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## HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL 2001 (Min 218/99)

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends that the Council supports a Private Members Bill that aims to deliver warm, safe, energy saving homes.
- 1.2 Local authorities are required to publish a home energy conservation strategy. Controls over Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are largely discretionary.
- 1.3 The provisions will apply to both private and public sector housing.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities to achieve a significant improvement in energy conservation by 2010. There is concern that over half of all authorities are not going to meet this objective and the Home Energy Conservation Bill 2001 has been proposed as a result.
- 2.2 A copy of the [draft Bill](#) is appended to this report.

### 3 HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL 2001

- 3.1 The Bill includes; measures to ensure HECA targets are reached, a co-ordination of action on fuel poverty and proposals for the licensing of HMOs that would include energy efficiency standards.
- 3.2 The Bill is due to receive a second reading in Parliament on Friday 30 November 2001 and local authorities have been requested to lobby their Members of Parliament to be present on that day and vote for the Bill.
- 3.3 The Council is not at present on course to meet its target under HECA and may get financial assistance to help it do so if the Bill is passed. Provided such assistance is adequate it would be advantageous for the Council to support the Bill.
- 3.4 The proposed licensing of HMOs is welcomed and will overcome the current problem of ensuring satisfactory standards in such properties. The Council has previously supported proposals for the licensing of HMOs.

**4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The new Bill aims to deliver warm, safe, energy saving homes which will lead to improved health and higher standards of living for the occupants and which will help to counter global warming.
- 4.2 HMO licensing should secure improvements in this type of accommodation.

**5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Bill would have resource implications for the Council and although it is proposed that some financial assistance may be available to assist authorities, details of this are not given. The Council's support for the Bill should be conditional on adequate funding being provided to enable it to meet its obligations.

**6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- (1) That a letter be sent to the local Members of Parliament asking them to be in the House of Commons on 30 November 2001 to support the Bill, provided that adequate funding is made available to authorities to meet their obligations.
  - (2) That a letter be sent to Ministers asking them to support the Bill and to provide adequate funding to authorities to enable them to meet their obligations.
  - (3) That a letter be sent to Dr Desmond Turner MP explaining that the Council supports the proposed Bill, provided that adequate resources are provided to authorities to enable them to meet their obligations. (HHHCC)

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health and Community Care

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**Background Papers:**

Letter from Dr Desmond Turner MP dated 3 August 2001

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