



Subject:	Presentation from SERC on the link between fuel poverty and poor home insulation
Date:	11 th August, 2015
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To receive a presentation from Mr. John Ross from the South Eastern Regional College (SERC) and to discuss the development of a Belfast programme to deal with fuel poverty as a result of poor cavity wall and loft insulation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the presentation from Mr. Ross along with the response from Minister Storey and decide if any further action is required.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting of 12 May 2015, a Notice of Motion moved by Councillor Heading at Council on 5 May, was considered <i>“This Council, having taken note of the level of fuel poverty in the city, urges the Northern Ireland Executive to recognise the relationship which exists between fuel poverty and poor home insulation.</i>

	<p><i>The Council further notes the core study and research carried out by the Mount Eagles Drive Action Group and the South Eastern Regional College into the health and financial impacts which the poor quality of the installation of cavity wall insulation can have.</i></p> <p><i>The Council calls upon the Northern Ireland Executive to provide direction to civil servants to enter into a process with the industry to identify effective measures (legislative and other) to address the problem of failure in cavity wall insulation.”</i></p>
3.2	The Committee, after considering the matter agreed to write to the Northern Ireland Assembly regarding the issues outlined in the motion.
3.3	On 1 June 2015 Council ratified the recommendation of Committee and also agreed that the People and Communities Committee should receive a presentation from Mr. John Ross from the South Eastern Regional College together with an industry representative to discuss the development of a Belfast programme to deal with fuel poverty as a result of poor cavity wall and loft insulation.
3.4	A letter was subsequently sent to the Assembly on behalf of the Council.
3.5	In response, Mervyn Storey MLA, Minister for Social Development, has advised that his officials have met with John Ross and representatives of the insulation industry and confirmed that his Department’s Affordable Warmth Scheme provides for the removal and replacement of cavity wall insulation where a technical survey highlights a potential problem. A copy of the letter from the Minister is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
3.6	Members will be aware, from the Committee meeting of 21 April 2015, that the Building Control Service is engaged in a partnership with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme in Belfast over the 3 year period from 2014 to 2017.
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

4.1	Appendix 1 – Response from Minister Storey.