

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**HOUSING COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2005**  
**HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995**  
**THIRD PROGRESS REPORT 2003**

**Joint Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services and  
Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update members on the feedback from Communities Scotland following the submission of the Council's Third Progress Report 2003 in compliance with the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the Act that Authorities submit progress reports, on a regular basis, on energy efficiency improvements carried out on all housing. The third progress report covers the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2003 and a copy is available for inspection in the Members Information Point.
- 2.2 The date for submission of that report to Communities Scotland was set as 16 July 2004 therefore a draft report was issued stating that confirmation or amendments would be forwarded following the Housing Committee in September 2004. Guidance on the presentation has been issued and the Act requires that the Council publish the report.
- 2.3 At the Housing Committee of 8 September 2004 members approved the contents of the third progress report.
- 2.4 The fourth progress report will be called for by 31 January 2006 and will cover the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2005.

**3. FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND**

- 3.1 In response to the third progress report, Communities Scotland commented as follows "The report complies with the requirements of the statutory guidance issued under cover of the Executive's letter of 10 May 2004. The report is well presented and comprehensive and shows clearly that East Ayrshire Council is committed to improving home energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty."
- 3.2 A number of areas for possible future expansion and or clarification were listed and these will be considered for incorporation into the next (4<sup>th</sup>) report, namely:
- (i) Additional information relating to the level of activity under the Scottish Executive Central Heating Programme, the Warm Homes Initiative, and Healthy Warm Homes;
  - (ii) A fuller account of inter-departmental working and the time spent by

- officers in relation to the Act;
- (iii) Linkage with the Council's Fuel Poverty Strategy

**4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

**5. LEGAL AUTHORITY / IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Implements the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995.

**6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

**7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The report has been well received and demonstrates the Council's commitment to reducing home energy consumption and the elimination of fuel poverty.

**8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Members:
  - (i) note the contents of the report.

William Stafford  
Executive Director  
of Neighbourhood Services

James Lavery  
Executive Director  
of Development & Property Services

GM/SF  
16 February 2005

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1. Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 - Third Progress Report 2003**
- 2. Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 - Second Progress Report 2001**
- 3. Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 - First Progress Report 1999**
- 4. Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 - Energy Strategy 1997/2007  
"Bridging the Gap"**
- 5. Housing Committee - 8 September 2004 - Item 15**

Any member requiring further information should contact George Malone, Principal Engineer (Tel: 01563 555233).

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