

Affordable Warmth and Energy Efficiency An Interim Strategy for Hyndburn 2009



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Chapter 1

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Strategy outlines actions and interventions that the Council and its partners can adopt in dealing with domestic fuel poverty¹ and fuel inefficiency issues in the Borough with emphasis on prioritising vulnerable people.
- 1.2 It outlines how it fits and supports the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy by tackling fuel poverty in a more concerted and strategic way. It also explains how it supports the new 2008 Local Area Agreement by addressing fuel poverty (NI 187) and reductions in carbon emissions (NI 186).
- 1.3 The Strategy describes the condition of the Borough's housing stock² and outlines the energy efficiency of it. It highlights that 14,000 dwellings (38.6% of the total housing stock) fail to meet the national decency standard and that 8,900 dwellings (24.5% of the total stock) are non decent because of failings in heating efficiency or effective insulation.
- 1.4 Based on data provided by the Centre of Sustainable Energy in 2007, the Strategy identifies that at least 8% (2,600) of households in the Borough are in fuel poverty. The Strategy highlights the impact that fuel poverty can have on peoples' health.
- 1.5 In response to these issues the Strategy outlines three priorities:-
 - Priority 1 - To reduce the number of households in fuel poverty
 - Priority 2 - To reduce the unnecessary use of energy
 - Priority 3 - To reduce the carbon emissions generated by the use of energy

It then outlines annual targets to help drive progress against these priorities.
- 1.6 The Strategy also outlines a set of measures to promote energy efficiency and affordable warmth:-
 - Dwelling insulation
 - Promotion and advice initiatives
 - Income maximisation and benefit checks
 - Promotion of high efficiency appliances e.g. condensing boilers, low-energy lighting etc.
 - Increase use of renewable energy sources
- 1.7 This Strategy has been endorsed by Hyndburn Borough Council's Cabinet and the Local Strategic Partnership. It supports and complements other key strategies including the Sustainable Community Strategy. It is hoped that partner organisations and stakeholders will use this Strategy as a reference point to prepare initiatives, projects and identify resources.
- 1.8 We have prepared an Interim Strategy due to the important need to put in place actions that start to address fuel poverty. At the same time, there is a need to further engage wider partners and agencies in developing a more comprehensive list of actions and targets.

¹ A household is in fuel poverty when its needs to spend more than 10% of its income to achieve a satisfactory level of warmth (18°C – 21°C)

² 2009 Pennine Lancashire House Condition Survey

Chapter 2

Aim of the Strategy

- 2.1 This document sets out a strategic plan for promoting affordable warmth in Hyndburn by tackling fuel poverty. The Strategy aims to bring together existing initiatives, new ideas and improved collaboration between agencies working towards similar goals.
- 2.2 We aim to overcome fuel poverty by improving energy efficiency, increasing people's incomes, reducing energy consumption where appropriate and taking action to help reduce the cost of energy to households.
- 2.3 Under the provisions of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, the Council is required to prepare a report – “An Energy Conservation Report” – which outlines the Council's proposals for dealing with energy conservation in the Borough, and submit this to the Government. The Act indicates that the Council's proposals should result in a ‘substantial’³ improvement in the energy efficiency of residential properties in the Borough.

This requires:-

- Practical energy conservation measures, which will make significant improvements in the energy efficiency of residential properties
 - An assessment of the costs of such measures
 - The effects of carbon emissions generated in the Borough (part of the current Local Area Agreement)
- 2.4 The Strategy supports the new 2008 Local Area Agreement which includes an indicator for fuel poverty.
- 2.5 This Strategy therefore sets out the background and makes recommendations for affordable warmth and energy efficiency in the Borough.
- 2.6 Addressing fuel poverty is a priority of the Council and its partners. An interim strategy has been developed to give context and direction to actions that start to address fuel poverty. An Action Plan has been developed (page 10) to give direction to policy development and in turn develop a more comprehensive strategy.

