NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES – TRANSITIONAL RATE RELIEF 2015/16 AND 2016/17 (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 67)**

The Government has asked local authorities to exercise their discretionary powers to allow transitional rate relief to businesses between the expiration of the current national scheme and the carrying out of the next revaluation, which has been delayed from 2015 to 2017. There are only around 35 non-domestic properties in this District that are affected, and the Government has undertaken to cover the cost in full.

**RECOMMENDED:**

***That the National Non-Domestic Rates – Transitional Relief Policy for 2015/16 and 2016/17, as attached as Appendix 1 to Report C to the Cabinet, be approved and adopted.***

**Councillor B Rickman  
CHAIRMAN**