Greener Homes, Healthier Homes: An Action Plan for Affordable Warmth 2011-16
The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership

Wakefield Council and its partners are committed to tackling fuel poverty and reducing domestic carbon emissions across the district.

The successful implementation of this Action Plan is dependent on all partners working together to tackle the issues of fuel poverty and domestic carbon emissions; ensuring that everyone has a warm, energy efficient home to live in.

Representatives from key organisations involved in this work have agreed to sign up to our common vision.

These organisations are committed to working together to improve services, achieve the objectives in this Action Plan, and provide a coordinated and effective multi-agency approach to tackling fuel poverty and reducing domestic carbon emissions.
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The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership

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Foreword

We all want a warm home that we can afford to heat but, for many households in the district this is difficult to achieve. The reasons for this can include poor insulation, inefficient heating, low incomes and off course rising fuel prices.

Wakefield Council and its partners have made great strides towards tackling fuel poverty in recent years. This activity has been at the forefront of best practice that others have followed. The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010 was a key development which helped to stimulate new activity and develop closer partnership working. However against this backdrop of positive work, fuel poverty has increased, therefore it is important that we continue working together.

This Action Plan aims to continue to address these issues. We need to continue the good work that has already started, whilst delivering affordable warmth services in a more consistent manner that is effective for residents of Wakefield.

I hope you will agree with the priorities for Wakefield that we and our partners have identified and that you will join us to achieve these aims.

Denise Jeffery
Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Growth Regional Affordable Warmth Champion

We are already feeling the impacts of climate change through more frequent occurrences of extreme weather conditions. Reducing our CO₂ emissions is one of the greatest challenges we face today and reducing domestic carbon emissions has a key role to play.

In the district's Climate Change Action Plan we will commit to reducing CO₂ emissions associated with energy use in our homes. We will do this by improving energy efficiency standards, providing effective information and encouraging the use of renewable energy. In addition, we will work to ensure that new housing meets higher standards of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Domestic carbon saving and fuel poverty can be addressed through a common agenda and this Action Plan aims to deliver this joined-up work and improve housing conditions for our residents.

We look forward to working closely with all partners to support the delivery of this Action Plan.

Clr Clive Hudson
Member with the Responsibility for Carbon Reduction
A Shared Vision

This Action Plan has been developed by the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership and will directly feed into the Wakefield Housing Plan and the Wakefield Climate Change Action Plan.

This multi-partnership Action Plan outlines the key activity that we have identified will help to reduce fuel poverty and improve home energy efficiency over the next five years. Activity is presented in an annual Delivery Plan to run March-April, which will be reviewed and developed by the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership every year.

Our Shared Vision to achieve 'Greener Homes, Healthier Homes' is:

“To work in partnership to ensure everyone in the Wakefield district can afford to live in a warm, safe home. Homes will be energy efficient; have reduced carbon emissions achieved through greater awareness and understanding, which leads to improved health and quality of life.”

In order to deliver this vision our three core work themes are:

1. **Strategic and Partnerships - working together to tackle and promote domestic carbon saving and affordable warmth**
   
   Our aim is for all agencies to play a part in raising the profile and identifying the links of fuel poverty and domestic carbon saving to partners' policy and plans. Activity to assist households should be mainstreamed in to partners' service delivery and embedded in to strategies. We must aim to take full advantage of developing skills as part of the new green economy.

2. **Vulnerable Household Support - helping people to achieve affordable warmth and remove them from fuel poverty**
   
   To reduce fuel poverty and achieve healthier homes we must continue to deliver cross-tenure activity that targets resources at the vulnerable through energy efficiency improvements, energy saving advice, social tariffs and income maximisation. We should ensure that the full potential of reaching these households through frontline health and other partner services is achieved, so that excess winter deaths can be reduced.

3. **Domestic Carbon Reduction - reducing CO₂ emissions from housing by reducing energy use**
   
   To reduce domestic carbon emissions we must aim to improve the energy efficiency standard of all housing, regardless of tenure, across the district. We must maximise opportunities to secure funding and develop innovative cross-partnership energy efficiency/renewable energy schemes, whilst supporting households with effective and high quality advice. We must ensure all new housing is built to the highest environmental standards.
Three Years On

In 2007 the first Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy was published. This multi-agency document set out a three-year plan to reduce fuel poverty and improve home energy efficiency. It represented a step-change for this type of work in the Wakefield district; however with gas and electricity prices rising by 125% (since 2004), the result is even more households are struggling to achieve affordable warmth 1. Against this worsening of fuel poverty, the 2007 Strategy has made great strides with key activity, but there is much more we can do.

Through the work of the 2007 Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy thousands of households now have improved insulation and/or heating (over 14,000 measures installed between 2007-10), and domestic carbon emissions have been reduced. It is estimated that the Strategy has helped to remove over 3,700 households 2 from fuel poverty since 2007; providing people with healthier, warmer homes. However, against this backdrop of good work though fuel property has increased 3. This makes it all the more important that the activity continues and new initiatives are developed to counter and reverse the effect of fuel price rises.

The changing political landscape means there is now more focus on carbon reduction both at a national and local level. Work to tackle fuel poverty has always had a direct link to reducing CO₂ emissions through home energy efficiency improvements; however since 2007 the focus has become more cross-cutting towards the wider carbon reduction agenda. The direction of this Action Plan still aims to reduce cold, damp homes and improve health by helping vulnerable households to achieve affordable warmth, but it now has a stronger focus on domestic carbon reduction issues through energy efficiency and renewable energy activity.

This Action Plan will continue the good work delivered through the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010. The emphasis however in this Action Plan will be on the key headline activity for the short-medium term (less than 12 months). This will allow more focus on important local issues and enable activity to adapt to changing factors such as funding and influencing policy.

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1 8th Annual Report 2009 (FPAG 2010)
2 EAC estimate (2010)
3 Other households have fallen in to fuel poverty due to external factors, which have increased the overall total.
### Introduction

#### Home Energy Efficiency and Domestic Carbon Savings

The domestic sector has a key role to play in reducing carbon as it accounts for 27% of UK CO₂ emissions. By improving the energy efficiency standard of a home, it is possible to reduce the carbon emissions required to generate the energy used. This can often be achieved through relatively simple and straight forward measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation, and efficient central heating.

Coupled with these ‘traditional’ measures there is also the potential to achieve substantial carbon savings by encouraging households to use more sustainable and renewable forms of energy such as solar and ground source heat. This ‘microgeneration’ technology is becoming more viable to the householder through initiatives such as the Feed-in-Tariff, which help to remove the upfront cost required and can provide an income from the energy generated.

#### Fuel Poverty and Healthy Housing

There are estimated to be 4.6 million households in fuel poverty in England in 2010.

A fuel poor household is one that cannot afford to keep warm at a reasonable cost. The most widely accepted definition of fuel poverty is where the household needs to spend more than 10% of income on fuel to maintain a satisfactory heating regime (recognised as 21°C for main living areas and 18°C for other occupied rooms). Importantly the definition focuses on what the household needs to spend rather than what they actually spend on heating. This is because fuel poor households have to balance the need for fuel and other essentials, so often cannot afford to heat their homes properly.

