

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing and Health Committee

6 November 2013

Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 Progress Report 2013

Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to highlight the progress in implementing the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Housing and Health Committee approved the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 on 1 June 2011 (Report 11/248), the 2012 Progress Report on 31 October 2012 (Report 12/479), the Home Energy Efficiency Works on 29 May 2013 (Report 13/251) and the Home Energy Efficiency Works – North Muirton, Perth on 14 August 2013 (Report 13/381).
- 1.2 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 standards
 - Poor energy efficiency through inefficient heating systems
 - Household behaviour and under-occupancy of properties
- 1.3 The Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement 2002 definition of fuel poverty is:

‘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 or Income Support for Mortgage Interest) on all household fuel use’. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/46951/0031675.pdf>
- 1.4 The Scottish Government has a target that by November 2016, so far as is reasonably practicable, people in Scotland are not living in fuel poverty. 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.
- 1.5 Local Authorities have a responsibility to prepare Local Housing Strategies that ensure as far as reasonable practicable 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.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is proposed that Committee note the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-16 Progress Report 2013 (Appendix 1) and request that updates are brought to future Housing and Health Committee meetings.
- 2.2 The Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 Progress Report 2013:
- 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 together with local initiatives that have been developed over the last year.
 - Highlights key points and demonstrates progress against key actions.
- 2.3 The Statement sets out four strategic objectives to assist 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 services.
 - Maximise overall household incomes by providing benefits and money and debt advice.
 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock.
- 2.4 Significant successes include:
- Successful HEEPS-ABS bid for £1,216k targeting hard to heat properties and properties in Council Tax bands A-C. A further £1,922k bid has been successful bringing total funding to date of £3.1m for 2013/14.
 - Significant additional investment in the Council's housing stock is being funded through ECO scheme in conjunction with SSE. First phase includes 159 houses in Hillyland, Perth with others to follow during 2013-2015
 - The PKC Energy Efficiency Advice Project and Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre received over 4,800 enquiries in 2012/13
 - A further 190 frontline staff from Perth & Kinross Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords and the Voluntary Sector attended awareness raising sessions
 - 44 consumers and 16 frontline staff has benefited from 7 awareness raising sessions through the Energy Best Deal Initiative through CAB
 - Scottish Gas Network's Assisted Connections Scheme continues to provide subsidy for new gas supplies with £860k saved through the fuel poverty voucher scheme during 2012/13 on 673 new gas connections
 - Solar water heating now installed to more than 80 houses with further homes planned for installation during 2013/14

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 This report provides information on the progress of the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016.

It is recommended that committee:

1. Note the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 Progress Report 2013 (Appendix 1).
2. Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to bring future Fuel Poverty Statement progress reports to future meetings of this committee.

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Approved

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ANNEX

1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	Yes
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	
Communications Plan	Yes

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The following outcomes from the Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2023 are all relevant to this report:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The following outcomes from the Council's Corporate Plan are all relevant to this report:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The core activities and priorities identified in this report have been incorporated into the Service's Revenue Budget 2013/14 and 2014/15 following approval at full Council on 14 February 2013 (Report 13/53) and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Strategic Financial Plan Incorporating the 5 Year Capital Investment Programme and Rent Strategy to 2017/18, Reserves Strategy and Other Housing Charges for 2013/14 approved at Housing and Health Committee on 6 February 2013 (Report 13/56).
- 2.2 Specific funding applications have been successful for energy efficiency works – Reports 13/251 on Home Energy Efficiency Works and 13/381 on Home Energy Efficiency Works – North Muirton, Perth refers.

Workforce

- 2.4 There are no direct workforce implications with regard to this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.5 All tenure properties are included in these proposals.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

- (i) Services that are the focus of this report provide positive outcomes through care, support and assistance to a range of client groups.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.2 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

- 3.3 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

These proposals meet the following sustainability criteria:

- Where possible, using materials from sustainable sources.
- Energy conservation through improved insulation measures.
- More efficient heating systems.

Legal and Governance

- 3.4 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and there are no direct legal implications in this report.

Risk

- 3.5 The Housing and Community Care Senior Management Team regularly review capital monitoring reports and the HRA capital Investment programme that highlight individual project progress and risk.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Heads of Finance, Legal Services and Deputy Director, Environment Services have been consulted on this report.

