

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing and Health Committee – 31 October 2012

**PERTH AND KINROSS FUEL POVERTY STATEMENT 2011- 2016
PROGRESS REPORT 2012**

Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the 2012 Progress Report of the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 and for annual progress reports on the Statement to be brought to future Housing and Health Committees.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1 Note the 2012 Progress Report of the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to bring forward Fuel Poverty Statement progress reports to future meetings of the Housing and Health Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Housing and Health Committee approved the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement on 1 June 2011 (Report 11/248).
- 2.2 Fuel poverty is the term used where householders are unable to afford the purchase of adequate fuel to ensure that they maintain reasonable household warmth and is caused by a combination of factors such as:
 - Low household income
 - Fuel costs and lack of access to cheaper fuels
 - The thermal quality of the building through poor insulation
 - Poor energy efficiency through inefficient heating systems
 - Household behaviour and under-occupancy of properties
- 2.2 The Scottish Government defines fuel poverty as when "a household is in fuel poverty if, in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime, it would be required to spend more than 10% of its income, (including Housing Benefit and Income Support for Mortgage Interest), on all household fuel use".
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/28154359/1>

- 2.3 Scottish Government has a target of eliminating fuel poverty by 2016. This target was set out in the Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement published in 2002 to meet the requirements of Section 88 (1) of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001.
- 2.4 Local Authorities have a responsibility to prepare Local Housing Strategies that ensure as far as reasonably practicable that people do not live in fuel poverty. The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement is part of the Perth and Kinross Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that Committee note the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-16 Progress Report 2012 (Appendix 1) and request that updates are brought to future Housing and Health Committee meetings.
- 3.2 The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-16 Progress Report 2012:
- Demonstrates how measures to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, in Perth and Kinross by 2016 are being addressed.
 - Highlights the legislative and policy updates that have been developed.
 - Draws attention to local initiatives introduced over the last year.
 - Highlights key points and demonstrates progress against key actions.
- 3.3 The Statement sets out four strategic objectives to help 'fuel poor' households in Perth and Kinross to reduce their domestic fuel costs:
- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction.
 - Increase household income of 'fuel poor' households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral to key services.
 - Maximise overall household incomes by providing benefits and money and debt advice.
 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Head of Democratic Services, the Head of Environment Services, the Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted on the content of this report.
- 4.2 The Perth and Kinross Tenants' and Residents' Federation were consulted about this report and note its contents.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The core activities and priorities identified in this report have been incorporated into the Service's revenue budget following approval at full Council on 9 February 2012 of the Council's Revenue Budget for 2012/13 (report 12/52).

6. COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES 2009-2012

The Council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 lays out five Objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. The following objectives are relevant to this report:-

- (i) A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment.
- (ii) Healthy, Caring Communities.
- (iii) A Prosperous, Sustainable and Inclusive Economy.
- (iv) Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities.

7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.
- 7.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA). It is anticipated that this statement and the impact of the fuel poverty action plan will have a positive impact on addressing inequalities and improving health and well being.

8. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).
- 8.2 The matters presented in this report were considered under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

9. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this report is to note the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 Progress Report 2012 and to advise that progress reports are brought to future Housing and Health Committees.

DAVID BURKE

Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

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PERTH and KINROSS

FUEL POVERTY STATEMENT

2011 – 2016

**Progress Report
September 2012**

1 Introduction

Fuel poverty is the term used where householders are unable to afford the purchase of adequate fuel to maintain reasonable household warmth. It is caused by a combination of factors, such as:

- Low household income.
- Fuel costs and lack of access to cheaper fuels.
- The thermal quality of the building through poor insulation.
- Poor energy efficiency through inefficient heating systems.
- Household behaviour and under-occupancy of properties.

The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 sets out four strategic objectives to help 'fuel poor' households in Perth and Kinross to reduce their domestic fuel costs:

- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction.
- Increase household income of 'fuel poor' households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and refer to appropriate services.
- Maximise overall household incomes by providing benefits and money and debt advice.
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.

This is the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 update for 2012. It measures progress against key actions to eradicate fuel poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, in Perth and Kinross by 2016.