Several factors contribute to fuel poverty including: low income, rising fuel prices, inadequate insulation, under occupancy, inefficient heating and location (rural/urban).

Vulnerable groups on low incomes, especially older people, are typically most affected by fuel poverty; in some cases faced with a choice that would be unimaginable to most, whether to ‘heat or eat’. Research has shown there to be a greater prevalence of fuel poverty amongst people aged over 60 in the Wakefield district.

The consequences of fuel poverty can be severe; fuel poor households are unhealthy households. People in fuel poverty are more susceptible to respiratory illness such as bronchitis and asthma, and are more at risk of strokes and heart attacks. The associated effects of fuel poverty can also lead to stress, depression and social exclusion.

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2. 8th Annual Report 2009 (FPAG 2010)
3. Recommended by the World health Organisation
4. Fuel Poverty in Wakefield (WMDC 2007)
**Excess Winter Deaths**

The scale of problem is massive. There were an estimated 36,700 excess winter deaths in England and Wales in 2008/09 which was an increase of 49% on 2007/08. This is the highest level of excess winter deaths since 1999/2000 and the majority of these deaths occurred among those aged 75 and over. This level of excess winter deaths is far more than those in colder countries such as Russia and Sweden.

Excess winter deaths contribute to 1 in 20 of all deaths per year. Cold weather increases hospital admissions; after a ‘cold snap’, there is a two-day lag before there is an increase in deaths from heart disease, a five-day lag for deaths from stroke and a 12 day lag for both deaths and admissions for COPD. For each excess winter death, there is an estimated eight emergency admissions each winter and over 100 households living in fuel poverty.

It is estimated that fuel poverty costs the NHS around £1 billion each year in medical costs. The actual costs may be a lot higher if other factors are considered, including educational underperformance of children in fuel poverty and social service costs incurred outside NHS budgets. Greater investment in tackling fuel poverty would therefore reduce costs to the NHS - for every £1 spent on keeping fuel poor homes warm reduces the cost to the NHS by 42p.

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* ONS 2009
* NEA 2008
* South East Regional Public Health Group (DoH 2009)
* NEA 2008
* 8th Annual Report 2009 (FPAG 2010)
National Policy Context and Drivers

UK Fuel Poverty Strategy

In 2001 the Government published its UK Fuel Poverty Strategy: its primary aim was to tackle the growing numbers of households that could not afford to heat their homes to an acceptable level. This placed a statutory duty on the Government to ensure the eradication of fuel poverty in vulnerable households by 2010 and in all other households by 2016.

There was good initial progress due to falling fuel prices, rising incomes and better home energy efficiency; however significant fuel price rises since 2004 have seen a worsening of fuel poverty. The Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform (BERR) estimates that a 1% real change in both gas and electricity prices would imply an increase of 40,000 households in fuel poverty and Consumer Focus (previously EnergyWatch) estimate that average fuel prices rose by 38% in 2008 alone.

Latest figures show that there are 4.6 million households in fuel poverty in England in 2010 compared to 1.2 million in 2004. This is largely due to gas and electricity bills increasing by 125% in this period. Those using heating oil or liquid propane gas have experienced even bigger increases. In terms of ‘vulnerable households’ it is estimated that there were 2.7m in fuel poverty in 2008 in England, against a total of 3.3m fuel poor households at that time.

Indications are that the long term trend for energy prices is upwards. Ofgem predicts that a typical dual-fuel energy bill could increase from around £1200 p.a. (in 2009) to between £1300 and £1800 (at 2009 prices) by 2020. This is partly due to £150 billion of potential power infrastructure replacement work plus the cost of achieving the Government's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020 (based on 1990 levels).

To help deliver UK Fuel Poverty Strategy objectives the Warm Front grant scheme was set up in 2001. As part of this scheme qualifying households are able to access grant assistance for a package of insulation and heating improvements. Between 2007-10 Warm Front installed over 10,000 home energy efficiency measures into households in the Wakefield district. In addition, the Winter Fuel Allowance was introduced by the Government to provide a yearly tax free payment (up to £400 in 2010) to help people aged 60 or over pay for their heating in the winter.

Energy Bill

Published in December 2010, the Energy Bill aims to improve the energy efficiency of Britain's buildings whilst stimulating growth in the green economy. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) estimates that the number of people employed in the insulation industry alone could soar from current levels of 27,000 to 100,000 by 2015 and up to 250,000 in the next decade.

A key element of the Energy Bill is the Green Deal initiative, which represents a significant step change in home energy efficiency and domestic carbon reduction. Green Deal will remove the burden on households of having to find the upfront cost of home energy efficiency work, by providing a loan that is repaid by the householder through fuel bill savings. At the heart of the Green Deal is the ‘golden rule’ - that the loan repayments made by households will not exceed the savings they have achieved on fuel bills. The Green Deal will also be available to house builders and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to make zero carbon developments more viable.

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10 South East Regional Public Health Group (DoH 2009)
10 8th Annual Report 2009 (FPAG 2010)
10 DECC Annual Report on Fuel Poverty Statistics 2010
108th Annual Report 2009 (FPAG 2010)
11 Directgov (2010)
11 Northern Housing Consortium 2010
11 LGC 2010
Scheduled for launch Autumn 2012, the Green Deal loan to householders will be provided by private investor partners as well as the Green Investment Bank, which the Government intends to set up and prime with £1 billion funding20.

**Climate Change Act 2008**

In terms of wider carbon saving The Climate Change Act 2008 created a new approach to managing and responding to the challenge of climate change in the UK. It set greenhouse gas emission targets in legislation and set up a system of five year carbon budgets. These budgets require a 22% reduction in emissions below 1990 levels in 2008-2012, a 28% reduction in 2013-2017 and a 34% reduction in 2018-202221.

**UK Low Carbon Transition Plan**

In July 2009, the Government published The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. The Plan set out how, in order to deliver the necessary level of emission reduction, Government departments would be given a share of the UK carbon budget which they would have responsibility for. It set out an aim of cutting carbon emissions from fossil fuels in homes by 29% by 2020 based on 2008 levels22.

In the light of these carbon saving policies the added challenge is that they will in fact lead to increased domestic fuel bills. Ofgem's estimate of the average annual domestic gas and electricity bill as of May 2010 is estimated at £620 and £500, respectively. It is estimated that domestic retail gas and electric prices will be 18% and 33% higher respectively in 2020 due to energy and climate change policies, compared to prices in 2020 without policies23.

**Warm Homes, Greener Homes:**

The Warm Homes, Greener Homes: A Strategy for Household Energy Management sets out how the Government proposes to help people make their homes warmer, reduce energy use and save money, and make greater use of renewable and low carbon sources of energy. The Strategy aims to tap in to the wider benefits from reducing carbon emissions of improved energy security and job creation. Its key objectives are that every household (where practicable) will have installed loft and cavity wall insulation by 2015 and smart meters by 2020; 7 million households will have renewable or 'hard-to-treat' measures by 202024.