External

- 4.2 The Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 was developed through detailed inter-agency working and consultation. Achieving the objectives is progressed through successful joint working with partner agencies including SCARF, Registered Social Landlords, NHS and Voluntary Sector.
- 4.3 The Tenant Committee Report Panel welcome the information contained within this report; however it recognises the significant challenges faced by the Council, Services and the Government as they have little or no control over the process set by the energy companies. They welcome information being sent to elderly tenants who may find it difficult to seek advice. These measures and actions are much needed and the plan hope the action plan is implemented robustly.

5 Communication

- 5.1 There are no direct communication issues with regard to this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were used other than those referred to and referenced in the report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 in this report is the Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement 2011-2016 Progress Report 2013.

Appendix 2 in this report is national and local initiatives that are available and have been actioned in Perth and Kinross.



PERTH and KINROSS

FUEL POVERTY STATEMENT 2011 – 2016

PROGRESS REPORT September 2013

Glossary

ASHP	Air Sourced Heat Pumps
CAB	Citizen Advice Bureau
CERT	Carbon Emissions Reduction Target
CESP	Community Energy Saving Programme
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
EAP	Energy Assistance Package
ECO	Energy Company Obligation
EEA	European Economic Area
EPC	Energy Performance Certificate
ESCO	Energy Service Companies
EST	Energy Savings Trust
FIT	Feed-In Tariff
HCC	PKC Housing and Community Care Services
HEAT	Home Energy Advice Team
HES	Home Energy Scotland
HEED	Home Energy Efficiency Database
HEEPS-ABS	Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland – Area Based Schemes
LA	Local Authority
LHCS	Local House Condition Survey
NHS	National Health Service
NRP	National Retrofit Programme
PKAVS	Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service
PKC	Perth & Kinross Council
PV	Photovoltaic
RHI	Renewable Heat Incentive
RSL	Registered Social Landlords
SCARF	Save Cash and Reduce Fuel
SCG	Scottish Gas
SG	Scottish Government
SGN	Scotland Gas Networks
SHQS	Scottish Housing Quality Standard
SIMD	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
SSE	Scottish and Southern Energy
UHS	Universal Home Insulation Scheme

1. Introduction

- 1.1 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 standards
 - 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 assist fuel poor households in Perth and Kinross to decrease 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 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 August 2013. It demonstrates how measures to eradicate Fuel Poverty, as far as reasonably practicable, in Perth & Kinross by 2016 are being addressed and highlights national and local initiatives that are available and have been actioned in the area.

2. Key Points

- Successful HEEPS-ABS bid for £1,216k targeting hard to heat properties and properties in Council Tax bands A-C. A further £1,922k bid has been successful bringing total funding to date of £3.1m for 2013/14
- Projects to identify clients in Fuel Poverty through CAB and Hillcrest Housing Association
- The PKC Energy Efficiency Advice Project and Energy Saving Scotland Advice Centre received over 4,800 enquiries in 2012/13
- A further 190 frontline staff from Perth & Kinross Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords and the Voluntary Sector attended awareness raising sessions
- 44 consumers and 16 frontline staff has benefited from 7 awareness raising sessions through the Energy Best Deal Initiative through CAB
- Welfare Rights Team continue to support people to maximise their income through benefit checks, assistance with SSE warm home discount scheme applications, McMillan Grants and other charity applications

- Significant additional investment in the Council's housing stock is being funded through ECO scheme in conjunction with SSE. First phase includes 159 houses in Hillyland, Perth with others to follow during 2013-2015
- Scottish Gas Network's Assisted Connections Scheme continues to provide subsidy for new gas supplies with £860k saved through the fuel poverty voucher scheme during 2012/13 on 673 new gas connections
- Discussions with utility companies concerning Green Deal proposals are on-going
- Solar water heating now installed to more than 80 houses with further homes planned for installation during 2013/14
- New Council housing programme has included high levels of energy efficiency in design and future developments will include further energy saving measures