Appendix 1 at the rear of this document illustrates where the areas with the highest concentration of fuel poverty exist within Perth and Kinross. The lighter shaded areas represent the highest levels, the darker shaded areas represent the lower concentration.

2 Legislation and Policy Updates

2.1 Scottish Government Fuel Poverty Review

The Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum is currently leading a review of the Scottish Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy. There are 3 strands to the review:

- A review of the nature of fuel poverty and its drivers.
- Future options for fuel poverty programmes and how to maximise the leverage of external funds.
- An examination of engagement on reserved matters.

A key recommendation from the interim report is for a National Retrofit Programme to deliver support to households through comprehensive community based schemes which will focus on areas of fuel poverty and other deprivation across Scotland. A further report will be produced in autumn 2012.

2.2 Consultation on Scottish Government's Sustainable Housing Strategy

'Homes That Don't Cost the Earth – A consultation on Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy' has been developed to bring together policies on climate change, energy efficiency, fuel poverty, planning and the built environment. The Strategy's objectives are to:

- Deliver a change in provision of energy efficient homes to 2030 through retrofit and new build, as promised in the Infrastructure Investment Plan.
- Ensure that no-one in Scotland has to live in fuel poverty, as far as practicable, by 2016.
- Make a full contribution to the Climate Change Act targets, as set out in the Report on Proposals and Policies.
- Enable the refurbishment and house building sectors to contribute to and benefit from Scotland's low carbon economy and to drive Scotland's future economic prosperity.

2.3 Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing Consultation

The Scottish Government consulted on the proposed Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (ESSH) to further improve the energy efficiency of social housing in Scotland. The consultation proposes setting a minimum Energy Performance Certificate rating (the Environmental Impact rating) which all social rented housing should meet by 2020.

The aim of the standard is to build on the achievements of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard and to help tackle climate change and fuel poverty. The consultation also proposes setting higher standards to be met beyond the initial 2020 deadline. The ESSH is part of the wider Sustainable Housing Strategy which is subject to a parallel consultation (see 2.2 above).

2.4 Energy Assistance Package

The Energy Assistance Package is funded by the Scottish Government and aims to help households to save money by cutting bills and boosting incomes, and making homes warmer and more energy efficient by offering:

- A free home energy check, available to everyone, will check how energy-efficient the home is and suggest practical changes and improvements to reduce the amount of energy used in the home, thereby saving money.
- A benefit and tax credit check and access to the lowest-cost energy rates. This may be available depending on circumstances.
- Free or subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation from an energy supplier to make the home more energy-efficient. To be eligible you must be a homeowner or a private-sector tenant and receive benefits or be aged 70 years or over.

- Energy efficiency measures including heating systems such as central heating or a new boiler and loft and cavity wall insulation. To be eligible you must be a homeowner or a private-sector tenant, have lived in the home for at least 1 year, and are either; pregnant, have a child aged under 16, are aged 60 years or over, receive the highest rate of the care component or the higher rate of the mobility component of disability living allowance or war pensions equivalents, receive a Carer's Allowance, or are terminally ill (in receipt of DS1500 certificate).

2.5 Low Carbon Scotland - Meeting the Emissions Reduction Targets 2010-2022

Low Carbon Scotland is structured around the key sectors of energy supply, homes and communities, business and the public sector, transport, rural land use and waste. For each of these sectors, policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are identified, as are a number of proposals for further consideration. Taken together, these policies and proposals try to show that it is possible to meet the annual targets established by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 each year from 2010 to 2022.

Meeting the targets will require a range of actions throughout Scotland's economy and society – by central government, local government and the public sector, businesses, individuals and communities alike. Some of these actions will be strategic, such as new energy, agriculture or planning policy, others will be targeted, such as increasing the number of homes with insulation.

2.6 Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) encourages the installation of renewable heat equipment such as solar thermal technologies, biomass boilers and heat pumps. There are 3 elements to the scheme:

- Renewable Heat Premium Payments which are one-off grants to help with the up-front costs of renewable heat technologies in domestic properties.
- RHI tariffs for domestic properties, which are expected to become available at the same time as the introduction of the Green Deal in autumn 2012. Anybody who has installed an eligible technology since 15 July 2009 will be eligible for RHI.
- RHI tariffs for non-domestic installations in the industrial, business and public sector, which was introduced in November 2011.