The Outcomes of the Strategy

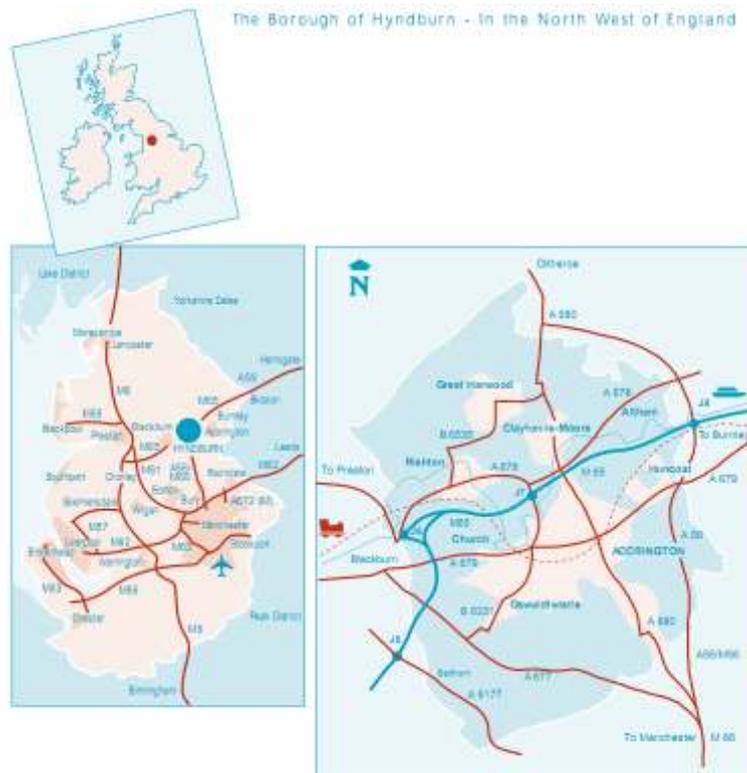
- 2.7 The Strategy seeks to define what role the Council and its partners play in eradicating fuel poverty, promoting domestic energy efficiency and reducing harmful emissions.
- 2.8 It also seeks to review what should be the priority areas for action and what the Council and its partners can do to improve energy efficiency of dwellings and reduce fuel poverty.

³ ‘Substantial’ is defined as 30% over 15 years to 2011.

Chapter 3

An Introduction to Hyndburn

3.1 Hyndburn is situated to the east of the County of Lancashire in North-West England. It is a compact district bounded to the south by the Pennines, and in the centre of the area known as Pennine Lancashire. Of the six towns in the district, Accrington is the largest and administrative centre, the other towns in the Borough are Church, Clayton le Moors, Rishton, Great Harwood, Oswaldtwistle. Altham, Baxenden and Huncoat are smaller settlements.



3.2 Hyndburn has a population of 81,600 residents, including a well-established and growing BME community comprising 8.3% of the population. With over 35,200 residents, Accrington is the main centre of population. Residents live in traditional urban environments, with stone-built terraced houses built in a grid-iron pattern the predominant form, although there is an increasing presence of much more modern stock extending from the older core areas and along the main roads connecting Hyndburn’s towns to their neighbours.

3.3 The Borough has some of the most deprived wards in the country; a third of the older housing stock falls below the decency standard; there are sizeable areas of derelict land and outmoded industrial premises. 65% of the Borough’s residents have low incomes exacerbated by high proportions of economically inactive people and health of the overall population is one of the poorest in the country.

3.4 The Sustainable Community Strategy sets Hyndburn’s vision for 2018 to make Hyndburn “The Place To Be”. This will be achieved if Hyndburn is no longer amongst the 100 most deprived areas in the country. A powerful and effective strategy to reduce fuel poverty will support the vision to reduce deprivation.

Chapter 4

Strategic Context

What is 'Affordable Warmth' and 'Fuel Poverty'?

- 4.1 Having a warm and welcoming home is a major factor in promoting individual health and well being. However, a number of factors combine to put this goal out of reach of many households and therefore many people live in circumstances that mean they are unable to keep their homes sufficiently warm and comfortable and therefore they are suffering fuel poverty.
- 4.2 Fuel poverty has been defined by the Government as when a household needs to spend more than 10% of its income to achieve a satisfactory level of warmth in their home⁴.
- 4.3 The main causes of fuel poverty are poor housing conditions and low incomes, though other factors include under occupancy and high fuel costs. The problems are varied, however:-
- The problem is particularly prevalent in the private rented sector, due to both lower incomes and poorly insulated properties – this is a particular problem in Hyndburn.
 - Self-disconnection is common particularly amongst the elderly, which can result in a deleterious effect on health and morbidity rates, even if the household affected is spending less than 10% of its income on heating and thus not in 'official' fuel poverty.
- 4.4 The link between poor health and damp cold housing has been established over many years. Thus those in such properties are more likely to suffer from ill-health than the general population.
- 4.5 Fuel poverty can also be detrimental to the local economy. By promoting affordable warmth, people will be able to heat their homes more affordably and will therefore have additional income to spend locally. This has a positive impact on the economic multiplier.
- 4.6 Children can be also put at greater risk due to fuel poverty. Where a home is inadequately heated, the effect may be to reduce the ability of those children to concentrate or study effectively. Fuel poverty leading to poorer health may also result in greater absence from school due to sickness.
- 4.7 The East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) reports that during the winter there is an increase of 20% in deaths over the summer period. Many of these 'excess' deaths are vulnerable older people where a lack of warmth is a contributing factor. Appendix A is an extract from a report by the East Lancashire PCT on the effects of fuel poverty.