3. Fuel Poverty Statement Action Plan

The overarching aim of this 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 decrease 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 referral 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 WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 1 - Identify levels of fuel poverty and measure progress towards its reduction –					
1.1	Collate data from LHCS and HEED to identify localities of Fuel Poverty and hard to treat properties.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	2011/12 UHIS bid successful for £560k in Blairgowrie and the Glens and part of Strathguy Wards. 2012/13 UHIS bid successful for £675k and a further £350k extending scheme to include full Council area. 2013/14 HEEPS-ABS bid successful for £1,216k targeting hard to treat properties and properties in Council Tax bands A-C. A further £1,922k bid has been successful bringing total funding to date of £3.1m.
1.2	Complete LHCS and HEED analysis to identify areas of deprivation and target areas with Fuel Poverty advice.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Key target localities identified and advice project focused on delivering fuel poverty awareness raising, training and assistance. PKC revenues and Benefits to send EAP leaflets with Council Tax annual bills in March 2014 which will reach every house in PKC.
1.3	Obtain information from SGN and from LHCS 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	Types of properties identified from LHCS. SGN have provided details of local gas network and programme of extensions to mains in Council estates identified / planned. Data gathered through UHIS is helping to identify private sector hard to treat houses. Heat mapping exercise to be completed March 2014.
1.4	Collate data from LHCS and EST Home Analytics data for bids in conjunction with relevant partners.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC SCARF	Home analytics data was used to inform HEEPS-ABS bid which was submitted in April 2013. Specific exercise undertaken to assess feasibility of installing solar PV to Council stock July 2013.
1.5	Collate Data from Utilities Project to identify CAB benefit/debt advice clients who are in Fuel Poverty.	CAB	Short	CAB	National Project with SSE ran from Jan to March 2013 – been extended Approx. 300 clients – 51% in Fuel Poverty. Energy Advice Training to 15 experienced advisors & 4 new volunteers.
1.6	Collate information on Hillcrest Housing Association Clients to identify Fuel Poverty level.	Hillcrest Housing Association	Short	Hillcrest Housing Association	Student placement starting September 2013 for 8 weeks to try to ascertain fuel poverty clients within their stock.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS																		
Objective 2 - Increase household income of fuel poor households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral services																							
2.1	Promote successful Perth and Kinross Fuel Poverty Statement and SCARF information	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC NHS SCARF	Fuel Poverty Statement Public Launch 28.10.11 Kinloch Rannoch Energy Efficiency Advice Event 12.1.12 Scottish Government have launched HEEPS-ABS which gives LAs support for private sector and will act as seed funding to draw in ECO funding. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Articles on UHIS / HEEPS-ABS in the PKC magazine and the Courier.Articles on Energy Saving Tips and UHIS updated in PKC News.Fuel Poverty Statement and links on the PKC website.																		
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																			
2.3	Promote Energy Assistance Package 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 HCC SCARF	Short	70,000 EAP leaflets sent out with 2012/13 Council Tax renewals and 7,500 to go out with PKC tenants quarterly review annually.	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th>2011/12</th><th>2012/13</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Enquiries</td><td>4855</td><td>4805</td></tr><tr><td>Actions</td><td>1751</td><td>1698</td></tr><tr><td>Clients</td><td>823</td><td>800</td></tr><tr><td>Home Visits</td><td>367</td><td>353</td></tr><tr><td>Events</td><td>-</td><td>47</td></tr></tbody></table>		2011/12	2012/13	Enquiries	4855	4805	Actions	1751	1698	Clients	823	800	Home Visits	367	353	Events	-	47
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Home Visits	367	353																					
Events	-	47																					
2.4	Distribute awareness raising information to partner agencies (e.g. CAB, PKAVS, RSLs and NHS) on fuel poverty issues	PKC HCC SCARF	Short	PKC HCC SCARF	Delivery of awareness and advice sessions continues to Voluntary sector, RSLs and NHS which are held throughout the year by project staff are on-going.																		

