



AFFORDABLE WARMTH AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Commitment

Southampton City Council is committed to reducing the negative impacts and maximising the benefits of our activities on the environment. We also have a genuine commitment to the wider sustainable development agenda.

This Policy statement supports the Council's 'Carbon Reduction Policy'.

Sustainability

Where practicable Southampton City Council (SCC) Housing Services Division recognises the principals of sustainability and through its sustainable objectives will undertake activities that make the least impact on the environment. This will include the following:

- SCC will aim to install the most efficient heating and hot water systems in the Council's housing stock. For example where possible, boilers rated C and below will be replaced with 'A' Rated condensing boilers or with an equivalent or more efficient energy efficient provision (e.g. district energy or communal boilers).
- SCC aims to reduce where possible any unnecessary replacement of parts or systems. Where a renewable resource is used SCC will evaluate and monitor to enhance future standards.
- SCC will maximise the recycling, reuse, and responsible disposal of materials, and promote waste minimisation.
- SCC will carry out all activities in conjunction with planned programmes to enable the comprehensive delivery of energy efficient improvements.

Affordable Warmth

SCC Housing Services is committed to reducing the impact of rising energy bills and reducing fuel poverty and this policy statement will be supported by a fully developed Affordable Warmth Strategy that will outline how it will improve the energy efficiency of its housing stock.

This strategic approach will define how Housing Services will implement measures to improve; the fabric of its buildings, reduce energy consumption and ensure that the type of heating solutions and fuels it will use is the most appropriate for each different type of property within its portfolio of housing stock.

The Council will consider renewable energy technologies where suitable (including installation of energy generating measures), and explore ways to unlock public and private sector finance to supplement HRA energy related



Housing Services

planned programmed works, thus providing best value for the Council and its residents.

Our Commitments

SCC Housing Services makes the following commitments to its residents:

1. We will do all we can to phase out the current landlord controlled heating system giving residents direct control over the heating they use and the cost they pay.
2. We will consider and introduce the most appropriate form of heating, which will be dependent on the nature of each respective property and the opportunities available – this will include:
 - New district energy networks;
 - Combined heat and power;
 - Centralised boilers to supply blocks of flats;
 - Individual gas boilers; and
 - Where there is no alternative to electricity, modern and efficient electrical heating solutions.
3. We will maximise the opportunities available through external grant funding including the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), Green Deal, and Renewal Heat Incentive or their successor schemes to get the best deal for our residents.
4. We will aim to carry out insulation to all our properties to ensure they are as thermally efficient as their construction type will allow including:
 - External wall, or Cavity wall, insulation; and
 - Loft insulation.
5. We will ensure all our properties have double glazed windows.
6. We will introduce a Damp Reduction Initiative to help tackle the causes of damp and mould including support for our residents to best look after their properties. Our strategy will include a ventilation programme to help eradicate the causes of damp.

Our guiding principle is that all of our tenants will save money on their heating and hot water bills as a result of improved insulation and heating so that we can take as many of our residents as possible out of fuel poverty and improve their overall well-being.

Our strategy will be developed by April 2014 and will cover the period from 2014 to 2020 with annual reviews of progress.

September 2013