

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## Nottingham City Council's **FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY** **2018 – 2025**



A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH  
TO A COMPLEX PROBLEM

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Fuel Poverty affected 18,980 Nottingham households in 2016/17, a rate of 14.6%. The city of Nottingham had the 19th highest fuel poverty rate of local authorities in the UK. Nottingham has made great strides over the last decade, reducing the fuel poverty rate from over 21% in 2010/11.

However, with continuing pressures on resources and reduced access to funding, the city needs to think differently about how to continue to tackle this issue as energy costs rise.

This strategy to 2025 highlights national targets, local successes, ambitions and commitments in Nottingham in tackling fuel poverty.

The strategy examines the three overarching and often interrelated solutions of fuel poverty:



**REDUCE  
ENERGY BILLS**



**IMPROVE  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY**



**MAXIMISE  
HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

## AIM:

To reduce energy bills, increase thermal comfort and well-being in the coldest and most vulnerable homes and to improve Nottingham City's Fuel Poverty rate.



## VISION:

The long-term vision is for Nottingham City Council, its partners and citizens to be empowered to tackle fuel poverty challenges in a low-carbon, embedded and sustainable approach. Through coordinated and distributed actions across the city using a range of partnerships at local, regional and national levels, the city will build on past success.

Nottingham aims to deliver a range of integrated measures that are at the forefront of best practice and enhancing wider award-winning work on making Nottingham the most self-sufficient energy city in the UK. It is our intention that Nottingham become a beacon city for innovation in tackling fuel-poverty and improving domestic energy efficiency. This will reinforce our status as a trusted partner for developing interventions that helps both those in, or at risk of fuel-poverty.

In order to meet our aspirations we are seeking to address the city's challenges. We will prioritize the most acute cases and areas first, in a targeted and holistic manner due to the multidimensional nature of fuel poverty. We seek to develop adaptive whole-house and person-centred approaches, using the latest data analytics, business models, behaviour change interventions and smart technologies.

**We have already made a substantial difference, reducing the rate from over 21% in 2011/12 to 14.6% in 2016/17, through actions such as:**

The creation of Robin Hood Energy, a not-for-profit energy company to sell energy at the lowest possible price to the people of Nottingham

Nottingham Energy Partnership and Age UK Notts providing advice and practical support to vulnerable people about fuel debt and switching energy suppliers, and helping them access available grant funding to improve the warmth and condition of their homes through measures like insulation, new boilers as well as eradicating damp and mould.

Nottingham City Homes systematically improving the energy efficiency of their properties, including external wall insulation and solar PV in around 5000 homes and 4500 homes, respectively.

Actions by all partners across the city leading to over 8000 solid wall insulations and 40,000 energy savings measures from 2010/17

## TARGET:

To eliminate E, F and G EPC rated homes occupied by fuel poor households by 2025, where practicable.

The Domestic Energy Efficiency Fuel Poverty Subgroup (DEEFP), established in 2016, has formulated the strategy framework, objectives and, will produce an associated action plan. It consists of council officers from different directorates, third sector organisations and local academics.

**We seek to drive forwards efforts to tackle fuel poverty as a partnership and achieve ambitious goals through:**

### BUILDING ON SUCCESS

We want to provide targeted advice and assistance to help the most vulnerable to reduce their energy bills, manage debt and improve the energy efficiency of their homes. To do this we will maximise any future grant opportunities. This includes working with energy suppliers, installers and Energy Company Obligation providers; directing them to spend their obligation in Nottingham and on the householders, we deem most in need.

### BEING SMART AND INNOVATING

We will build on existing data to target hard-to-treat homes and the most vulnerable people with all-available funding, and seek to demonstrate the full benefits of energy efficiency measures to society to encourage smarter decisions in the future.

We will look to secure funding from opportunities such as Horizon 2020, Innovate UK and other sources to pilot methods of improving energy efficiency in a cost effective way, and/or help householders to manage energy and budgets better. We will roll out over 100 homes of the “EnergieSprong” retrofitting methodology to reduce the energy, resource and carbon footprint of hard-to-treat-homes. In collaboration with partners, we want to ensure all future work on fuel poverty aligns positively with these broader agendas.

### EMPOWERING

We will collectively empower citizens to be more efficient through sign posting and communications. We will promote home energy efficiency measures and maximise household income by providing information on available subsidies, grants and benefits. Additionally, we will advocate behavioural change measures to reduce energy use and increase potential savings.