2.7 Energy Act 2011

The Energy Act 2011 provides for a step change in the provision of energy efficiency measures to homes and businesses and enables and secures low carbon energy supplies and fair competition in the energy markets. The Act includes provisions on the Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation.

2.8 Green Deal/ Energy Company Obligation

The Government's proposed Green Deal will allow householders access to financing to pay upfront for energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Participants will then repay the loan through a charge added to their energy bill. There are 4 stages of Assessment, Finance, Installation and Repayment which will ensure that improvements identified meet the 'Golden Rule': the payments made for the improvements cannot be higher than the estimated energy bill savings they will make.

Green Deal aims to launch in late autumn 2012 and will replace the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). Also being launched is The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for six major energy suppliers. It consists of:

- Affordable Warmth Obligation provides free heating and hot water saving measures, insulation, glazing and micro-generation technologies, (except Photo-Voltaic), to low income and vulnerable households.
- Carbon Savings Obligation provides funding to insulate solid wall properties and those with 'hard-to-treat' cavity walls.
- Carbon Saving Communities Obligation provides free insulation and glazing measures to people living in the bottom 15% of the UK's most deprived areas.

Perth and Kinross Council and its partners are, at time of writing, awaiting detailed implementation guidance on Green Deal/ and Energy Company Obligation

2.9 Warm Home Discount Scheme

The Warm Home Discount Scheme helps some older people with energy costs and runs for four years from winter 2011/2012.

In 2012/13 Pension Credit customers may qualify for this energy discount if on 21 July 2012 (the qualifying date) they are either:

- Aged less than 80 years and receiving only the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit (no Savings Credit).
- Aged 80 years or over and are receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit.

and all of the following apply:

- Their name or their partner's name is on their electricity bill.
- They receive their electricity from one of the energy suppliers participating in this scheme.

Energy suppliers may also give the £130 discount to some other customers in vulnerable groups.

2.10 British Gas Community Energy

Under the priority group flex option within CERT, British Gas is now able to provide significant funding to homes installing external wall insulation. Funding is available for work carried out in social housing and also for privately owned and rented properties, providing that the individual receives certain benefits or allowances.

This funding is available for installations occurring after February 23 2011. All installations must be complete by the end of CERT (31st December 2012).

3 Local Initiatives and Key Actions

3.1 Local Initiatives

3.1.1 Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Energy Efficiency Advice Project

The Energy Efficiency Advice Project is funded by Perth and Kinross Council and delivered by Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF). Its main purpose is to help deliver the Fuel Poverty Statement by:

- Delivering free impartial advice to all householders
- Making referral to support services, such as Energy Assistance Package
- Work in partnership to develop a One-Stop-Shop for clients
- Work with partners to raise awareness of fuel poverty and ensure the most vulnerable people in our community are identified and supported

The project has 2 part time advisors who carry out a holistic Home Energy Check to identify all the underlying causes of fuel poverty. This will include benefit and tariff checks, along with checking insulation levels and the efficient use of home heating and appliances.

The Project Advisors work to deliver this service in a proactive and reactive way, attending events throughout the year to raise awareness of fuel poverty and the support services available to assist those affected by it. This service is free and the Energy Efficiency Advisors can be contacted on 01738 476183 or duty@scarf.org.uk

3.1.2 Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Free Appliance Scheme

Perth and Kinross Council now has a Service Level Agreement with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) with regard to a Free Appliance Scheme (FAS). The scheme provides low income and vulnerable households with brand new, energy efficient appliances, completely free of charge. The aim is to improve energy efficiency by replacing old inefficient appliances, thereby reducing fuel costs. The scheme is limited to one appliance per household and those eligible must receive their gas and/or electricity from Scottish and Southern Energy (or one of their brands) and be in receipt of certain benefits.

