



## **'A glimpse of the Future – Energy & Housing in the West Midlands'**

### **West Midlands HECA Forum – 10<sup>th</sup> Conference**

### **Coventry Motor Museum on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

#### **Background**

The West Midlands Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Forum is part of a national network enabling the exchange of ideas and information between the Energy Saving Trust's Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes and Local Authorities.

The West Midlands group is amongst the most active in the country and has held a series of nine successful conferences since 1999, the most recent taking place at Telford International Centre on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004, entitled 'Fuel Poverty – when will it end?'

The objective of this paper is to provide information to partners that are involved in the early planning stages of the latest conference and to provide some background information on the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference.

#### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Conference**

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the West Midlands HECA Forum will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> conference at Coventry's Motor Museum. The proposed title is 'A glimpse of the Future – Energy & Housing in the West Midlands' with a particular focus on the future of HECA and other issues that are of concern to HECA Forum members. One of the key topics will be the development and delivery of effective affordable warmth strategies.

We are pleased to announce Coventry City Council and London Energy as sponsors for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference and once again look forward to a lively and exciting debate on the future direction of home energy conservation in the West Midlands.

Detailed planning for the conference will take place at the HECA Forum's forthcoming Steering Group meeting on Wednesday, 15 December 2004.

#### **The 9<sup>th</sup> Conference - 'Fuel Poverty – when will it end?'**

"In this day and age there is no reason why people should have to endure fuel poverty" was the comment from Councillor David Morgan, Deputy Leader of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin at the 9<sup>th</sup> conference held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004. West Midlands HECA officers and other key partners gathered in Telford to discuss the issues surrounding fuel poverty in an event sponsored by the Borough of Telford & Wrekin and npower's Savings for Life programme.

High profile speakers from Government, Health authorities, research institutions and local authorities contributed to the debate and presentations were followed by two in-depth workshops. A total of 87 delegates attended the event and had ample time for viewing exhibition stands.

Graham Jones, Chair of the West Midland HECA Forum, said of the event: "It is fundamental that local authorities come together to discuss best practice and share in ideas for the eradication of fuel poverty. The West Midland HECA Forum provides an ideal platform to push the issue to the top of the regional agenda."

#### **Further information**

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