

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

18 OCTOBER 2016

ITEM NO 15 - POWER TO THE PEOPLE, COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCHING

Councillor White to move:

This Council notes:

- the number of households in fuel poverty in Reading has increased from 5,600 to 7,264 - worse than the national and south east average
- millions of people in the UK have never switched energy provider and could save around £200 per year by switching
- the good work already being done by The Big London Energy Switch, West Berkshire Council, Cornwall Together and many more which are encouraging their residents to sign up to collective energy switching
- the Cornwall Together collective energy switching campaign managed to engage the disengaged (17% of members had never switched before) and reach the hard to reach (28% of switchers were in fuel poverty)

This Council believes:

- no one should be living in fuel poverty and have to choose between heating and eating
- if we are to be a truly caring town we need to do more on tackling fuel poverty

This Council resolves:

- to investigate the feasibility of a collective switching initiative and to bring a report on this back to the relevant committee before the end of this year.