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 2 - Increase household income of fuel poor households by delivering fuel poverty advice, information advice and referral services					
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. Energy Best Deal Initiative –CAB.	PKC HCC SCARF CAB	Short Short	PKC HCC SCARF CAB	Awareness raising sessions for PKC, NHS, RSLs and 3 rd Sector frontline staff. On-going through publicity in PKC bulletin and training calendar. Partner agencies to advertise sessions to their frontline staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010/11 – approx. 350 • 2011/12 – 205 • 2012/13 - 190 7 Awareness Raising sessions for 44 consumers and 16 front line staff.
2.6	Produce training packages to deliver fuel poverty awareness training so as to improve Council and partner staff awareness (e.g. NHS). Rolling programme for all new staff.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Awareness raising and refresher sessions are being rolled out to frontline staff on an on-going basis. Sessions are scheduled by PKC Learning and Devt Team
2.7	Provide fuel poverty awareness /energy efficiency materials to private sector landlords.	SCARF	Short	SCARF	E-version of fliers/ materials has been passed to private landlords. Presentation on Fuel Poverty/ Green Deal scheduled at Landlord Forum/Open Day in August 2012. Dialogue with Landlords is on-going with Advice Project and HES staff.
2.8	Maintain existing Perth and Kinross Energy Efficient Project as a 'One Stop Shop' able to deliver both proactive and reactive service.	SCARF	Short	SCARF	Project staff is proactive in ensuring the links are maintained and strengthened with all relevant agencies see 2.3 . Project being rebranded to HEAT (Home Energy Advice Team).
2.9	Develop proposals for the development of community based advice initiatives.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF Climate Challenge Fund (CCF)	Further successful bids for UHIS and HEEPS-ABS. See 1.1 . Letham received £104k (non-energy related). Comrie received £85k continued support offered through UHIS / HEEPS-ABS. Links being developed with the new SCONE environmental project.
2.10	Progress existing default energy supplier scheme with SSE and/or procure tender so as to provide extended scheme for all housing	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC SSE	Existing default energy supply arrangement with SSE extended.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
	tenures.				

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 3 - Maximise household incomes by providing benefits and money/debt advice					
3.1	Implement Income Maximisation/Debt Advice approaches.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Any contacts with Welfare Rights are offered a comprehensive welfare benefit check, including assistance with SSE warm home discount scheme applications. 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 with a female partner under 60 as they may not be in receipt of a benefit administered by The Pension Service. Improve carers lives by providing advice to reduce fuel poverty.	PKC HCC Carers Strategic Group	Short Medium	PKC HCC Welfare Rights service Carers Strategic Group	Not undertaken due to lack of capacity.
3.3	Continue to signpost/ refer clients 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	Welfare Rights Team gave a workshop on the Welfare Reform Bill at the Carers Conference 2011. Project staff proactive in ensuring the links are maintained and strengthened with all relevant agencies. Welfare Rights regularly make referrals to SCARF.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 4 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock					
4.1	Deliver Energy Assistance Package programme of insulation measures for Council owned housing.	PKC HCC	Short	UHS	EAP funding for Council housing was stopped after 2010/11. EAP scheme does continue for general programme. EAP referrals by SCARF were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under 2011/12 UHS programme-1389 (Stage II) and 416 (Stage IV). In 2012/13 – 853 EAP referrals and 101 to loan scheme.
4.2	Progress PKC Capital Improvement Programme as part of 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)	Energy Efficiency and Central Heating Renewal works to Council houses between April 2012 and March 2015 - Total budget of £2.55m and £11.9m respectively. Significant additional investment in the Council's housing stock is being funded through ECO scheme in conjunction with SSE. First phase includes 159 houses in Hillyland, Perth with others to follow during 2013-2015.
4.3	Develop (Maintain) system to record and update NHER level of all Council homes on an on-going basis.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Record of energy efficiency levels established through stock surveys and investment targeted towards addressing properties with lowest energy ratings. Developments to SHQS monitoring system have been undertaken by BACRA during 2012-2013.
4.4	Work in partnership with utilities companies to secure funding for energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	CERT funding was obtained for energy efficiency measures up to December 2012. ECO funding now being obtained (see 4.2 above) SGN's assisted connections scheme continues to provide subsidy for new gas supplies with £860k saved through fuel poverty voucher scheme during 2012/13 on 673 new gas connections. Discussions with utilities concerning Green Deal proposals on-going.
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	All potential sources of grant funding are continuing to be investigated. Cut in FIT rates has affected viability of Solar PV schemes in 2011/12, however, reduced cost of equipment now creating renewed interest. Potential benefits from RHI scheme are also being pursued.

