

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Housing, Environment and Economic Development Committee: 7 May 2008**

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**Subject: Energy Efficiency Review Update**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise and update the Committee on the progress made in improving domestic energy efficiency over the last two years as described in the appended Fifth HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Progress Report 2005 - 2007.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Under the terms of the HECA 1995, West Dunbartonshire Council is a designated 'energy conservation authority'. The Council therefore has responsibility for increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions in all housing within West Dunbartonshire.
- 2.2** West Dunbartonshire Council's Fourth HECA Progress Report 2003 - 2005 proposed a revised target to reduce domestic energy usage by 20 per cent by 2012 from a 1997 baseline figure of 4,109,122 Gigajoules.
- 2.3** The HECA requires West Dunbartonshire Council to submit an updated progress report to the Scottish Government for every two year period. These progress reports follow a prescribed structure and the figures submitted within the report are generated using a structured spreadsheet provided by the Scottish Government.
- 2.4** Guidance for the preparation of the Fifth HECA Progress Report was issued by Communities Scotland in June 2007 and training in the use of the Scottish Government spreadsheet was given in October 2007.

#### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** The Fifth HECA Progress Report covers the period 2005 - 2007 and only activities taking place during this period are included.
- 3.2** During the period 2005 - 2007 energy use in West Dunbartonshire Council fell by 3.24%, with carbon dioxide emissions falling by 1.69% in the same period.
- 3.3** Between 1997 and 2007 energy use and carbon dioxide emissions have fallen by 14.43% and 14.04% respectively. This represents a saving of £113.82 per year on the average household fuel bill in this time and has made a significant contribution to reducing fuel poverty.

**3.4** Progress continues to be made in improving heating and insulation to West Dunbartonshire Council properties. In common with many UK Local Authorities continued difficulties were experienced during the 2005 -2007 period in improving energy efficiency in the private sector, however the impact of the Council's Energy Advice initiatives in conjunction with our partner 'energy organisations' has resulted in an acceleration in the reduction of energy use compared with previous reporting periods.

**3.5** The overall target remains set at reducing energy usage by 20% by 2012.

#### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** The HECA Officer post is currently vacant and consideration is being given to the integration of the post within the department's Energy Management Team.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** HRA Capital projects related to energy conservation have been approved by the Council for 2008/2009.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** No risks were identified during the preparation of this report.

#### **7. Conclusion**

**7.1** Continuous progress is being made in increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions across all housing within West Dunbartonshire.

#### **8. Recommendation**

**8.1** The Committee is invited to:-

- (a) Note the success in reducing energy use and carbon dioxide emissions, thus reducing household fuel bills.**
- (b) Approve the Fifth HECA (Home Energy Conservation Act) Progress Report for publication and formal submission to the Scottish Government.**

**Elaine Melrose**

**Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development**

**Date: 14 April 2008**

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**Appendix:** Fifth HECA Progress Report 2005 - 2007

**Background Papers:** Report to HEED Committee on 9 January 2008  
"Energy Efficiency Review Update"

Report to Social Justice Committee on 14 June 2006  
"Fourth HECA Progress Report"

**Wards Affected:** All