The National Context

- 4.8 The Government is seeking to ensure that fuel poverty is eliminated by 2015. This target is underpinned by a range of strategies, policies and legislation:-
- The UK Fuel Poverty Strategy 2001
 - Warm front – grant aimed at reducing fuel poverty among vulnerable households

⁴ Defined as being able to maintain a temperature of 21 degrees in the main living area and 18 degrees elsewhere when the external temperature is 0 degrees

- Energy Efficiency Commitment – an obligation for all larger utility companies to encourage the take-up of energy efficiency measures among domestic consumers.
- Decent Homes – includes energy efficiency requirements
- UK Sustainable Development Strategy, ‘Securing the Future’ (2005) – promotes better energy and conservation in tackling climate change and building sustainable communities
- The Housing Act 2004 – promotes affordable warmth and introduced the new Housing, Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS)

4.9 The national agenda also seeks to address:

- Energy conservation
- The need to reduce emission of greenhouse gases particularly Carbon Dioxide
- The increased use of renewable energy sources

The North West Regional Agenda

4.10 The North West Regional Housing Strategy reflects Government’s national policy direction.

4.11 The North West has a higher percentage of older less energy efficient housing stock and a higher proportion of disadvantaged if not deprived householders. Therefore there is greater pressure to make improvements to avoid a wholesale slide of increasing levels of fuel poverty.

The North West Regional Housing Strategy

4.12 This is published by the Regional Housing Group and the current version, published in January 2009 contains three themes:-

Theme 1 - Achieving the right quantity of housing

Theme 2 - Continuing to raise the quality of the existing housing stock

Theme 3 - Connecting people to the improved housing offer

4.13 The Regional Housing Strategy identifies climate change and energy as an area of detailed policy with specific reference to creating low carbon housing and eradicating fuel poverty.

The Sub-regional Agenda – Lancashire and Pennine Lancashire

Strategic Overview

4.14 Hyndburn is part of Pennine Lancashire and with Elevate East Lancashire⁵ is working to address the long term consequences of economic decline including aspects of a failing housing market. The Pennine Lancashire partnership in conjunction with the private, public and voluntary sectors is working on a clear vision of a future Pennine Lancashire. The overall objective is to enable everyone to enjoy a better quality of life.

⁵ Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder

The Lancashire Local Area Agreement

- 4.15 The Lancashire Local Area Agreements 1 and 2 (LAA 1 and LAA2), commit the Council to taking action with regard to energy topics.
- 4.16 In LAA1 current from 2006-09, the Council is supporting two targets:-
- Reduction in carbon emissions (LA18)
 - Increasing the number of homes meeting the decency standard (LA20)
- 4.17 In LAA2 (2008-11) the energy targets relate to:-
- A reduction in vulnerable households in fuel poverty (NI187)
 - Reducing carbon emissions through the reduction in domestic emissions (NI186)
- 4.18 In the first year of LAA2, a study is being carried out to determine a baseline for vulnerable households in fuel poverty. This will then be used to set performance targets for following years.

The Lancashire Energy Officers' Group

- 4.19 Activity around the LAA targets has resulted in the formation of a strong and committed Lancashire Energy Officers' Group. This group reports to the Housing Group of the LAA and is dealing with the LAA targets as well as other issues of interest across the country.

The Lancashire Climate Change Strategy

- 4.20 A Lancashire Climate Change Strategy sets out Lancashire's vision and targets for reductions in carbon dioxide by 2020 and is accompanied by an activity plan which is to be updated annually.
- 4.21 As its name suggests, it concentrates on climate change issues but it does have a set of outcomes based on improvements to domestic energy efficiency and energy production from non-carbon producing sources.

The Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy 2009

- 4.22 The first Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy has just been finalised and supports measures to address affordable warmth and energy efficiency.
- 4.23 Objective 3 of the Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy is to meet the housing, health and support needs of residents and vulnerable people promoting better services, more choice, accessible and integrated fully into local communities. In addition, for fuel poverty it states:-

'Pennine Lancashire Authorities are committed to tackling fuel poverty in a more concerted and strategic way through affordable warmth strategies and the Local Area Agreement, prioritising vulnerable people in partnership with PCTs'.

Elevate – The Housing Market Restructuring Pathfinder

4.24 Elevate East Lancashire recognises the importance of increased energy efficiency and is in the process of introducing measures to improve the energy efficiency of dwellings via its refurbishment policy. With regards to new build, Elevate insists that partner developers construct homes to the Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3⁶ as a minimum.

Hyndburn Context

4.25 A number of Hyndburn based strategies and initiatives aim to address fuel poverty and encourage energy efficient themes:-

