

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCRUTINY PROJECT MANAGEMENT – REVIEW SCOPE

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	Climate Change & Communities Scrutiny Committee
SUBJECT TO BE REVIEWED:	Review of Council’s Energy Policy for Local Housing
REASON(S) FOR THE REVIEW:	<p>The District requires improved energy resilience within the local housing stock and residents are under pressure because of rising energy costs adding to the current cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Determining the Council’s response to the national changes to EPC requirements.</p>
IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE CORPORATE PLAN AIMS, PRIORITIES AND TARGETS:	<p>CORPORATE PLAN AIM – Environment</p> <p>PRIORITIES – Reducing our Carbon footprint whilst supporting and encouraging residents and business to do the same.</p> <p>TARGETS – ENV02. Reduce the District Council's carbon emissions by - 100 tonnes per annum</p>
DIRECTORATE/SERVICES INVOLVED:	<p>Dragonfly Development Limited (DDL)</p> <p>Housing Management & Enforcement</p> <p>Planning Policy & Housing Strategy</p> <p>Legal Services</p>
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF REVIEW:	<p>Aim: That the Council has a clear policy on energy efficiency standards across Council stock and long-term energy resilience across all housing stock within the District.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify the Council’s energy policy and minimum energy efficiency standard for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Housing• New build properties• Private rented sector• Owner Occupiers (existing private stock)• Ensure the Council has clear data analysis of current housing stock to establish current EPC ratings and areas for improvement.• Analyse existing Local Plan policies in relation to energy efficiency and requirements for new build housing and assess if they support the Council’s net zero target.• Improve public information/education on grants and energy efficiency.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is a clear Council approach to improving energy ratings of private rented sector stock. • Clarify opportunities for DDL to become a lead local exemplar offering energy improvements to the owner occupier sector. • Clarify position/policy in relation to installation of EV charging points for Council Housing (inc. Motability vehicles)
KEY ISSUES:	<p>Restrictions placed on energy related grants – impacts ability to upgrade different housing tenures.</p> <p>Current impact of energy costs on the cost-of-living crisis and long-term health impact of cold homes/impact on mental health of potential energy bill debts.</p> <p>National changes in expected EPC ratings. EPC's are valid for 10 years. Expected changes will impact the private rented sector but place no demands on the Council or homeowners.</p> <p>Potential to generate income via DDL offering energy improvements to private sector.</p>
METHOD(S) OF REVIEW:	<p>Document review</p> <p>Informal presentations/briefings</p>
IMPLICATIONS: (legislative, regulatory, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document L – Conservation of fuel and power (applies to new build housing) • Bolsover Local Plan – Policies SS1, SC2, SC6 • EPC requirements for Private Rented Sector from 2025 – C or above. If rated F or G after April 2023 – illegal to let. New tenancies must be at C or above from 1 April 2025, potentially increasing to a B rating by 1 April 2030.
DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE: (Internal/External)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolsover Local Plan • Housing Strategy 2021-24 • Local EPC data • Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document L – Conservation of fuel and power (applies to new build housing)
STAKEHOLDERS:	<p>*RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio Holder for Housing • Portfolio Holder for Growth • Portfolio Holder for Environment • Chief Executive • Director of Property & Construction, DDL • Service Director Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer • Assistant Director of Housing Management & Enforcement • Planning Policy & Housing Strategy Manager • Derbyshire Building Control Partnership
CONSULTATION/ RESEARCH:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Private Rented Sector Strategy (in production) – specifically in relation to impact on energy efficiency of housing stock.

SITE VISITS:	None identified
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TIMESCALE	ESTIMATED	REVISED	ACTUAL
Commencement	Aug/Sept 2023		
Interim Report/ Recommendations	Feb 2024		
Finish (Report to Committee)	March 2024		
Report to Executive	April 2024		

SCRUTINY REVIEW OUTCOMES

CONCLUSIONS:	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
DRAFT REPORT SENT TO DIRECTOR & ANY RELEVANT OFFICERS FOR COMMENT:	*DATE AND OFFICERS RESPONDING
DATE DRAFT REPORT CONSIDERED BY PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	
DATE SIGNED OFF BY COMMITTEE/CHAIR:	
DATE CONSIDERED BY EXECUTIVE:	
DATE OF EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE:	
POST-SCRUTINY MONITORING PERIOD:	
DATE OF EVALUATION OF PROCESS:	