**Carbon Emissions Reduction Target**

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) requires all major domestic energy suppliers to make savings in the amount of CO₂ emitted by householders. Suppliers meet this target by promoting the uptake of low carbon energy solutions to household energy consumers. The primary aim of CERT is to make a contribution to the UK’s legally binding target under the Kyoto Protocol and the Climate Change Act 2008 requirement (to cut emissions of greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050). However, CERT also helps to reduce household energy bills and reduce fuel poverty.

The recently approved CERT obligation (extended from March 2011 until December 2012) requires energy suppliers to achieve an ambitious 293MtCO₂ reduction (an increase of 108MtCO₂)25. This extension places more emphasis on insulation measures with 68% of energy suppliers’ work to be met through professionally installed loft, cavity and solid wall insulation. With DIY insulation added, more than 80% of the scheme will be focussed on insulation where previously just 60% was met through professional and DIY work.
This extension will assist a further 3.5 million households.

The CERT extension includes a new ‘Super Priority Group’ that includes people aged over 70 or on qualifying benefits (considered to be at high risk of fuel poverty) who will be targeted with additional assistance. Obligated suppliers will have to meet 15% of their total target within an ongoing 40% ‘Priority Group’ target through this new ‘Super Priority Group’. Early indications are that post-2012 CERT work (Energy Company Obligation) will be targeted more towards low income households and hard-to-treat properties.

Community Energy Saving Programme

The Government’s Home Energy Saving Programme announced in 2008 included the creation of a new £350m Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). This Programme targets areas that have high levels of low income households across Great Britain. Funded by energy suppliers and electricity generators, CESP promotes a ‘whole house’ approach of home energy efficiency measures delivered through the development of community-based partnerships involving Local Authorities via a house-by-house, street-by-street approach.

Energy Company Obligation

Introduced in the Energy Bill, the new ‘Energy Company Obligation’ (ECO) will replace CERT and CESP. Scheduled to start after December 2012, this new obligation will continue to require energy suppliers to invest in domestic energy efficiency measures in order to save carbon emissions. The Government has confirmed that the new ECO would be used to subsidise those in fuel poverty applying for Green Deal, who may not achieve enough savings on their energy bills for the ‘golden rule’ to apply.

Feed-In Tariff (FiT) / Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The FiT and RHI were confirmed by the Coalition Government as important elements of their new and emerging energy infrastructure policy in the Comprehensive Spending Review October 2010. Launched in April 2010, the FiT is helping to stimulate the installation of microgeneration technology at little or no upfront cost, whilst generating an income for the householder or business from the energy produced. Scheduled for launch in June 2011, the RHI will work in a similar way to the FiT model but instead will assist the installation of renewable heat technology such as ground-source heat pumps.

Code for Sustainable Homes

The Code for Sustainable Homes is a set of standards for new build housing. It is designed to encourage new homes to be built that are more energy and water efficient, produce fewer carbon emissions and are better for the environment. The Code uses a 1 to 6 (6 being zero carbon) scoring system to rate the homes overall sustainability performance. In 2006 the Government announced a 10-year timetable towards the target that all new homes from 2016 must be built to zero carbon standards. Working towards 2016, homes must be built to Code 3 by 2010 and Code 4 by 2013.

Building Regulations

Revised Part L1A of the Building Regulations came into force in October 2010. These set requirements for new housing that will lead to improved energy efficiency and domestic carbon saving. Part L1A 2010 aims to reduce CO₂ emissions by 25% compared to 2006 regulations. This roughly corresponds to a home built to Code 3, in-line with the Government’s aim for all new build dwellings to be zero carbon by 2016.
Local Policy Context and Drivers

Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010

Launched in March 2007, the district’s first Affordable Warmth Strategy has provided a valuable framework to develop and deliver fuel poverty and home energy efficiency activity. This Strategy helped to bring key partners together to encourage joint-working and shared commitment.

The Strategy has not achieved a reduction in fuel poverty in-line with the core Strategy aim due to the dramatic rises in household fuel prices. For the Strategy period 2007-2010 it is estimated fuel poverty has increased from 18.2% (all tenure) to 26.2% (private sector) 34.

However, it should not be seen as a failed Strategy for against this negative backdrop of rising fuel poverty the Strategy has delivered real action, ground-breaking partnership working and 1,000’s of home energy efficiency measures that would have otherwise not been achieved. Figures show between 2007-10 over 3800 energy efficiency measures were installed through Wakefield Council schemes alone and over 10,000 through the Government Warm Front scheme 35. It is estimated that the Strategy has helped to deliver activity that has remove over 3,700 households 36 from fuel poverty since 2007.

National Indicators

Wakefield has two National Indicators that help to drive domestic carbon saving - National Indicator 186 (Per Capita Reduction in CO₂ emissions) and 187 (Tackling Fuel Poverty). The Audit Commission announced in January 2011 that National Indicator 187 and the obligation on Local Authorities to report on fuel poverty had been ‘deleted’ 37.

National Indicator 186 relies on centrally produced statistics to measure end user CO₂ emissions in the Wakefield district. The percentage reduction in CO₂ per capita in each local authority area is reported annually (each autumn with a 21 month time-lag) and the statistics for 2005 are used as the baseline. In 2008 Wakefield recorded 6.8 tonnes CO₂ per capita, a reduction of 5.6% on 2005 38.

Each year Wakefield Council has conducted a survey of those households in receipt of income related benefits to determine the SAP rating of their home. National Indicator 187 monitors fuel poverty progress using two proxy indicators; the percentage of households with a SAP rating below 35 and above 65. For 08/09 the results were 3% and 38%, and for 09/10 they were 2% and 55% respectively 39.

Wakefield Housing Plan

The emerging Wakefield Housing Plan will set out the priorities and evidence for housing regeneration and improvement across the district. Scheduled for launch in 2011 the Plan is closely aligned to the Local Investment Plan (LIP) and will inform housing policy for years to come. A key priority in the Plan is the need to deliver domestic carbon saving activity and tackle fuel poverty in all tenures.

Wakefield Climate Change Action Plan

This emerging and soon to be launched document sets out a vision of how key organisations will work in partnership to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change across the Wakefield district. This Plan has been developed as part of the district’s commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, signed by Wakefield Council in 2009 on behalf of ‘Wakefield Together’ (Wakefield District Partnership). The work of the Greener Homes, Healthier Homes: An Action Plan for Affordable Warmth 2011/16 directly contributes towards the wider objectives of the Climate Change Action Plan.

Wakefield and District Housing Climate Change Strategy

The Wakefield and District Housing (WDH) Climate Change Strategy sets out the commitment that WDH has made to tackling climate change and becoming a carbon neutral organisation by

34 Fuel Poverty in the Wakefield District Update Report (WMDC 2010)
35 WMDC (2010)
36 EAC estimate (2010)
37 National Energy Services (2011)
38 2008 Local Authority Carbon Dioxide figures (DECC 2010)
2016. The Strategy lays out the climate change challenges and outlines how WDH proposes to tackle the issues.