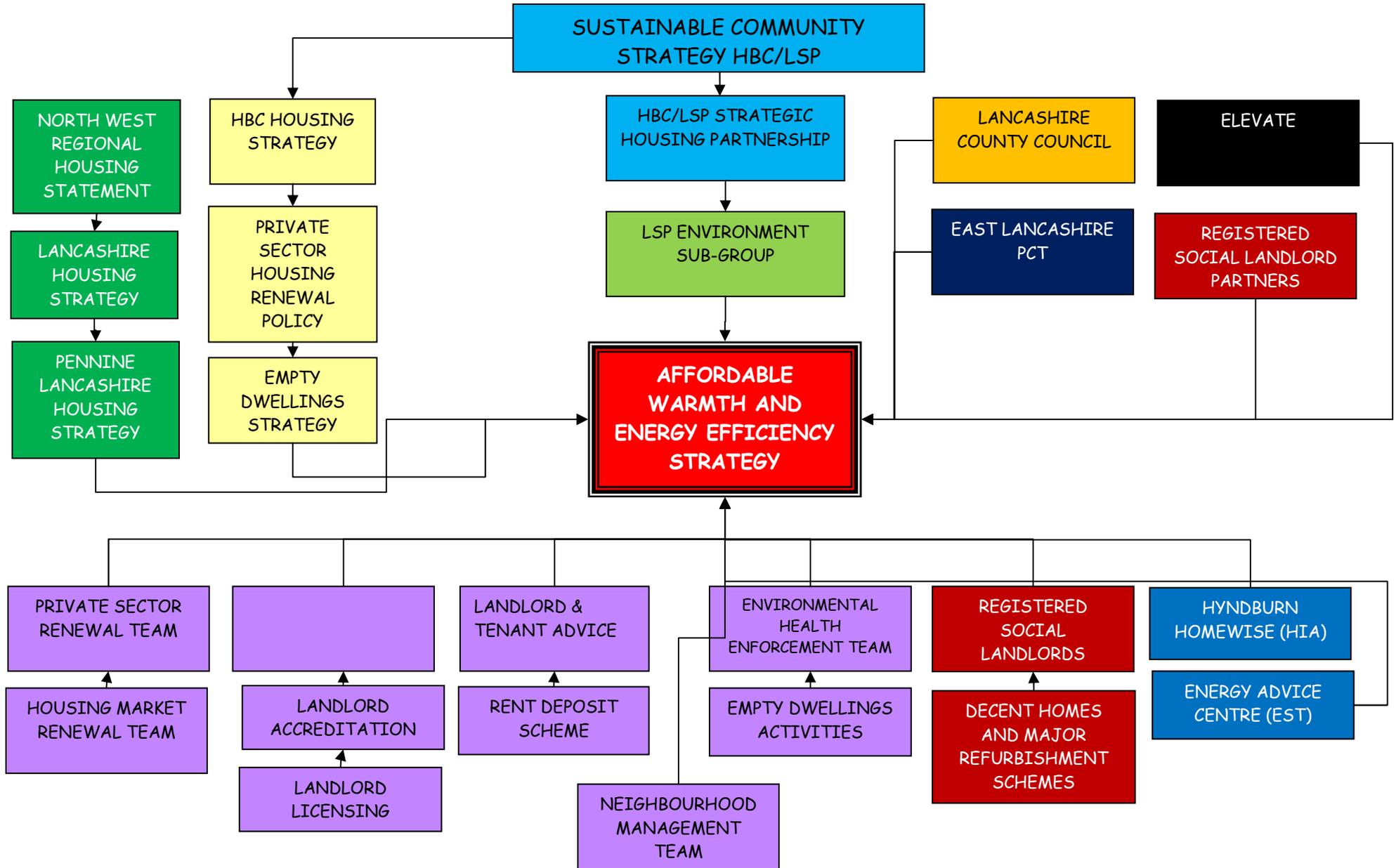
- i Sustainable Community Strategy – sets targets to reduce carbon emissions.
- ii Housing Strategy – sets objectives to reduce the effects of fuel poverty and to improve energy efficiency.
- iii Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy – promotes improvements in stock condition and provides provision for assistance via energy savings grants.
- iv Empty Property Strategy – aims to bring back long term empty dwellings improved to the decent homes standard and thus increasing their energy efficiency rating.

4.26 The Local Strategic Partnership Sub Group, the Healthier Communities Working Group, represents a number of agencies that are keen to start to address fuel poverty and its impact on longer term issues in a more co-ordinated way.

4.27 Figure 1 illustrates the strategic and operational links within the Borough.

⁶ CLG – Code for Sustainable Homes – a step-change in sustainable home building practice.

Figure 1: Affordable Warmth & Energy Efficiency Strategy – Strategic & Operational Links



Chapter 5

Needs Analysis

Health Deprivation and Disability

5.1 Hyndburn is ranked 28th as one of worst most deprived local authority areas for health and disability in the country. This ranks Hyndburn in the worst 10% of all local authorities for this indices in the country, with Blackpool 7th, Burnley 11th, Blackburn & Darwen 15th and Preston 31st out of a possible 354 LA nationwide. The key indicators are:-

- 31% of Hyndburn's population live in areas that are classed as areas within the bottom 10% most deprived areas for health deprivation in the country.
- This covers 16 lower super output areas (LSOA), including the whole of Central and Spring Hill wards.
- One LSOA in Central is classed in the worst 1% of all areas / neighbourhoods within the country.
- Just over half of the LSOA's in Hyndburn are in the worst 20% of LSOA's for health and disability within the country.

5.2 The health and disability deprivation ranking of 28th is worse than the overall Index of Multi Deprivation (combined score) of 40th most deprived area nationwide.