3.1.3 Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS)

Further funding of £675,000 was secured in Perth and Kinross for 2012/13 from the Universal Home Insulation Scheme for loft and cavity wall insulation in the Strathearn, Kinross and remainder of Strathtay wards. This brings total funding allocated of £1,825,000 in this scheme over the three years and also includes Highland, Blairgowrie and the Glens and parts of Strathtay wards.

3.1.4 Boiler Scrappage Scheme

In 2011/12 Perth and Kinross Council received 311 homeowner and 11 private sector landlord applications for the 'Boiler Scrappage Scheme'. 238 and 4 vouchers respectively were paid as of May 2012.

3.2 Key Points

- Successful Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHIS) bid of £675,000 in 2012/13 for loft and cavity wall insulation in Strathearn, Kinross and the remainder of Strathtay with an increase on 2011/12 funding of £560,000.
- Successful publicity obtained through the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement Public Launch and attendance by the Energy Efficiency Advice Project at various events and articles in newspapers, magazines and websites has led to increased referrals and service uptake.
- The Perth and Kinross Energy Efficiency Advice Project and the Energy Saving Scotland Advice Service continue to generate and receive a high volume of enquiries. In 2011/12 there were 4,855 Energy Assistance Package enquiries.
- Over 550 frontline staff in Perth and Kinross Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords and the Third Sector attended fuel poverty awareness raising sessions between 2010 and 2012.
- Continuing to work with the Climate Challenge Fund Projects with Comrie successful in securing £85,000.
- Welfare Rights Team continue to support people to maximise their income through benefit checks, assistance with Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) warm homes discount scheme applications, Macmillan grants and SSE Free Appliance Scheme.
- Funding secured to progress the Perth and Kinross Council Capital Improvement Programme including energy efficiency works.
- Continuing to work with utility companies e.g. Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) funding obtained for energy efficiency measures and Scottish Gas Network's assisted connections scheme providing subsidy for new gas supplies.
- Renewable energy opportunities through solar water heating pilot planned for Blackford and air source heat pump pilot planned for Kettins in 2012/13.
- New Council housing programme to include renewable energy saving measures.

4 Fuel Poverty Statement Action Plan

The overarching aim of the Fuel Poverty Statement is to eradicate fuel poverty as far as reasonably practical by 2016. Our main objectives are to assist fuel poor households to reduce their domestic fuel costs and to:

- Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction.
- Increase household income of 'fuel poor' households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information and refer to appropriate services.
- Maximise household incomes by providing benefits and money/debt advice.
- Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.

Our key actions are listed below:

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
Objective 1 - Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction					
1.1	Collate data from Local House Conditions Survey and Home Energy Efficiency Database to identify localities of fuel poverty and hard to treat properties	Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) Housing and Community Care (HCC)	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011/12 Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) bid successful for £560k in Blairgowrie and the Glens and part of Strathay Wards. 2012/13 UHS bid successful for £675k in remainder of Strathay, Strathearn and Kinross.
1.2	Complete Local House Condition Survey and Home Energy Efficiency Database analysis to identify areas of deprivation and target areas with fuel poverty advice	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localities Identified. Perth and Kinross Council's Revenues and Benefits Team to send Energy Assistance Package leaflets with approximately 11,000 review letters annually
1.3	Obtain information from Scottish Gas Network and from Local House Condition Survey to identify properties that are likely to have high fuel costs (e.g. hard to treat due to lack of access to gas network).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of properties identified from Local House Condition Survey. Scottish Gas Network have provided details of local gas network. Data gathered through Universal Home Insulation Scheme is helping to identify hard to treat houses. Heat mapping exercise completed March 2012.
Objective 2 - Increase household income of fuel poor households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral services					
2.1	Public launch/ road shows of Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement and SCARF information	PKC HCC / Save Cash and Reduce Fuel (SCARF)	Short	PKC HCC / SCARF/ NHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel Poverty Statement Public Launch 28/0/11 Kinloch Rannoch Energy Efficiency Advice Event 12/1/12 Awaiting Scottish Government detail on plans to support Green Deal/ECO.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
2.2	Use Council publications (e.g. newsletters/ web/ tenant handbooks) to promote energy advice, including Consumer Focus website which compares suppliers.	PKC HCC/ SCARF	Short	PKC HCC / SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles on Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) in the Perth and Kinross Council magazine and the Courier. Article on Energy Saving Tips and UHS in PKC News Winter 2011. Fuel Poverty Statement and links on the PKC website.
2.3	Promote Energy Assistance Package (EAP) by giving energy advice and delivering information to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perth and Kinross Council tenants. Registered Social Landlord tenants. Housing Benefit recipients. Everyone through the Council Tax Annual Bill.	PKC HC / SCARF	Short	70,000 Energy Assistance Package (EAP) leaflets sent out with 2012/13 Council Tax renewals and 7,500 to go out with PKC tenants quarterly review.	2011/12 Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enquiries 4,855 Actions 1,751 Clients involved 823 Home Visits 367
2.4	Distribute awareness raising information to partner agencies (e.g. Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB), Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services (PKAVS), Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and NHS) on fuel poverty issues	PKC HCC / SCARF	Short	PKC HCC / SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of awareness and advice sessions continue with the Third Sector, Registered Social Landlords and NHS held throughout the year by project staff.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
2.5	Undertake training needs assessment to identify the numbers of staff and the level of training required to enable frontline staff to signpost clients to services	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC / SCARF	Awareness raising sessions for PKC, NHS, RSL and Voluntary frontline staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010/11– approx 350 attending • 2011/12– 205 attending • Ongoing through publicity in Council bulletins and training calendar.
2.6	Produce training packages to deliver fuel poverty awareness training to improve Council and partner staff awareness (e.g. NHS). Rolling programme for all new staff.	PKC HCC / SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC / SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and refresher sessions are being rolled out to frontline staff on an ongoing basis. • Sessions are scheduled by Council's Learning Services.
2.7	Provide fuel poverty awareness /energy efficiency materials to private sector landlords	SCARF	Short	SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-version of fliers/ materials passed to private landlords. • Presentation on Fuel Poverty/ Green Deal at Landlord Forum/Open Day in August 2012.
2.8	Maintain existing Perth and Kinross Energy Efficient Project as a 'One Stop Shop' able to deliver proactive and reactive service.	SCARF	Short	SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project staff proactive in ensuring the links are maintained and strengthened with all relevant agencies see 2.3.
2.9	Develop proposals for community-based advice initiatives.	PKC HCC / SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC / SCARF/ Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)	Further successful bids for Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) - see 1.1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letham received £104k (non energy related) • Comrie received £85k continued support offered through UHS • Links being developed with the new SCONE environmental project.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