Leeds City Region Housing and Regeneration Strategy

The Leeds City Region (LCR) is the ‘real’ economy partnership of 11 local authorities across North, South and West Yorkshire. A core objective within the LCR Housing and Regeneration Strategy is to achieve ‘strategic integration between housing, regeneration and the economy’. As part of this objective there is the emerging work to develop a sub-regional approach to domestic carbon reduction - the Domestic Energy Efficiency Project (DEEP). This cross-boundary initiative scheduled to begin in late 2011 will take advantage of joint delivery and procurement, as well as shared knowledge and innovation between Local Authorities.

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Set out by the Coalition Government, the LEP is a new delivery model to help drive economic development and leadership on a local level. Regional Development Agencies will surrender their powers to joint Local Authority-business bodies that group together as a LEP. The establishment of LEPs will take place between September 2010 and September 2011.

The LCR proposes to develop a LEP for this sub-region and the development of the ‘low carbon economy’ is a fundamental component of this bid. The LEP proposal includes the delivery of the Local Carbon Framework model, the Green Infrastructure Strategy and support for the Green Deal through a joined-up approach to domestic home energy efficiency improvements.

Wakefield Planning Policy

Wakefield Council aims to encourage increased renewable energy and sustainable housing within its Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy, Development Policies and Central Wakefield Area Action Plan documents aim to increase renewable energy capacity within the district and promote the use of Code for Sustainable Homes on new developments by home builders.

National Affordable Housing Programme

The National Affordable Housing Programme helps to drive the building of new housing that exceed minimum Building Regulation and Code for Sustainable Homes standards. Recent RSL housing developments such as ‘Ghost’ at Outwood (Yorkshire Housing Association) and Parkdale at Airedale (WDH) have been built to Code level 4 and 6 (zero carbon) respectively. Where existing housing stock are acquired by RSLs they are also improved to their energy efficiency and sustainability standards.

Wakefield Financial Inclusion Strategy

This emerging area of work being lead by the newly formed Financial Inclusion Partnership, aims to develop a cross-agency Wakefield Financial Inclusion Strategy to ensure that residents have access to appropriate financial services and products. Benefit uptake and income maximisation work designed to reduce fuel poverty will have a key role to play in this Strategy.

Wakefield Positively Ageing Strategy

Developed by Wakefield Together and key stakeholders, the Wakefield Positively Ageing Strategy aims to improve well-being in later life for Wakefield residents. One of its key objectives is to reduce the number of older people experiencing poverty through targeted interventions and improved awareness. Included in the Strategy are actions to increase the uptake of home energy efficiency measures amongst elderly households.

NHS Wakefield District Sustainability Strategy

Developed and led by the Wakefield District Primary Care Trust's (PCT) Sustainability Committee, this Strategy seeks to coordinate and implement an integrated environmental approach to PCT initiatives and activity. It encompasses both PCT estates/facilities related environmental impacts such as energy efficiency, as well as other PCT function impacts such as staff green travel and wider public health issues. This Strategy includes actions that directly contribute towards the affordable warmth agenda.
Local Evidence Base

Population

Latest figures show the Wakefield district has a population of 322,800, although slightly lower than previous projections, this is still an increase of 2.2% on 2001. This however is a smaller percentage increase than all other local authorities in the Leeds City Region and smaller than the regional change. The 2008 projections indicate that by 2033 the district’s population will have increased by 48,600, up 15.1% to 371,400.

Housing Stock

The Wakefield district has a total of 145,911 dwellings (2010). 35,935 are social rented properties, and of these, 30,974 are owned by Wakefield and District Housing (as of October 2010) and 109,976 are in private ownership.

Wakefield district has a higher proportion of social housing at 23.8%, than the national (17.8%) and regional (18.6%) averages. Of the private stock, 10.2% is rented privately, 83.5% is owner occupied and the tenure of 6.3% is unknown.

With regards to the condition of private stock in the Wakefield district, this is much better than the national average. 19% of private stock is non-decent compared to 37.5% for England. Non-decency is higher in Wakefield in the private rented sector (37%), in pre-1919 properties (42%) and in properties constructed between 1919 and 1944 (30%).

To meet the energy efficiency requirements of the Decent Homes Standard homes must offer efficient, controllable heating and effective insulation. 8.8% are estimated to fail these requirements in the Wakefield district. Highest rates of failure are associated with private rented accommodation (14.2%), flats (26.3%) and dwellings constructed pre 1919 (17.4%).

Household Statistics

Projections reflect the ageing of Wakefield’s population over time. In 2008, 16% of the district’s population was estimated to be aged 65 and over, but by 2018 this is set to be 19.4%. Furthermore, by 2033 it is projected that over 24.3% of the population (90,300 residents) will be aged 65 and over.

Notes:

- Sub national population projections 2008
- WMDC 2010
- WDH 2010
- Nation Register of Social Housing 2010
- Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (WMDC 2008)
- Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (WMDC 2008)
- Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (WMDC 2008)
- Sub national population projections 2010
The most common (private sector) household type in the Wakefield district is elderly, (including elderly with family) at over 32%, this is nearly one in three of all households in the private sector. It is estimated that 31.9% of all private households in the district are vulnerable and nearly 30% of these vulnerable households live in non-decent homes. This compares to nearly 16% of non-vulnerable households living in homes which are not decent 59.

These figures are of more concern when looking at tenure, house type and age of property. In the private rented sector 47% of vulnerable households live in non-decent homes. 56% of vulnerable people live in flats that are not-decent, and 52% of vulnerable people live in non-decent pre-1919 housing.

**Home Energy Efficiency and CO₂**

The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating (on the scale of 1-100) for private housing is 58, which is above the national average for England (47). The average SAP rating of Wakefield and District Housing (WDH) properties is 63.

The recent Government publication *Warm Homes, Greener Homes: A Strategy for Household Energy Management* suggests that for social housing an average of SAP 70 should be achieved by 2020. Local analysis however indicates that SAP 75 should be the target as this would provide affordable warmth for someone aged over 60, living on their own and in receipt of Pension Credit (annual income of £7,164) 50.

A SAP rating of 35 can be used as a proxy indicator for a property failing the Healthy Housing Safety Rating System (HHSRS) due to a Category 1 ‘cold hazard’. There are 3603 private households with a SAP rating below 35 51.

Average CO₂ emissions for private sector housing are estimated at 5.82 tonnes per dwelling, resulting in 645,001 tonnes in total for the Wakefield district 52.

There is still much potential for installing ‘traditional’ measures in to households across the Wakefield district illustrated with the following ‘insulation potential’ figures:

- Over 58% of private households are in need of top-up loft insulation
- Only 35% of private households with cavity walls have them insulated
- 22% of private households are in need of central heating 53

Over 20% of private households in the Wakefield district are of solid wall construction and over 5000 do not use gas as their main heating fuel 54. Around 10% of WDH properties are non-traditional construction such as ‘Wimpey No-fines’ and concrete build. This high level of ‘hard-to-treat’ properties in the district presents huge challenges to make them energy efficient.

**Fuel Poverty**

In the Wakefield district in 2007 it was estimated that 18.2% of households (all tenures) were in fuel poverty. Recent research suggests that in 2009 this had risen to 26.2% 55 (private sector only).

This rise is primarily due to the increase in fuel price rises. It is estimated that although fuel poverty on the whole has increased, around 3,700 households have been brought out of fuel poverty as a result of the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010 56.