5.3 For further information on the links between health deprivation and housing refer to the PCT's report at Appendix A.

Older People / Households

5.4 Key characteristics:-

- Hyndburn has a population of around 82,200 people, of those 15.3% are people aged over 65.
- Within Hyndburn there are 34,500 households, with just over a quarter of these containing only older people (27.2%).
- 48.9% of social housing contains only older people (men over 65 and women over 60).
- Population projections from 2006 to 2031 are estimated to increase by over 51% in the 65-84 age band, and over 100% in the 85+ age band.
- Very significant growth is expected in the number of households in the 65+ age band, emphasising the need for more older people type accommodation and support. Overton, Netherton, Milnshaw and Immanuel seem to have the highest proportions of older people households.

5.5 In general, older people have lower activity levels, lower incomes and a greater vulnerability to poor health than people of working age. These factors mean they are particularly at risk from fuel poverty and are therefore a key target group for the strategy.

Families with Children

- 5.6 Taken from the Housing Needs Assessment 2008, 25.9% of households have children (8854 households), 5.4% are lone parent households, 8.6% are families with young children and 11.8% are families with older children.
- 5.7 Spring Hill and Central wards have the highest proportion of households with children, these are also the areas with the worst areas for health deprivation.
- 5.8 The largest proportion of lone parents live in private rented accommodation, with significant proportion of families living with young children living in owner occupation and living in areas like Altham and Huncoat.
- 5.9 Children, particularly the very young, are at risk of developing serious or long-term health conditions as a result of living in cold or damp houses. The connection between damp living conditions and asthma for instance, has been widely reported. Low income families with dependant children will therefore be another key target group for this strategy.

Long term illness and Disability

- 5.10 Information from the latest Stock Condition survey states that 23% of households have an occupier who suffers from long term illness or disability.
- 5.11 Hyndburn has above the national figure of people claiming incapacity benefits with 10.8%, compared to 9.2% across the North West and 7% in Great Britain.
- 5.12 The likelihood of reduced mobility and lower incomes amongst people with disabilities or long term illnesses makes them another key target group for this strategy.

Stock Condition and Characteristics

- 5.13 There are an estimated 36,300 dwellings in Hyndburn of which 49.5% are terraced and 39.5% were constructed before 1919 with a further 10% constructed during the inter-war period.
- 5.14 The 2009 Pennine Lancashire House Condition Survey investigated the energy efficiency of housing in Hyndburn and it concluded:-
- Decency (A National Standard) – 14,000 dwellings (38.6% of the total stock) are non-decent, and 8,900 (24.5%) were non-decent because of failings in efficiency heating or effective insulation.
 - The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating (another National Standard) of the whole stock was 52, above the national average of 49 (English House Condition Survey 2006).
 - However, that hides the fact that 6.6% of the Borough's houses had an SAP rating of 30 or less and over 75.8% had a rating below 59 (65 is the minimum standard recommended).
- 5.15 There was also a concentration of problems in the private rented sector and the areas identified as in 'low demand' and thus included in the housing market renewal areas.

The Private Rented Sector

- 5.16 The private rented sector is an important and essential part of housing provision and housing choice within the borough. Approximately 1,000 households secure accommodation each year through this sector, of which just over a quarter (284) are in housing need.
- 5.17 However, there are concerns about the energy efficiency standards of a portion of the privately rented sector. As the private rented sector is characterised by a younger, single-person household structure with above average unemployment and benefit uptake and below average incomes, affordable warmth is a major concern in the sector.

Fuel Poverty in Hyndburn

- 5.18 As Hyndburn has a high proportion of stock which is not energy efficient and its residents have lower average incomes, it is to be expected that fuel poverty is a significant problem.
- 5.19 Table 1 outlines the estimated position in 2007. The Centre for Sustainable Energy has calculated the information from Census and other national data but they warn that the real position is likely to be significantly higher now, possibly a doubling. Thus it is possible that 15% of households in the Borough or more than 5000 families are in fuel poverty. With the ongoing rises in the cost of energy this figure is likely to increase significantly.
- 5.20 The Ward based figures are averages and hide pockets of much higher levels of fuel poverty. It is felt that the elderly in particular are likely to suffer from inability to afford to keep themselves warm enough to prevent effects in their health.
- 5.21 Therefore it is felt that there is a significant problem of fuel poverty in the Borough which contributes to higher mortality and morbidity levels, and does little for the maintenance of the housing stock.
- 5.22 The East Lancashire PCT is currently endeavouring to bring about a major improvement in health in the sub-region and in view of the links between old homes and many bronchial and other conditions, as well as increased risk of hypothermia, a reduction in fuel poverty and an increase in energy efficiency is a major element in achieving the target.