NO.	ACTION	BY WHO	TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	COMMENTS
Objective 4 - Increase energy and fuel efficiency of the housing stock					
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	Green Deal / ECO / HEEPS-ABS projects now started and targeted at mixed tenure projects. UHIS funds were 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	SCG PKC HCC	Council Tax Energy Efficiency Scheme run by Scottish Gas: 2010/11 – 44 awards 2011/12 - 0 applications 2012/13 – 0 applications This scheme is now finished and other options to be identified.
4.8	Maximise access to external funding sources in order to facilitate the installation of energy efficiency improvements.	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Bids will continue to be submitted to relevant agencies e.g. ECO, HEEPS-ABS and RHI.
4.9	Home Insulation Scheme and Universal Home Insulation Scheme for owner occupiers and private renters and encourage uptake of the offer.	PKC HCC SCARF	Medium	PKC HCC SCARF	Fourth successful UHIS funding award was announced for 2012/13 (£675K+350K). Latest scheme includes all areas of Perth & Kinross. Works are to be completed by September 2013. Part of HEEP-ABS bid includes provision of basic insulation measures (loft / cavity etc.) to homes in Council Tax bands A-C.
4.10	Utilise Assisted Connections Scheme for fuel poor households to assist with gas mains extension and infill schemes.	PKC HCC	Medium	PKC HCC	Further applications being made under bulk heating renewal programme for infills / extensions to gas network and new supplies (see also 4.4 above).
4.11	Research further renewables schemes for Solar water heating, solar PV, air sourced heat pumps (ASHP).	PKC HCC	Short	PKC HCC	Solar water heating now installed to more than 80 houses with further homes planned for installation during 2013/14. ASHP pilot scheduled for Ketins in 2013/14. Feasibility study for Solar PV being undertaken 2013/14.
4.12	Encourage improving the energy efficiency of their stock in PKC and RSL new build.	PKC HCC SG RSL	Short	PKC HCC SG RSL	New Council housing programme has included high levels of energy efficiency in design and future developments will include further energy saving measures (renewables are being included at Springbank Rd, Alyth Phase 2 and in regeneration of Old Mill Road in Ratray).

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

1. Current Initiatives

1.1 Energy Assistance Scheme

The Scottish Government Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland are open to people across Scotland to help make homes warmer and more energy efficient by offering:

- A free home energy check, which is available to everyone, and will check how energy efficient the home is and suggest practical changes and improvements to reduce the amount of energy used in the home, saving money
- A benefit and tax credit check, and access to the lowest-cost energy rates. This may be available to everyone depending on circumstances.
- Energy Efficiency Measures to make the home warmer and cheaper to heat e.g. heating systems such as central heating or a new boiler, and loft and cavity wall insulation
 - Energy Suppliers fund measures under the Affordable Warmth Scheme and is available to homeowners or private sector tenant, have lived in the home for at least 1 year, and are in receipt of certain benefits
 - The Scottish Government fund measures under the Energy Assistance Scheme which are available to homeowners or private-sector tenant, have lived in the home for at least 1 year, and meet the qualifying criteria of home energy rating and certain benefits. However they may still qualify if over 60 and no central heating system¹

1.2 Green Deal

The Green Deal is an innovative financing mechanism that lets people pay for energy-efficiency improvements through savings on their energy bills. Participants will then repay the loan through a charge added to their energy bill.

There are 4 stages of Assessment, Finance, Installation and Repayment and 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 launched in January 2013 and applies to both the domestic and non-domestic sector. It will replace current policies such as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP).

There are 45 measures or areas of home improvement approved to receive funding under the Green Deal, covering:

- Insulation
- Heating and hot water
- Glazing
- Microgeneration (generating your own energy)

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/warmhomes/eap/stage4>

For the non-domestic sector lighting, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery measures can also be covered. More areas may be added as technology develops.

In Scotland on 1 November 2012 the Scottish Government launched the Green Homes Cashback Scheme to encourage people to make improvements. The Scottish Government is offering owner occupiers, private and social tenants and private sector landlords up to £500 towards energy efficiency measures that are recommended in either the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) or Green Deal assessment.²

1.3 Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for the big six energy suppliers was also launched in January 2013 and consists of: -

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

Through ECO, the UK government aims to help 230,000 low-income households or those in low-income areas. Of the expected investment by suppliers of £1.3bn per year, there will be a 75:25 split between the carbon and affordable warmth obligations.³

1.4 Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy 2013

Scotland's Sustainable Housing Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's vision for a future of warm, high quality, affordable, low carbon homes and a housing sector that helps to establish a successful low carbon economy across Scotland. This strategy follows on from the consultation document, 'Homes that don't cost the earth' which was developed with the Sustainable Housing Strategy Group.