Although benefit recipients are much more likely to be in fuel poverty, the bulk of fuel poverty (76% in 2009) occurs in households that are not claiming Council Tax Benefit, suggesting that there is scope for many households that fall into this category to access unclaimed benefits 37.
Fuel poor private households are more likely to be in an older property, and less likely to have wall insulation. The percentage of fuel poor households with a SAP rating of 60 or more, meaning more likely fuel bills will be affordable, is 28.6%. This suggests that income is a major factor resulting in fuel poverty, as rising fuel prices mean that many households living in relatively energy efficient homes will still experience fuel poverty if their income is low.

Research performed in 2007 showed that high levels of fuel poverty were dispersed across the Wakefield district and the 2009 research illustrates that this is still the case. The map opposite illustrates the location of the 15 worst fuel poor Census Output Areas in 2009.

In February 2010 Yorkshire Forward commissioned a spatial analysis of fuel poverty across the Leeds City Region to inform future work. This analysis produced a map (page 16) illustrating Super Output Area concentrations of fuel poverty across the Wakefield district.

**Excess Winter Deaths**

The Wakefield district has a high level of excess winter deaths. There were 160 excess winter deaths in Wakefield in 2007/08 which is an increase on the previous year (130) and the highest since 2004/05.
The excess winter mortality percentage\(^{61}\) for 2007/08 was 15% which puts Wakefield 12th out of 21 Yorkshire and Humber local authority areas\(^{62}\). In 2004, Wakefield did have the highest excess winter mortality percentage in the region at an average of 26%; therefore this does represent a relative improvement compared to other areas\(^{63}\). Whilst it is not possible to attribute these directly to cold weather only, it is widely recognised that fuel poverty is a likely factor.

\(^{61}\) The ‘excess winter mortality index’ is calculated as excess winter deaths divided by the average non-winter deaths, expressed as a percentage

\(^{62}\) Winter Mortality (ONS 2009)

\(^{63}\) YPHO 2007
Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010

Key Progress Since 2007

The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010 represented a step-change for home energy efficiency and fuel poverty work across the Wakefield district. The Strategy helped to enhance existing work and develop new innovative activity. At its core this work has been grounded in close partnership working between frontline services and key stakeholders.

Council Energy Champion

Developed in partnership with National Energy Action, Wakefield Council launched the Energy Champion Project in 2008. Councillor Ron Halliday became the Council’s first Energy Champion in 2008 and in June 2010 Councillor Clive Hudson took up the role. This project has helped to raise the political and public profile of domestic carbon saving/fuel poverty across the district through promotions, Councillor training and presentations to the Council’s Liveability Scrutiny Committee.

Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2006-2009

The LAA fuel poverty target was successfully reached with over 6000 households installing energy efficiency measures over three years. The LAA helped to ramp-up energy efficiency grant uptake amongst vulnerable households through face-to-face advice, community awareness and proactive marketing.

Schools Energy Awareness Raising

Working with the Centre for Research, Education And Training in Energy (CREATE) and Groundwork Wakefield, the Council’s Home Energy Team have delivered an ongoing programme of energy awareness to 17 schools since 2007. This work will continue in 2011 and include the development of accredited renewable energy training.

Hotspots Referral Scheme

The Strategy has driven forward the roll-out of the Wakefield developed Hotspots referral scheme, helping it to become the key fuel poverty referral tool for frontline workers across the Council Family Services. There have been over 5000 referrals through Hotspots in Wakefield since 2006 and of these over 1000 have been generated by Family Services (up to December 2010). The Hotspots Scheme is now recognised as best practice and has won two National Energy Action Awards. The Hotspots model has been adopted and developed by several other Local Authorities nationally.

HealthPACT

HealthPACT stands for ‘Health Partnership Action on Climate and Temperature’. This project is a partnership initiative between the PCT, Wakefield Council and The Mid-Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. HealthPACT provides an alert to people suffering from COPD of any local changes in temperature (including excessive cold) or air quality that may make breathing worse. Included is advice to householders on how to stay warm and heat their homes to be healthy.

PCT Energy Champions

This groundbreaking project trains Community Development and Health & Wellbeing Workers as PCT Energy Champions. These Champions are able to deliver community based energy advice and Hotspots referrals for vulnerable households. The training has been rolled out to include Community Energy Champions and embed this service into the local community.
Wakefield Energy Savers

Developed and launched in 2006, Energy Savers has been an essential and effective tool for Wakefield Council to deliver home energy efficiency improvements. Energy Savers has delivered district-wide insulation grants as well as targeted heating assistance designed to link-in with wider regeneration work. Up to February 2011 over 1000 households have benefitted from over 1900 measures through this scheme and over £190,000 in additional in outside funding has been secured from utility companies to provide extra energy efficiency measures.

Wakefield Low Carbon Communities (WLCC)  

Based on the ‘Warm Zone’ model of an ‘area based initiative’, WLCC has delivered effective home insulation, income maximisation and other well-being assistance on a house-by-house, street-by-street basis. The WLCC targeted Wakefield East and Hemsworth wards in 2009/10 and during this phase over 1000 free insulation measures were installed, saving 727 tonnes CO₂. Households also benefited from a £59 average household fuel bill saving and over £220,000 per year in unclaimed benefits. The WLCC has targeted Wakefield West, Knottingley and South Elmsall and South Kirkby wards in 2010/11 and will roll out to further wards in 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Gas Connection Schemes

Identified by Wakefield Council’s Home Energy Team as priorities for gas infrastructure extension work, New Sharlston and Fryston, were successfully connected in 2009. These two projects, delivered in partnership with Community Energy Solutions and Northern Gas Networks, set best practice for gas connection work as all 223 households received a completely free connection. To compliment this work the Home Energy Team also provided 33 heating grants to the most vulnerable households enabling them to take full advantage of the their new energy efficient gas supply.

Awareness Raising

The Council’s Home Energy Team has delivered an on-going programme of awareness events to members of the public and community groups. These events have helped to raise awareness of fuel poverty and home energy efficiency. A total of 18 talks were given to community groups in 2009/10 alone. These groups included the Salvation Army, Probus Club, schools and health groups.

A mobile energy advice unit has toured the district delivering face-to-face advice surgeries at busy locations such as markets, shopping centres and libraries. These locations were selected for their heavy ‘footfall’, therefore maximising the opportunity to meet the public.

To compliment events and surgeries a range of promotions including radio interviews, press articles and mail drops have also been used to raise awareness. Quality energy advice information is essential and bespoke leaflets on energy grants and schemes have been produced. This literature has been distributed to public buildings, libraries and various community outlets, as well as being made available in electronic format on Wakefield Council’s internet site.
Action Plan Development

The Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership (WAWP) has had on-going responsibility to monitor and review progress of the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2010. In late December 2009 WAWP began the process of reviewing the current Strategy with the aim of creating a new action plan to start April 2011.

An essential part of the development process has been to collect ideas and opinion from WAWP members and other stakeholders on the priorities going forward and how we can all work together to achieve these objectives.

As part of this review process, WAWP held two interactive workshop sessions. These sessions helped to shape and provide the foundation for this Action Plan. They highlighted what activity has worked well, what needs to continue, what is complete and what needs more time to deliver.