Table 1 - Fuel poverty in Hyndburn

Ward	No. of Households	Estimated Number of Households in Fuel Poverty	% of households in Fuel Poverty
Altham	1778	132	7.42%
Barnfield	1918	164	8.55%
Baxenden	1682	82	4.88%
Central	1572	205	13.04%
Church	2102	224	10.66%
Clayton-le-Moors	2022	144	7.12%
Huncoat	1735	120	6.92%
Immanuel	1918	139	7.25%
Milnshaw	2048	141	6.88%

Ward	No. of Households	Estimated Number of Households in Fuel Poverty	% of households in Fuel Poverty
Netherton	1951	167	8.56%
Overton	2770	185	6.68%
Peel	1957	182	9.30%
Rishton	2996	217	7.24%
St.Andrews	1956	146	7.46%
St.Oswalds	2619	141	5.38%
Spring Hill	1945	212	10.90%
Borough	32969	2601	7.89%

Source; Centre for Sustainable Energy 2007

Chapter 6

Tackling Fuel Poverty in Hyndburn

The Objectives of the Strategy

- 6.1 The overall objectives of the Strategy are to:-
- Reduce the number of households in fuel poverty
 - Reduce the unnecessary use of energy in the Borough
 - Reduce the 'carbon' emissions generated by the use of energy in the Borough
- 6.2 In looking at actions to achieve these objectives, it must be borne in mind that there is a paradoxical situation with regard to reducing fuel poverty and reducing energy use. Often households in fuel poverty are using less energy than necessary to keep themselves in good health and even with efficiency improvements, giving such households the means to keep warm might well result in an increased use of energy. On balance however, it appears that households should not be encouraged to use less energy than is necessary to maintain them in good health.

Priorities for the Strategy

- 6.3 In view of the costs identified in dealing with ill-health attributed to cold homes it is probable that the consequences of such an increase in energy use will be matched many times by the benefits of better health. Some work done by the East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (Attached as Appendix A) shows that there is a 20% increase in deaths in Hyndburn through the winter attributable to lack of adequate heating.
- 6.4 Fuel poverty is an immediate problem for those facing it. It has an effect on health in a fairly short term and correspondingly costs society via the health service. The situation deteriorates with every fuel price increase and as more and more households fall into fuel poverty the problem becomes ever greater.
- 6.5 Improvements in energy efficiency in other cases are longer term issues, the benefits being medium to long term. However, a much wider group of residents potentially benefit from lower fuel bills and an extension of the life of the fuel supplies.
- 6.6 'Carbon' saving is a development of this, where the reduced demand for fuel is met by more non-carbon generating processes. Again progress here will be long term.
- 6.7 In terms of threat to the planet, energy efficiency and 'Carbon' savings are undoubtedly the more important, particularly in the long term. However, in terms of individuals affected by fuel poverty, action is needed in the short term and is of particular importance to those affected.
- 6.8 Hence it is recommended that the priority accorded to the objectives be:-
- Priority 1 - Objective 1 - To reduce the number of households in Fuel Poverty
 - Priority 2 - Objective 2 - Reduce the unnecessary use of energy in the Borough
 - Priority 3 - Objective 3 - To reduce the 'Carbon' emissions generated by the use of energy in the Borough

- 6.9 To an extent the measures taken with the exception of income maximisation improve the position with regard to all three objectives, and so the set of indicators should be considered rather than too much emphasis being put on the individual indicators.
- 6.10 In addition to the work done or facilitated by the Council, there will be other initiatives – ‘Warm Front’ is an example – so that overall there will be more activity in the Borough than that carried out by the Council.

Table 2 - The Indicators and Targets for 2009-10

Indicator	Target	Notes
Number of fuel poor households where energy efficiency measures have been provided or facilitated by the Council	200	Mainly via Energy savings grants
Number of income maximisation interviews	200	Via Hyndburn Homewise, LCC Welfare Rights, CAB
Number of energy efficiency measures provided by or facilitated by Council	500	Via Energy Savings Grants, Improvement for Sale schemes, Enforcement Action.
Number of non-C producing energy sources provided or facilitated by the Council	5	Via Special Schemes.

- 6.11 Targets for 2010 -11 and subsequent years will be developed based upon experience and a more comprehensive Action Plan. This will be reflected in the full Strategy.

These will include targets for:-

- i Per Capita co² emissions in the Local Authority area (NI 186).
- ii Tackling fuel poverty (NI 187)
- iii The average Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) rating for energy efficiency of dwellings in the borough.

Chapter 7

Action Plan

- 7.1 The Strategy aims to encourage the take-up of measures to promote energy efficiency, affordable warmth and 'carbon' reductions and in the case of the 'fuel poor', to take steps to maximise incomes and minimise unnecessary outgoings.
- 7.2 Ideally, each individual case requires a particular set of measures for the maximum effect, however practically, the five categories can be ranked in order of application in each case:-
- i. Dwelling insulation
 - ii Promotion and advice initiatives
 - iii Income maximisation/benefit checks
 - iv Promotion of high efficiency appliances e.g. condensing boilers, low-energy lighting etc.
 - v Increase use of renewable energy sources
- 7.3 The key is insulation. Without the best practical levels of insulation the effectiveness of other measures is compromised. This applies to all three objectives to a greater or lesser extent.
- 7.4 The area not affected as dramatically by insulation is the energy use for none heat-generating purposes. However, heat-generation is still the major cost and a lack of adequate heating is the biggest threat to health. It is also worth noting that if the property is properly insulated the 'waste' heat generated by other domestic devices can reduce the cost of heating the property, even if marginally.
- 7.5 Over the medium term, it is likely that the consumption of energy for non-heating uses will become predominant and successors to this strategy may have to shift priorities to improvement in efficiencies of non-heating appliances.
- 7.6 However, as regards lighting a solution already exists in low-energy light bulbs and the Council's policies should try and emphasise the advantages of such bulbs over the admittedly cheaper tungsten bulbs.