2.10	Progress existing default energy supplier scheme with Scottish and Southern Energy and/or procure tender so as to provide extended scheme for all housing tenures.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC / Scottish and Southern energy (SSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing default energy supply arrangement with Scottish and Southern Energy being reviewed with possible extension.
Objective 3 - Maximise household incomes by providing benefits and money/debt advice					
3.1	Implement Income Maximisation/Debt Advice initiatives	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any people contacting with Welfare Rights are offered a comprehensive welfare benefit check, including assistance with SSE warm home discount scheme applications and SSE Free Appliance Scheme. They also assist with Macmillan grants and other charity applications.
3.2	Undertake Winter Fuel Payment campaign to target single men and men between the ages of 60 and 64 years with a partner aged under 60 years as they may not be in receipt of a benefit administered by Dept Work and Pensions (DWP).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC Welfare Rights service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet undertaken due to reduced capacity.
	Improve carers' lives by providing advice to reduce fuel poverty	Carers' Strategic Group	Medium	Carers' Strategic Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welfare Rights Team gave a workshop on the Welfare Reform Bill at the Carers Conferences 2011 and August 2012.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
3.3	Continue to signpost/ refer people to more specific energy and fuel poverty advice services – Perth and Kinross Energy Efficiency Advice Project	PKC HCC / NHS/ SCARF	Short	PKC HCC / NHS/ SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff proactive in ensuring the links are maintained and strengthened with all relevant agencies Welfare Rights regularly make referrals to SCARF.
Objective 4 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock					
4.1	Deliver Energy Assistance Package (EAP) programme of insulation measures for Council owned housing	PKC HCC	Short	Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAP funding for Council housing was stopped after 2010/11. EAP scheme does continue for general programme. EAP referrals by SCARF under 2011/12 UHS programme were 1389 (Stage II) and 416 (Stage IV)
4.2	Progress Council's Capital Improvement Programme as part of Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) Delivery plan, such as energy efficiency works to council houses between April 2012 and March 2015 - total budget of £14.4m.	PKC HCC	Long	PKC HCC (2012/13 - £5.13m) (2013/14 - £4.72) (2014/15 - £4.60m)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Efficiency and Central Heating Renewal works to Council houses between April 2012 and March 2015. Total budget of £6.2m and £8.2m respectively.
4.3	Develop (Maintain) system to record and update NHER level of all Council homes on an ongoing basis.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of energy efficiency levels established through stock surveys and investment targeted towards addressing properties with lowest energy ratings. Developments to Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) monitoring system being undertaken 2012.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
4.4	Work in partnership with utilities companies to secure funding for energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CERT (Carbon Emissions Reduction Target) funding being obtained for energy efficiency measures. Scottish Gas Network's assisted connections scheme providing subsidy for new gas supplies. Discussions with utilities concerning Green Deal proposals ongoing.
4.5	Access potential funding sources/programmes from renewable energy (e.g. wind farms/ feed in tariffs and renewable heat incentives).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All potential sources of grant funding being investigated. Cut in 'Feed in Tariff' rates has affected viability of some schemes.
4.6	Develop pilot project in partnership to demonstrate the feasibility of schemes to improve the condition of mixed tenure stock.	PKC HCC	Long	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Deal / ECO details being finalised which should help to fund future mixed tenure projects. UHS funds being used to pay owners contributions for insulation works e.g. Croft Court / Drumhar etc.
4.7	Progress Council Tax Energy Efficiency Discount Scheme.	PKC HCC	Short	Scottish Gas/ PKC HCC	<p>Council Tax Energy Efficiency Scheme run by Scottish Gas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010/11 – 44 awards 2011/12 - 0 applications. This scheme finishes in 2013 and other options to be identified.
4.8	Maximise access to external funding sources to facilitate the installation of energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC / (SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bids will continue to be submitted to relevant agencies e.g. ECO
4.9	Home Insulation Scheme (HIS) and Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) for owner occupiers and private renters and encourage uptake of the offer.	PKC HCC / SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC / SCARF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third successful UHS funding award has been announced for 2012/13 (£675K). Latest scheme includes Kinross / Strathearn. 2011/12 scheme (Blairgowrie) completed by September 2012.