In December 2009 the Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy Workshop was held at Woolley Hall. This multi-agency event consulted with key stakeholders, partners and local politicians to collect their views and ideas of how to deliver domestic carbon and fuel poverty reduction post-2010. This workshop proved to be very successful with 33 attendees from a cross section of organisations.

A key aim for the new Action Plan was for it to be more inclusive than the 2007-2010 Strategy and involve more partners taking the lead in its delivery. To help achieve this, in the summer of 2010, Wakefield Council’s Home Energy Team and National Energy Action visited key delivery partners who would have a key role to play in the new Action Plan.

The resulting partner feedback along with workshop outputs have been used to formulate this Greener Homes, Healthier Homes: An Action Plan for Affordable Warmth 2011/16 - a robust and innovative strategy to take domestic carbon reduction and fuel poverty work forward over the next five years towards 2016.

Action Plan Structure and Delivery

Unlike the previous Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy this Action Plan is effectively an annual Delivery Plan. The commentary that sits to the front of this Action Plan will not radically change every year, however it will be reviewed each year to update and refresh in-line with current policy and progress.

The annual Delivery Plan of tasks that sits at the back of this Action Plan will run from the beginning of April to the end of March. This will be reviewed and formulated every year by the WAWP providing flexibility to alter activity according to changing circumstances and opportunities. WAWP will monitor delivery on a bi-monthly basis using the Delivery Plan Monitoring Document as well as producing an Annual Progress Report.

The Delivery Plan structure is based around the three core work themes:

1. Strategic and Partnerships - working together to tackle and promote domestic carbon saving and affordable warmth
2. Vulnerable Household Support - helping people to achieve affordable warmth and remove them from fuel poverty
3. Domestic Carbon Reduction - reducing CO₂ emissions from housing by reducing energy use
**Action Plan Monitoring and Targets**

It is essential to actively monitor the delivery of the *Greener Homes, Healthier Homes: An Action Plan for Affordable Warmth 2011/16*. By monitoring impacts and outputs it will help to demonstrate the direction of travel, the benefits to Wakefield district residents and inform the process of ongoing review.

This Action Plan will be monitored against the four key indicators of:

1. Domestic carbon emissions
2. Households in fuel poverty
3. Home energy efficiency standards
4. Home energy efficiency measures

The responsibility for monitoring against these indicators will be that of the Wakefield Council Home Energy Team with yearly reporting included in the Annual Progress Report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Context</th>
<th>2016 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AWAP1</td>
<td>Domestic carbon emissions</td>
<td>Reduction of carbon emissions from fossil fuels in Wakefield district homes in-line with the Government Low Carbon Transition Plan target of 29% by 2020 and the Wakefield Climate Change Action Plan.</td>
<td>15% reduction in carbon emissions (based on 2008 baseline)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAP2</td>
<td>Households in fuel poverty</td>
<td>Reduction in the percentage of fuel poor homes in the Wakefield district to contribute towards the Government UK Fuel Poverty Strategy target to eradicate fuel poverty by 2016.</td>
<td>Reduction of fuel poor households to below 2007 level of 18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAP3</td>
<td>Home energy efficiency standards</td>
<td>Improvement in the average energy efficiency standard (SAP) of private sector households in the Wakefield district to a level where the occupant is less likely to be at risk of fuel poverty.</td>
<td>Average private sector SAP rating of 65 (SAP 58 in 2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWAP4</td>
<td>Home energy efficiency measures</td>
<td>Increase the installation of home energy efficiency measures in Wakefield district households in-line with the Government Strategy for Household Energy Management for all homes (where practicable) to be loft and cavity wall insulated by 2015.</td>
<td>Annual installation of 2000 cavity wall and loft insulation measures through home energy initiatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>1) Strategic and Partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Time Scale</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Ensure domestic carbon, renewable energy and fuel poverty is represented and delivered in key WAWP Members’ policy and plans</td>
<td>1.1a WAWP Members will incorporate domestic carbon and fuel poverty related references and targets into their service policy/plans</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.1b Implement LDF Core Strategy and Development Policy relating to renewable energy and energy conservation</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.1c Encourage higher Code for Sustainable Homes standards beyond Level 3 for new housing developments on Council land</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.1d Ensure there is a clear link between this Action Plan and the Wakefield Climate Change Action Plan</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Maintain ongoing political support and awareness of affordable warmth and domestic carbon issues</td>
<td>1.2a Produce and disseminate an annual fuel poverty research report</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2b Present Action Plan progress to the Local Strategic Partnership, Area Forums and other similar high level forums</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2c Develop a programme of work with the Council’s Member with Responsibility for Carbon Reduction</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.2d Raise Councillor awareness of domestic carbon and fuel poverty issues</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Time Scale</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3a</td>
<td>Roll out Hotspots to WDH and other RSLs to encourage increased referrals</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3b</td>
<td>Maintain the high profile of the Hotspots message amongst Fire Service staff</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3c</td>
<td>Explore the setting up of data sharing agreements to assist targeting of assistance</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.3d</td>
<td>Explore the setting up of a carbon reduction/mitigation project linked to the Green Infrastructure Plan</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4a</td>
<td>Develop an initiative to deliver home energy advice / technical training to appropriate staff at Wakefield Council</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4b</td>
<td>Develop a schools energy education programme to raise child awareness of energy efficiency and renewable energy</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4c</td>
<td>Raise awareness of microgeneration technologies and their application for Council Planning Officer’s</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4d</td>
<td>Produce training courses for young people in energy efficiency and microgeneration skills</td>
<td>Dec 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.4e</td>
<td>Produce a proposal to utilise the sustainable schools agenda to deliver teacher/schools energy champions</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>2) Vulnerable Household Support</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Task</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time Scale</strong></td>
<td><strong>Outcome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.1</strong> Raise awareness of fuel poverty in the health services to ensure vulnerable households receive appropriate assistance</td>
<td>2.1a Produce outcome research showing the costs of fuel poverty on the health service</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>That a report is produced to demonstrate the impact of cold, damp homes and raise the profile of fuel poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1b Deliver a Public Health fuel poverty awareness and promotion campaign</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>That a marketing and training programme is delivered to Public Health staff to improve their knowledge of fuel poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1c Investigate links with other Public Health frontline health services and multi-disciplinary teams</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Improved awareness of fuel poverty assistance so more households can be signposted for assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.2</strong> Ensure fuel poverty and domestic carbon issues are mainstreamed in to key Public Health partner services</td>
<td>2.2a Arrange for fuel poverty to be included in to NHS Hospital winter discharge procedures</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
<td>That a fuel poverty reference is included in to winter discharge procedures to trigger vulnerable households assistance where appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.2b Establish the links of fuel poverty to key Public Health projects e.g. COPD, HealthPACT</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>That fuel poverty and affordable warmth is referenced and mainstreamed in to Public Health projects and procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.3</strong> Provide vulnerable households with the assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and increase their income in order to reduce the risk of fuel poverty</td>
<td>2.3a Deliver a health-linked home energy efficiency improvement grant scheme that installs measures beyond the Decent Homes Standard</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>That a Wakefield grant scheme is established to provide free home insulation and heating improvements to 500 households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3b Deliver a marketing campaign to promote the Warm Front grant scheme</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>That the Warm Front grant scheme is proactively promoted to assist 1400 households with main measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3c Investigate the setting up of a multi-agency energy saving handyman service</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
<td>That a household Green Doctor Service is developed to assist vulnerable households with DIY energy measures and advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.3d Deliver an initiative to help households access income maximisation and fuel debt advice</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>That vulnerable households are able to increase their income and access unclaimed benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Time Scale</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3e Research the relationship between vulnerability and a household SAP ratings</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>That research is produced regarding the links between home energy efficiency and the vulnerability of the occupant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3f Investigate potential energy advice engagement models for WDH tenants</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>That WDH tenants receive high quality energy advice that is effective and accessible</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>3) Domestic Carbon Reduction</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Objective</strong></td>
<td><strong>Task</strong></td>
<td><strong>Time Scale</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Support and encourage owner-occupied households to reduce their carbon emissions through energy efficiency improvements</td>
<td>3.1a Set up and implement a subsidised Energy Performance Certificate service</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1b Improve the accessibility of financial assistance by enabling on-line, postal and other types of applications</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1c Investigate opportunities to maximise the emerging Green Deal for private households in Wakefield</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1d Work towards the development of a promotion and delivery plan for the Green Deal in the Wakefield area</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1e Develop a new and innovative domestic carbon financial assistance model i.e. loan</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1f Deliver energy efficiency improvements through a systematic strategic Area Based Initiative approach</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Time Scale</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3.1g Setup a CESP or similar project to encourage households to install hard-to-treat measures</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1h Provide a door-to-door energy advice service plus collaboration on developing ESTac led Area Based Initiatives</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.1i Develop an initiative that links in with the LCR Domestic Energy Efficiency Project in the Wakefield district</td>
<td>Mar 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Deliver improvements to WDH, RSL and private sector landlord properties to reduce domestic carbon emissions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2a Develop an initiative to target hard-to-treat WDH properties with gas connections and other measures</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2b Implement a project to trial innovative energy efficiency improvements as part of the WDH decent homes programme</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2c Submit bids to CESP, EIB or other relevant funding to deliver area based RSL schemes</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2d Set up a promotional project to encourage landlords to make home energy efficiency improvements through the Responsible Landlords Scheme</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2e Improve all targeted social properties to achieve at least an average of SAP 70 and a minimum of SAP 59</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Encourage renewable energy and sustainable housing projects</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.3a Develop a private sector microgeneration and/or hard-to-treat exemplar project</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.3b Setup a Feed-in-Tariff or similar incentive to assist private households to install renewable energy technology</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Time Scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3c</td>
<td>Investigate the potential to utilise mine water resource as a means to provide low carbon district heating</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3d</td>
<td>Produce a plan to ensure a high uptake of domestic renewable energy through promotion and demonstration projects.</td>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3e</td>
<td>Establish an incentive scheme to overcome the capital cost barriers from installing domestic renewable energy</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3f</td>
<td>Develop renewable energy retrofit projects in WDH, Chevin and other RSL properties</td>
<td>Dec 2011, March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3g</td>
<td>Include Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) on the agenda for the Developer Forum</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3h</td>
<td>Work to monitor new housing developments through the planning system to ensure they meet the highest CSH standards</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3i</td>
<td>Investigate the development of a WDH project to utilise the Feed-in-Tariff (FIT), Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) or other finance models</td>
<td>Sept 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3j</td>
<td>Investigate how experiences from the Parkdale CSH6 development can be used to mainstream zero carbon principles</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Glossary**