The vision and objectives for the strategy are to:

- Deliver a step-change in provision of energy efficient homes to 2030 through retrofit and new build
- Ensure that no-one in Scotland has to live in fuel poverty, as far as is reasonably practicable, by 2016
- Make a full contribution to the Climate Change Act targets

² <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Take-action/Find-a-grant/Green-Deal-and-ECO>

³ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Take-action/Find-a-grant/Green-Deal-and-ECO>

- 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

The focus is on the energy efficiency aspects of sustainability, while recognising the wider aspects of this agenda, and in particular the importance of house condition.⁴

1.5 HEEPS – ABS

The Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland – Area Based Schemes (HEEPS-ABS) is a new programme which is being promoted by the Scottish Government. The scheme replaces the Universal Home Insulation Scheme and invites local authorities to submit funding bids towards energy saving measures that will assist home owners or private landlords in their area. The scheme has the following main objectives:-

- To reduce fuel poverty
- To reduce carbon emissions
- To lever ECO funding
- To support the local economy and sustainable economic development

Applications for funding under the HEEPS-ABS programme are required to meet several specific criteria. The main points are as follows:

- They should clearly target fuel poor areas beginning with those households in most need of assistance
- They should be for private sector properties (including private sector properties in mixed tenure blocks). Private rented properties will be eligible. Holiday homes and static caravans are excluded
- They should be for 2013/14, but can also include an outline programme for 2014/15
- They should be made up of a mixture of higher cost measures (such as solid wall insulation) and lower cost measures made available more widely (see below for further information)
- Councils will be able to spend up to 10% of received funding on administrative and enabling costs (see below for further information)
- Councils will be able to contractually commit up to 20% of their core 2013/14 allocation for drawdown in 2014/15 Projects may continue into 2013/14 using ECO or other leveraged funding
- A core objective of the HEEPS: ABS is to lever as much ECO into Scotland as possible. In the NRP pilots, leverage of around 3:1 (ECO:NRP) was secured and it is expected that this ratio will be achieved for the HEEPS: ABS. It is, however, accepted that in some circumstances leverage will be lower than this. Therefore leverage should be sought across the scheme as a whole
- Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered all available funding options to achieve the proposed work. This would include, where appropriate, the Green Deal and the Green Homes Cashback Voucher
- Schemes should be designed to maximise carbon reductions⁵

⁴ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00425697.pdf>

Initial bids to the Scottish Government during 2013/14 have been successful in securing £3.1m HEEPS-ABS funding to offer private home owners and private landlords energy efficiency work free of charge or for very little cost. These works will initially be in Hillyland, North Muirton and Stanley. The ECO element covering the Local Authority houses in the areas will be funded by SSE.

1.6 Universal Home Insulation Scheme

The Universal Home Insulation Scheme (UHS) is funded by the Scottish Government. The scheme provides private householders with FREE energy saving advice, a home energy check, and where needed, free loft insulation, pipe / tank insulation and cavity wall insulation.

No new applications for assistance under the UHS programme can be accepted after 31 March 2013; however, measures can still be installed in those households that applied to be included in the scheme before then up to the end of September 2013.

UHS has now been superseded by the Scottish Government's HEEPS-ABS programme (see above).⁶

1.7 Scotland Gas Networks (SGN) Assisted Connections Scheme

Scotland Gas Networks operate a discount scheme which helps to subsidise the cost of installing new gas connections where households meet the following qualifying criteria:-

- Reside within the 20% most deprived areas, as measured by the Scottish Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD); or
- Are eligible for measures under the Scottish Government Energy Assistance Package; or
- Fall within the Priority Group (low income households or individuals over 70 years of age) for measures under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT); or
- Are in fuel poverty based on the standard Government definition - that is to spend more than 10% of their disposable income on all household fuel use to maintain a satisfactory heating regime⁷

1.8 Gas In-Fill Loans Scheme

The Scottish Government has made available £1 million for 2012/13 and a further £4 million for 2013/14 for the Gas Infill Loans Scheme which provides loan funding for gas infill projects and gas grid extension projects. This loan funding is available to support:

⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00427870.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/04/UHS03032012>

⁷ <https://www.sgn.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Marketing/Content/SGN-Documents/Connections/Connections-Assisted/SGN-Scotland-Assisted-Connections-Leaflet-Aug2010.pdf>

- Gas infill projects – this means projects to connect groups of owner-occupied houses within the existing gas grid but not currently connected to it
- Gas grid extension projects – this means projects to connect groups of houses located sufficiently close to the existing grid to be connected at a reasonable cost, taking account of the various sources of funding support available⁸

1.9 Greener Homes Initiative (Alyth)

On 25 September 2012 the Scottish Government launched a £10 million ‘Greener Homes Innovation Scheme’ challenge fund that aims to deliver eco-friendly homes.⁹

Perth & Kinross Council was successful in bidding for funding of £210,000 from this scheme for 7 units in Alyth. They are to be built with high levels of insulation, good air tightness, triple glazed windows and doors and whole house ventilation with heat recovery. Both solar thermal and photo voltaic panels are proposed to meet carbon and renewable elements of the Building Standards ‘silver level’. The solar thermal will attract Renewable Heating Incentive (RHI) funding and photo voltaic will attract Feed-In Tariff (FIT) funding. The units will demonstrate high levels of energy efficiency which will help to combat fuel poverty make a contribution to Climate Change Act targets and also support the house-building sector to contribute to Scotland’s low carbon economy.

1.10 Home Renewables Loan Scheme

The Energy Saving Scotland home renewables loan scheme enables Scottish householders to install a renewables system, further support Scotland’s microgeneration industry and contribute towards Scotland’s climate change targets. Interest free loans of up to £10,000 are available for heat generating renewables systems such as heat pumps, biomass boilers and solar thermal. These renewable heat loans will have a repayment period of up to 8 years. Also available are interest free loans of up to £2,000 for electricity generating renewables systems such as solar PV, wind turbines and micro hydro. These renewable electricity loans will have a repayment period of up to 4 years.¹⁰

1.11 Feed-In Tariffs Scheme (FITs)

Electricity-generating technology installed from a renewable or low-carbon source such as solar PV or wind turbine could result in payments from the energy supplier through the UK Government's Feed-In Tariffs scheme (FITs).

Savings can be made by using the electricity generated from the technology as well as be paid for the electricity generated, and for any surplus electricity exported to the grid.

⁸ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Take-action/Find-a-grant/Gas-Infill-Loans-Scheme>

⁹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/sustainable/largescale>

¹⁰ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Take-action/Find-a-grant/Home-Energy-Scotland-renewables-loan-scheme>

This is the main financial incentive to encourage uptake of renewable electricity-generating technologies. Most domestic technologies qualify for the scheme, including:

- Solar electricity (PV) (roof mounted or stand-alone)
- Wind turbines (building mounted or free standing)
- Hydroelectricity
- Anaerobic digesters
- Micro combined heat and power (CHP)¹¹

1.12 Renewable Heat Premium Payment – Phase 2

The Renewable Heat Premium Payment is a UK Government scheme designed to help households afford renewable technologies for the home, such as:

- Solar thermal panels
- Heat pumps (air to water, ground source or water source but excluding air to air and exhaust air heat pumps)
- Biomass boilers

The Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme - Phase 2 extension will run from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, subject to available funding.¹²

1.13 Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

The Renewable Heat Incentive is a UK Government Scheme and encourages the installation of renewable heat equipment with financial incentives to householders, businesses and communities. There are two phases to the introduction of the RHI:

- **Phase 1:** the introduction of the RHI for non-domestic installations in the industrial, business and public sectors
- **Phase 2:** the domestic element of the RHI is expected to be introduced in spring 2014 following the consultation published in September 2012 and more recently the UK Government Heat Strategy¹³

1.14 Landlord Green Appliance Scheme

The Scottish Government is offering private sector landlords up to £500 towards replacing old and inefficient appliances such as fridge freezers, fridges, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers in their rented properties. They can apply for more than one different appliance up to £500 limit.¹⁴

¹¹ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generating-energy/Getting-money-back/Feed-In-Tariffs-scheme-FITs>

¹² <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generating-energy/Getting-money-back/Renewable-Heat-Premium-Payment-Phase-2>