Existing Activity

- 7.7 A considerable amount of activity is already taking place although the information that the Council can obtain and rely on is unlikely to reflect all of the activity in the Borough.

Table 3 – Existing Activity

Name of Activity	Lead Agency	Description	Approx. Number and cost in 2008-09	Comment
Energy Saving Grants	Hyndburn BC (run via Hyndburn Homewise)	£250 grant for over-55s for energy efficiency measures	450 £125,000	Funded by Hyndburn BC Capital Programme
Improvement for Sale Schemes	Hyndburn BC	Improvement schemes include high specification of insulation and heating	2 £130,000	Increasing Programme of activity. May include 'renewables' in future
Renovation Loans	Hyndburn BC	Loans to owners - required works include high specification of insulation and heating.	0	Subject to funding. May include 'renewables' in future
Demolitions	Hyndburn BC	Reduces number of fuel-inefficient properties	66 £4,472,000	Housing Market Renewal Activity
Warm Front Grants	Government (run by EAGA)	Grants to vulnerable households for insulation and heating improvements	300 £216,000	
Able-to-pay schemes (CERT)	Power Utilities	Subsidised work for households who do not qualify for Warm Front	350 £306,000	
Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)	Power Utilities	New programme aimed at fuel poor and adopting a whole-house approach	New	Final details to be set by Government.
Affordable Warmth	East Lancashire PCT (run by Hyndburn Homewise)	Programme aimed at identifying and assisting fuel poor households in the main although there is some effect on other vulnerable groups	£25,000	Funded by Health and Well being Fund

Proposed Activity

7.8 The following draft table has been prepared as a basis for taking this Strategy forward. It is recognised that the actions may not be sufficiently comprehensive, and importantly, need buy-in from other agencies.

Table 4 – Proposed Activity (Draft)

Action	Partner Agencies	Lead Agency & Timescale	Amount of Activity	Effect on Objectives	Notes
1. Administrative					
1.1 Explore scope to include an assessment of fuel poverty in all other personal assessment	PCT, Social Services, CAB, Welfare Rights, Hyndburn Homewise, HBC	HBC December 2009	N/A	Objective 1 – Fuel Poverty.	Principles of single assessment Some agencies already do this.
1.2 Explore scope to develop a referral service	PCT, Social Services, CAB, Welfare Rights, Hyndburn Homewise, HBC	HBC June 2009	200	Objective 1 – Fuel Poverty	Referral of fuel poor households for appropriate assistance
2. Advice					
2.1 Explore scope to establish comprehensive energy advice service.	Hyndburn Homewise, ESTac, HBC/HHIA	Homewise April 2010	Establish service. 500 advice interview/visits per annum	Objective 2 – Energy Efficiency Objective 3 – ‘C’ savings	To provide an advice service on what steps can be taken.
2.2 Explore scope to establish installation commissioning and assistance service	HBC (HHIA), Hyndburn Homewise, External partners	Homewise April 2010	Establish service. 5 installations in year 1 20 per year thereafter	Objective 2 – Energy Efficiency Objective 3 – ‘C’ savings	To assist with commissioning works, and ensuring good quality installation.
2.3 Welfare Benefit Checks	Welfare Rights, Hyndburn Homewise	Welfare Rights On-going	200	Objective 1 – Fuel Poverty	

Action	Partner Agencies	Lead Agency & Timescale	Amount of Activity	Effect on Objectives	Notes
2.4 Area-based Fuel Poverty Activity	Hyndburn Homewise/utilities.	HBC September 2009	200 referrals per year	Objective 1- Fuel Poverty	Scheme to target areas of high fuel poverty, with a view to onward referrals for action.
3. Assistance					
3.1 Energy Saving Grants	HBC via Hyndburn Homewise.	HBC On-going	£125,000 allocation per annum 450 grants	All Objectives	Small grant specifically for insulation and appliance replacement
3.2 Energy Saving Loans – Explore development of simple system to facilitate energy efficiency works	HBC	HBC September 2009	Preparation of proposal	All Objectives	Loan to bring a property up to Decent Homes Standard of energy efficiency, ideally with enhanced energy measures.
3.3 Explore Renewables Assistance Loan or Grant	HBC	HBC September 2009	Preparation of proposal	Objective 3 – ‘C’ savings	Grant, Loan or combination to assist with the installation of appropriate renewable
3.4 Private rented Energy Assistance	HBC	HBC September 2009	Preparation of proposal	All Objectives	Grant, Loan or combination to encourage landlords to make a provision for energy efficiency above the basic requirements of HHSRS system.
3.5 Include energy efficiency measure in HMR refurbishment specification	Elevate HBC	Elevate April 2010	Develop specification	All Objectives	Needs policy change by Elevate
4. Direct action by Council					
4.1 Improvement for Sale Schemes	HBC	HBC On-going	5 per year	Objective 2 – Energy Efficiency Objective 3 – ‘Carbon’ savings	Council takes possession of a property, refurbishes it for onward sale. Works to Decent Homes standard plus energy efficiency enhancements