**Affordable Warmth**
The ability to heat a home to a sufficient level to achieve warmth for health and comfort within 10% of household income.

**Affordable Warmth Action Plan**
A Plan that outlines a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to reducing domestic carbon emissions and fuel poverty, leading to healthier, more sustainable homes.

**Area Based Initiative (ABI)**
An initiative where energy advice and assistance is targeted at households through a systematic door-to-door approach, which is proven to be effective at achieving reductions in CO₂ and fuel poverty.

**Benefit Health Check**
An assessment that both looks at whether or not a person is eligible for state/Council benefits and provides help with applying any unclaimed assistance.

**Best Practice**
Methods and techniques that have consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means.

**Building Regulations**
Building Regulations govern the construction of new build properties. Part L covers the conservation of fuel and power and can drive the development of more energy efficient homes.

**CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide)**
Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases which cause climate change. By reducing our personal CO₂ emissions, we can all play an important part in helping to prevent climate change.

**CERT (Carbon Emission Reduction Target)**
CERT came into effect in April 2008 and obliges electricity and gas suppliers in Great Britain to help reduce CO₂ emissions from homes. To achieve this they invest in insulation, heating and microgeneration technologies.

**CESP (Community Energy Support Programme)**
CESP places an obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators to meet a CO₂ reduction target by providing energy efficiency measures (to areas with a high level of low income domestic consumers) through a ‘whole house’ approach that includes ‘hard-to-treat’ measures.

**Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH)**
Someone who has regular contact with vulnerable people, holds a position of trust in the community and is able after training to delivery energy advice, identify fuel poor households and refer them for assistance.

**COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)**
COPD is a lung disease which causes the tubes that take air into the lungs to become narrow. This disease can be exacerbated by cold and damp household conditions.

**CREATE (Centre for Research And Training in Energy)**
A not-for-profit body working with communities and organisations to reduce energy use through the development of training and support programmes for schools and businesses.

**Decent Homes Standard**
A minimum set of Government housing standards for private as well as social housing. A decent home is one that is in reasonable state of repair, has modern facilities and has an acceptable level of thermal comfort.

**Domestic Energy Efficiency Project (DEEP)**
DEEP is an emerging LCR initiative that aims to provide large scale home energy efficiency improvements and carbon reduction. The DEEP model is based around a ‘whole house’ approach of advice and measures that are installed via a ‘carbon voucher’ given to the householder.

**Developer Forum**
This is a forum of active Wakefield developers who meet to discuss development issues across the district.

**Domestic Carbon**
This is the CO₂ emissions we emit through the fossil fuels we indirectly and directly use in our homes to generate heat, power appliances and provide lighting.

**Energy Champion**
Someone who can either act as a high profile advocate for fuel poverty and home energy efficiency and raise the profile of affordable warmth, or someone that can deliver community based energy advice and assistance.
Energy efficiency
The use of as little energy as possible for heat and power. Minimising wasted energy and money through the use of measures, which reduce the amount of electricity and/or gas required to heat, and power a home.

Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)
An EPC is required by law if a home is being sold or rented. It rates the energy efficiency of a property on an 'A' to 'G' scale, with 'A' being the most energy efficient and the average rating now being 'D'.

ESTac (Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre)
An energy advice centre funded by the Energy Saving Trust based in Huddersfield, which covers South and West Yorkshire. The ESTac provides home energy and microgeneration advice, awareness raising and education initiatives.

European Investment Bank (EIB)
The EIB raises substantial volumes of funds on the capital markets which it lends on favourable terms to projects furthering EU policy objectives.

