

Energy Strategy presentation for Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee) - Wednesday 5 October 2016

6. **Energy Strategy - Housing & Property (Pages 3 - 14)**

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Energy Strategy 2016-2020

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Agenda Item 6

Content

- Introduction – why do we need a strategy?

Buildings first

- Work to date – what we have done
- Current approach – what we are doing
- Newbuilds – our new council housing standards

Supporting tenants

- Energy Advice Officers – home visits
- Citizens' Advice Bureau
- Training for frontline staff



Why do we need a strategy?

- Fuel poverty
- Health impacts of fuel poverty
- Reduce Oxford's carbon emissions
- Access funding where we can (ECO/ GDHIF)
- Tenants worry about energy bills
- From October 2016, landlords will be unable to refuse a tenant's reasonable request for consent to energy efficiency improvements where finance is available. From 2018 it will be unlawful to rent out a property that does not reach a minimum energy efficiency standard of E (Energy Act 2011).

21°C - in the living room
18°C - in any other
occupied room

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Work to date

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Measure	Number	Funding brought in
Cavity wall installs	300	£100,000
Flat block cavity wall insulation removal and refill	12 flats and 1 house	N/A
External wall insulation	80	£125,000
Solar PV installations (over 20 year period)	69	Est. £110,000 income + £62,585 savings to tenants
Moixa battery installs (with Rose Hill Solar PV)	49	£98,000 equivalent
Loft insulation upgrades to 270mm	350 (and now ongoing)	Direct Services work

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Current approach

- Sample EPC survey then prioritise all properties rated Energy Performance Certificate E, F and G for potential improvement measures
- Basic measures - loft insulation and boiler replacement
- Upgrade electrically heated properties to gas central heating to all tenants where feasible.
- Aligning smaller measures such as loft insulation with larger work programmes
- Bring in funding where possible for larger scale works, adjusting priorities as necessary

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Newbuild

Agreed approach

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Supporting tenants

Tenant approach

- Evaluating and improving building performance
- Energy behaviour and using energy using systems
- Supporting those most vulnerable to the impacts of cold homes
- Dealing with financial issues (energy bills and beyond)

So we.... Brought in the cavalry...

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Energy Advice Officers

Two officers for two years visiting tenants in their homes – focusing on buildings, behaviour and bills!

Save money and keep warm this winter



- Are you an Oxford City Council Tenant?
- Are your energy bills expensive?
- Want to switch tariff but unsure how to?
- Do you want to change your meter?
- Worried about staying warm this winter?

Book a FREE home visit NOW and SAVE money

Contact our Energy Advice Officers today



"Over 100 households have saved money by having a visit from our Energy Advice Officers this year!"

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or email energyadvice@oxford.gov.uk

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Energy Advice Officers –after 9 months work

- 752 properties had been visited with 1179+ unsuccessful access attempts (this is with 3 months at 1 officer only).
- 40 inefficient boiler or heating related referrals with 11 replacements
- 125 loft insulation installations were carried out as a result of referrals to Direct Services
- Total recordable cost benefit to tenants so far is £49,890 and potential savings we are able to estimate are £4,212. (We know this is underestimated)

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Citizens Advice Bureau – extra financial support

- Referrals to the CAB have resulted in 39 clients receiving financial and debt support with a further 5 awaiting contact or booked in.
- 20 Energy related issues have been advised on (inc priority services register, switching, financial help),
- 101 Debt related (stopping creditor action, repayment negotiation, stop bailiffs action, financial planning)
- 4 Benefits related issues.

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Improving communications on energy and training staff and key partners

Key areas of training include:

- Fuel poverty and basic energy efficiency
- Gas and electric heating systems – understanding and advising
- Energy bills, meter readings and other energy finance issues such as pre payment meters and switching supplier

In future in Corporate training programme

- Energy efficiency and fuel poverty training for frontline staff



Any questions, comments

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