

# Subject: Domestic Energy and Fuel Poverty in London

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 November 2016

This report will be considered in public

## 1 Summary

- 1.1 This paper sets out background information for a discussion with invited guests concerning domestic energy and fuel poverty in London.

## 2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to putting questions to invited guests on domestic energy and fuel poverty in London, and notes the subsequent discussion.**

## 3 Background

- 3.1 Energy use in London's homes is a crucial factor in both reducing London's carbon emissions and helping Londoners' household finances and personal well-being.
- 3.2 London is committed to reducing its carbon emissions by 60 per cent by 2025, perhaps more in the light of the current Mayor's goal to reach zero carbon by 2050. Cutting carbon from homes is an essential part of that, but domestic emissions (and overall emissions) did not fall fast enough under the previous administration.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.3 Help is also needed by the nearly 350,000 London households living in fuel poverty.<sup>2</sup> High energy bills are a major financial burden for many Londoners, and those who cannot afford to keep their homes warm are at risk of poor health and many other impacts on their well-being.
- 3.4 The Mayor has a number of energy efficiency and other programmes to tackle domestic carbon emissions and fuel poverty. Of particular interest in the current administration is the Energy for

<sup>1</sup> *Cutting carbon in London – 2015 update*, report of this Committee <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-press-releases/cutting-carbon-london-2015-update>

<sup>2</sup> 348,000 households, 11 per cent of all those in London, meet the Government's definition of fuel poverty, which includes both low income and a higher energy cost than typical for their household type. DECC statistics published by National Energy Action <http://www.nea.org.uk/the-challenge/fuel-poverty-statistics/>

Londoners proposal for a non-profit body offering energy services and, subject to feasibility studies, energy supply to London households.

## 4 Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee has invited a range of external guests to discuss issues of domestic energy and fuel poverty. The discussion will cover topics including trends in domestic energy and fuel poverty, fitting insulation and other energy efficiency measures to existing homes, generating renewable energy at the domestic and community scale in London, the role (and limits) of household choices and behaviour in determining energy use, and the significance of energy prices and tariffs.
- 4.2 Guests invited include representatives from:
- Repowering London;
  - South East London Community Energy;
  - Sustainable Homes;
  - Smart Energy GB;
  - National Energy Action;
  - Energy Saving Trust; and
  - Friends of the Earth.
- 4.3 The Committee's investigation of domestic energy and fuel poverty will also be informed by the discussion on Mayoral energy policy with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy at the Committee's meeting on 13 October 2016, and by views and information contributed in writing by other experts and stakeholders. A report on the subject is anticipated in early 2017.

## 5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

## 6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications to the GLA arising from this report.

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### List of appendices to this report:

None.

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
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