Exemplar Developments
Housing that incorporates innovative microgeneration, renewable energy and/or sustainable design that demonstrate what is possible and can be used to inform future policy and work.

Feed-in-Tariff (FiT)
A system where energy suppliers make regular payments to householders and communities who generate their own electricity from low carbon sources such as solar photovoltaic (PV) or wind turbines.

Financial Inclusion
Is the delivery of financial services at affordable costs to disadvantaged and low income groups.

Fuel Poverty
Where a combination of poor housing conditions and low income mean that the household cannot afford sufficient warmth for health and comfort. The widely accepted definition of fuel poverty is where a household needs to spend 10% or more of income to meet fuel costs

Golden Rule
At the heart of the Green Deal is the "golden rule" - that the repayments made by households will not exceed the savings they have achieved on fuel bills.

Green Deal
The Green Deal is a new and radical way of funding the installation home energy efficiency and microgeneration technology where households will be able to access upfront finance (attached to the building's energy meter) which will be repaid over time through the savings on fuel bills.

Hard-to-treat Properties
Homes, which are not connected to a mains gas supply, have solid walls or are of non-traditional construction and so are unable to benefit from conventional energy efficiency measures such as cavity wall insulation and gas central heating.

HealthPACT
A Wakefield initiative that provides an alert to people suffering from COPD of any local changes in temperature (including excessive cold) or air quality that may make breathing worse.

Hotspots
An initiative developed in Wakefield whereby workers from frontline agencies can refer household's for home energy efficiency grants, benefit checks and fire safety advice.

HHSRS (Health and Housing Safety Rating System)
HHSRS is a risk assessment procedure for housing. A potential risk within this system is excessive cold temperatures, therefore this can be used a tool to tackle fuel poverty.

Income Maximisation
A process to assess a household's income (including benefits) and debt in order identify savings and better use of money.

Key Agencies
Council departments, organisations and agencies that have a role to play in delivering effective home energy efficiency and fuel poverty initiatives and schemes.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)
LAA was a working relationship between the Government and its local partners that focussed on local priorities and allowed rationalisation of funding. There were several challenging targets within this agreement and fuel poverty was one of these.

Leeds City Region (LCR)
The Leeds City Region is the real economy partnership of 11 local authorities across North, South and West Yorkshire.
Local Development Framework (LDF)
A Local Development Framework is a folder of local development documents that outlines how planning will be managed in your area.

Low Carbon Framework (LCF)
Low Carbon Frameworks will look at different approaches to tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions from homes, businesses and transport. The frameworks will promote new and more effective ways of meeting Governments ambitions on climate change.

Mainstreaming
Where home energy efficiency/fuel poverty is incorporated into key agencies everyday activities and processes in order to assist with the affordable warmth activity and CO₂ reduction through a partnership approach.

Marketing Strategy
A plan of activity to promote and publicise affordable warmth.

Microgeneration
This is the small-scale generation of heat and power by individuals, small business and communities to meet their own needs, as alternatives to tradition centralised grid-connected power.

NEA (National Energy Action)
NEA is the national warm homes charity that develops and promotes energy efficiency services to tackle the heating and insulation problems of low-income households. Working in partnership, NEA aims to eradicate fuel poverty and campaigns for greater investment in energy efficiency to help those who are poor or vulnerable.

Nottingham Declaration
Launched in 2000 in Nottingham, the Declaration is signed by Councils and other public faced organisations. It outlines how organisations will pledge to systematically address the causes of climate change.

Ofgem
Ofgem is the Office of the Gas and Electricity Markets. It protects consumers by promoting competition and regulating the monopoly companies which run the gas and electricity networks.

Open Door
The Open Door Project is a Wakefield Council initiative for people who are homeless or in need.

PCT (Wakefield District Primary Care Trust)
The PCT manages local healthcare services in the community. Primary Care is often used to describe community based health services such as family doctors (GPs), community and practice nurses.

Private Sector Households
Owner occupied and private rented households in the Wakefield district.

PV (Solar Photovoltaic)
Energy, which is generated by renewable means such as the wind and the sun, and not generated by burning fossil fuels.

Renewable energy
Where a combination of poor housing conditions and low income mean that the household cannot afford sufficient warmth for health and comfort. The widely accepted definition of fuel poverty is where a household needs to spend 10% or more of income to meet fuel costs.

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
The Renewable Heat Incentive (scheduled to be implemented in 2011) will provide financial support for those who install renewable heating.

Responsible Landlords Scheme
A Council Scheme whereby private sector landlord's properties are assessed and approved by the local authority against a set list of quality and safety criteria so that they can become accredited.

RSLs (Registered State Landlords)
A private housing provider that is registered with the Housing Corporation. Includes Housing Associations though not all these will be RSLs.

SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure)
The Government's standard for home energy rating. SAP ratings provide a simple indicator of the efficiency of energy use for space and water heating in new and existing dwellings. SAP ratings are expressed on a scale of 1 (poor) to 100 (excellent).

Single Assessment Process
A co-ordinated client assessment system which is to be used by health and social services staff to identify client needs and to trigger referrals to appropriate schemes/services.
Social Exclusion
Social exclusion is when people face a combination of linked problems, such as unemployment, discrimination, poor skills, low incomes, poor housing, high crime and family breakdown. These problems are linked and mutually reinforcing.

Vulnerable/Vulnerable Home
In-line with the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance, a 'vulnerable household' is one that is in receipt of certain benefits. However for the purposes of this Action Plan 'vulnerable' also includes households that are elderly, sick, disabled, have children or on a low-income.

Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership (WAWP)
A multi-agency group that meets to discuss affordable warmth activity in the Wakefield District

Wakefield Energy Savers Scheme (WES)
A Council funded grant scheme for vulnerable households that provides insulation and heating improvements to private housing.

Wakefield Low Carbon Communities (WLCC)
The WLCC is Wakefield Council initiative based on the ABI model that provides insulation measures and other well-being assistance on a house-by-house basis.

Wakefield Together
Wakefield Together is the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the Wakefield District. The LSP brings together key organisations who deliver local services under the joint-work programme 'Developing Knowledge Communities' (Community Strategy).

Warm Front
A Government funded grant scheme targeted at benefit claimants in the private sector (owner-occupiers and those renting from a private landlord), which provides a package of insulation, draught proofing and central heating.

WDH (Wakefield and District Housing)
WDH is a stock transfer organisation that owns and manages over 31,000 ex-Council housing across the Wakefield district.

Whole House Approach
This is where a comprehensive package of energy efficiency measures are installed to achieve maximum CO₂ savings and fuel poverty reduction. This approach often includes the provision of 'hard-to-treat' and microgeneration measures in conjunction with tradition insulation and heating measures.

Winter Discharge Procedures
The care or checklist a patient receives undergoes from a health professional prior to them leaving a hospital after treatment during the colder months.
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About this Publication

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This Greener Homes, Healthier Homes: An Action Plan for Affordable Warmth 2011/16 is available on the Council's web site www.wakefield.gov.uk/energy

If you would like information in another language or format, please ask us.

For more information about the following organisations, please contact us:

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