

Wolverhampton Affordable Warmth Strategy

Executive Summary

Executive Summary 2006

It is seven years since the launch of the first Affordable Warmth Strategy for Wolverhampton City. This first and innovative strategy has now been updated against a background of revised national policy and legislative frameworks and changing local circumstances.

The revised strategy reflects the introduction of the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy with its commitment to ending fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. The drive towards delivering decent homes standards by 2010 and the local policy context provided by the Wolverhampton Community Plan and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy have helped to shape the aims and targets outlined in the strategy. The Wolverhampton Partnership Sustainability Charter, which looks to balance the needs of the environment with those of society and the economy, also plays an important part within the new Affordable Warmth Strategy.

A partnership approach has been taken to ensure its development and ownership is achieved through a consensus of key stakeholders. The current condition of housing in Wolverhampton also plays a key role in providing affordable warmth as different approaches are required depending on the age, tenure and energy efficiency rating. The strategy recognises these issues enabling priority to be given to those at risk of or in poor health from living in cold homes.

Five action targets underpin the strategy that includes targets and timescales to guide those charged with its delivery. The five action targets are:

- Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Energy Advice
- Social Housing
- Homeowner and Private Rented Sector Housing
- Provide an Affordable Energy Service
- Delivering the Strategy

The new strategy addresses the needs of all within the locality. However, particular attention is given to those experiencing Fuel Poverty as well as disadvantaged groups and excluded sections of the local community.

A successful Affordable Warmth Strategy is a vital part of the Partnership agenda in terms of reducing inequalities across neighbourhoods and communities. Affordable warmth is fundamental to a decent quality of life and this document will be vital to ensure that Wolverhampton can identify those who are at the greatest risk of fuel poverty and help take measures to make heating their homes more affordable.