Action	Partner Agencies	Lead Agency & Timescale	Amount of Activity	Effect on Objectives	Notes
4.2 Housing Association refurbishment to be to a minimum level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes	HBC Housing Associations	HBC April 2010	Commence and conclude agreement with Housing Associations.	All Objectives	Require Housing Association refurbishments to include a high standard of energy efficiency measures
4.3 Housing Association new-build to minimum level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes	HBC Housing Associations	HBC April 2010	Commence and conclude agreement with Housing Associations.	All Objectives	Require Housing Association new build to include a high standard of energy efficiency measures
4.4 New-build on Council sites to a minimum level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes	HBC	HBC June 2009	Conclude agreement	All Objectives(?)	
4.5 Supplementary Planning Guidance - Planning and development control	HBC	HBC April 2010	Prepare and adopt plan.	To get the highest possible standard of development. All objectives	It has not been included in the timetable for the production of Local Development Framework (LDF) documents over the next three years and the availability of resources and/or funding will need to be addressed before a commitment can be made to produce the Supplementary Planning Document.
4.6 New-build with Partners	HBC Keepmoat	HBC On-going	Agree with Keepmoat	All Objectives	Require Partnership new build to include a high standard of energy efficiency measures

Key:

- HBC - Hyndburn Borough Council
- PCT - Primary Care Trust
- CAB - Citizens Advice Bureau

Report of East Lancashire PCT – 2008

“FUEL POVERTY - A Health Issue

Living in a cold damp home can lead to or worsen a large number of health problems including heart disease, stroke, respiratory illness, falls, asthma and mental health problems. On average there are 40,000 more deaths during the winter period in Britain than at other times of the year (Fuel poverty and health 2003). This phenomenon is virtually unknown in Scandinavia and is much less severe in other, colder countries.

Fuel poverty and those most vulnerable to cold/damp housing are:-

- Elderly people
- Single parents
- People with long term illnesses
- Families with young children
- Unemployed people

Key facts for Hyndburn

Population of Hyndburn ¹	81,496
No of households ¹	33900
Approx no. of fuel poor households (Centre for Sustainable Energy 2003)	8,122
No. of households without central heating ¹	18%
Over 60's ¹	20%
Single parent households ¹	7%
Residents rating health as not good ¹	12%
Families with young children ¹	10959
Unemployed people ¹	5.5%y
Proportion of deaths from cardiovascular disease ² 2002-2004	24%
Excess winter mortality 2004-5	35

1. Census 2001, 2. Hyndburn locality health profile June 2006

Hyndburn is a spearhead area due to its lower level of life expectancy, raised levels of deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer linked to higher levels of deprivation. There are signs that health is improving in Hyndburn but there is a long way to go to achieve the average levels of health and life expectancy experienced in other areas of the country. Reducing the levels of fuel poverty experienced by vulnerable households would have a direct impact on the health and well-being of local residents and would be a major contribution to improving health and tackling health inequalities by the borough council.

East Lancashire Primary Care Trust is working in partnership with Hyndburn Homewise by funding a part time fuel poverty post until March 2009. In addition the Hyndburn Health & Well-being Partnership has provided funding to support a targeted approach for energy efficiency interventions for people in this financial year. This is in response to the identification of fuel poverty as a priority in Hyndburn within the Public Health Annual Report 2005, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT's Choosing Health Investment plan, the Hyndburn Health Improvement Plan 2006, the Floor Target Action Plan 2007 required by Government Office and the Lancashire Local Area Agreement stretch target 2006-9.

Further work is needed to target vulnerable households living in owner occupied or privately rented accommodation.”

List of Consultees

Local Strategic Partnership

PROSPECTS

Elevate

East Lancashire Primary Care Trust

Hyndburn Homewise

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Pendle Borough Council

Burnley Borough Council

Rossendale Borough Council

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Local Area Agreement – Energy Efficiency Sub-group of Housing Group.

Government Office North West

North-west Regional Assembly and Housing Board

Building Research Establishment

Energy Saving Trust

Housing Corporation (now Housing and Communities)

Housing Associations;

- Accent
- Harvest
- Anchor
- Riverside Group
- Places for People
- Space New Living
- Progress Group
- Hyndburn Homes / Contour
- St.Vincents