¹³ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Generating-energy/Getting-money-back/Renewable-Heat-Incentive-RHI>

¹⁴ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Organisations/Technology/Free-resources-for-housing-professionals/Private-Sector-Landlords/Landlord-Green-Appliance-scheme>

1.15 Warm Homes Fund

The Warm Homes Fund is a new £50 million Scottish Government initiative which aims to provide loan funding for renewable energy projects (including district heating) to support communities in fuel poverty. Funding can be applied for by Local Authorities (LAs), Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) formed by RSLs or LAs and in certain circumstances Community Groups undertaking renewable energy projects. Schemes have to demonstrate that:

- Funding is targeted to a fuel-poor area
- It will reduce fuel poverty within that community
- It should be backed by targeted energy efficiency action so that those communities currently worst hit by higher fuel prices see significant reduction in their fuel costs

Funding support for this can come from a range of sources, including ECO, and from pilot projects funded through the Scottish Government's HEEPS-ABS.¹⁵

1.16 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 2013/14 customers may qualify for this energy discount of £135 if on the qualifying date (to be confirmed) they are either:

- Aged 75 or over and getting the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit
- Aged under 75 and only getting the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit (you won't qualify if you also get Saving Credit)

And all of the following apply:

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

Energy suppliers may also give the £135 discount to some other customers in vulnerable groups.¹⁶

1.17 Winter Fuel Payment

A Winter Fuel Payment of between £100 and £300 tax-free is available to help pay heating bills. To qualify for Winter Fuel Payment:

¹⁵ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Take-action/Get-business-funding/Warm-Homes-Fund>

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/overview>

- Born on or before 5 July 1951 (winter 2012 to 2013 - this date changes every year)
- Live in the UK throughout the week of 17 to 23 September 2012

Payment may be made if those who live in another European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland with a genuine link to the UK.¹⁷

1.18 Cold Weather Payment

A Cold Weather Payment is available to people on certain benefits when the local temperature is either recorded as, or forecast to be, an average of zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days. For each 7 day period of very cold weather between 1 November and 31 March those eligible will receive £25.¹⁸

1.19 Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) Energy Efficiency Advice Project

The PKC Energy Efficiency Advice Project is funded by PKC 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 like the Energy Assistance Package etc.
- Work in partnership with council departments and other organisations to develop a One Stop Shop for clients
- Work with partners to raise awareness of Fuel Poverty and ensure the most vulnerable in our community are identified and supported

The project has 2 part time advisors who operate out of Housing and Community Care based at Whitefriars, Perth. In helping clients the advisors will carry out a holistic Home Energy Check to identify all the underlying causes for the clients problems. 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 both deliver this service in a proactive and reactive way and subsequently attend numerous events throughout the year to raise awareness of Fuel Poverty and the support services available to help identify the fuel poor and signpost them for assistance.

This service is FREE and PKC Energy Efficiency Advisors can be contacted on 01738 476183 or duty@scarf.org.uk¹⁹

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>

¹⁸ <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/specialist-guides/technical-guidance/sb16-a-guide-to-the-social/cold-weather-payments/>

¹⁹ <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/1929/Energy-efficiency>

1.20 Fuel Poverty Awareness Raising Sessions

In 2012/13, 190 frontline staff in Perth and Kinross Council, NHS, Registered Social Landlords, Independent and Voluntary Sectors has attended fuel poverty awareness raising sessions.

1.21 Boiler Scrappage Scheme

The last date for applications for vouchers under the 2012-13 Boiler Scrappage Scheme was 31 March 2013.²⁰

1.22 Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) Initiatives

CAB Perth has been involved with 2 Initiatives this year which has come from Citizen Advice Scotland.

- **Energy Best Deal Initiative** involved 7 awareness raising sessions for 44 consumers and 16 frontline staff. This included 2 events with SCARF and SSE
- **Utilities Project** is a national project with SSE to identify and gather statistics on fuel poor households from their benefit and debt advice clients. The project was originally funded from January to March 2013 however it has been funded again for this year and CAB continues to collect the information²¹

²⁰ <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/Heating-and-hot-water/Replacing-your-boiler/Boiler-Scrappage-Scheme>

²¹ <http://www.perthcab.org.uk/Annual%20Report%202013%20final%20-%20no%20staff%20details.pdf>