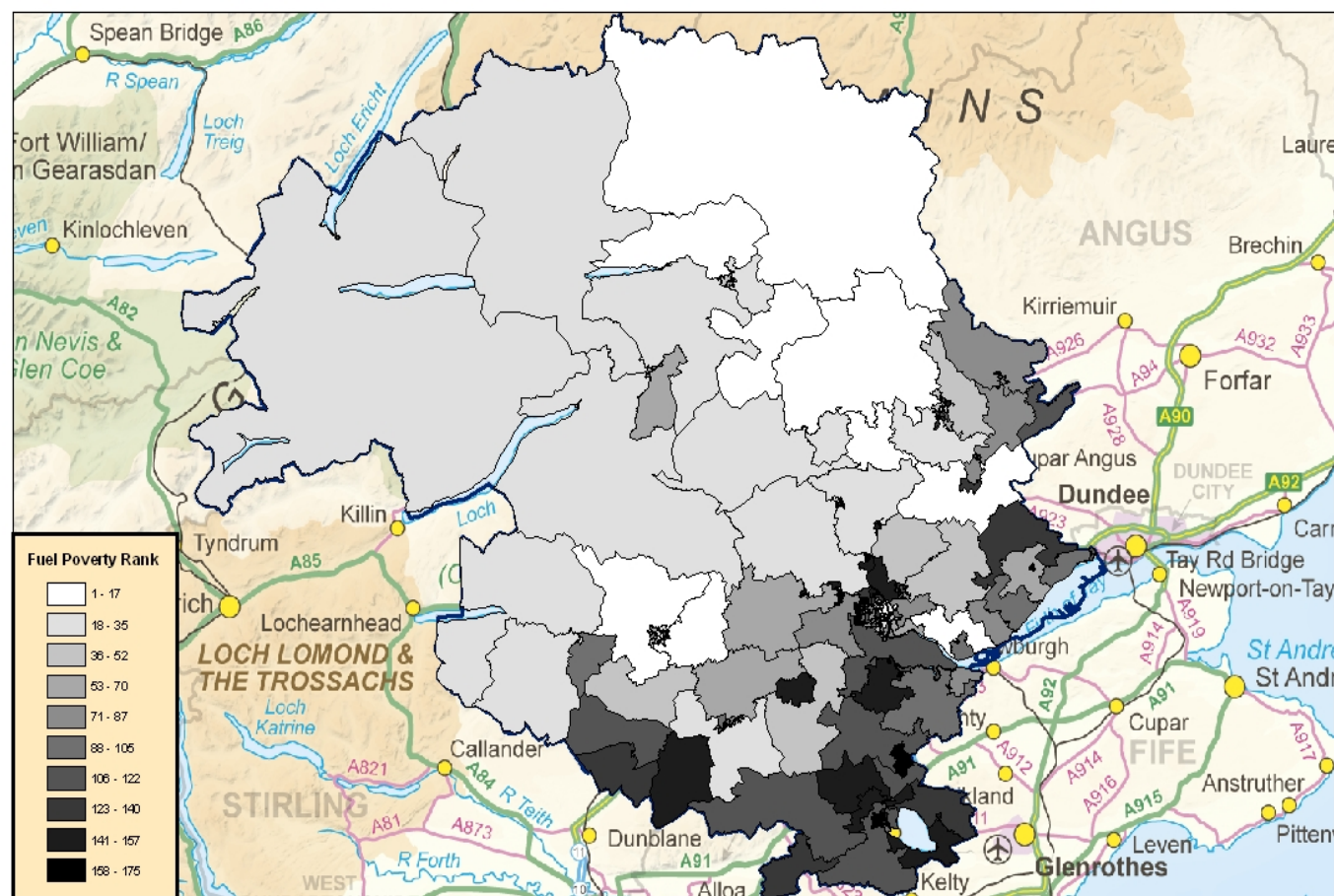
NO.	ACTION	BY WHOM	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	UPDATE SEPT 2012
4.10	Utilise Assisted Connections Scheme for 'fuel poor' households to assist with gas mains extension and infill schemes	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further applications being made under bulk heating renewal programme for in fills / extensions to gas network and new supplies e.g. Double Dykes, Perth Approval for assisted connection scheme of 9 blocks of flats, 11 flats per block in Strathtay Road, Perth
4.11	Research further renewable schemes for Solar water heating, solar Photo-Voltaic, air-sourced heat pumps (ASHP)/ under floor heating.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar water heating planned for pilot scheme in Blackford 2012/13, air-sourced heat pumps pilot planned for Kettins 2012/13.
4.12	Encourage improving the energy efficiency of their stock in Council and Registered Social Landlords' new build	PKC HCC Scottish Government / Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	Short	PKC HCC /Scottish Government/ Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Council housing programme has included high levels of energy efficiency in design and future developments will include further energy saving measures (renewables).

Action Plan Key: Timescales: Ongoing, Short (0-1 year), Medium (1-2 years), Long (2-5 years)

HCC Housing and Community Care Services (Perth and Kinross Council)
HEED Home Energy Efficiency Database
LHCS Local House Condition Survey
NHS National Health Service
RSL Registered Social Landlords

SCARF Save Cash and Reduce Fuel
SCG Scottish Gas
SG Scottish Government
SSE Scottish and Southern Energy

Appendix 1



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Title: Fuel Poverty Index Rank for Perth & Kinross

Source: Scottish Government/Lothian & Edinburgh Environmental Partnership

Note: The Fuel Poverty Index is measured by Datazone and those that have a lower rank (lighter shaded areas) are in more fuel poverty than those with a higher rank (darker shaded areas).

