

HECA Further Report 2017

Action	Details	TIMING (Where relevant)
i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
Our current performance		
	<p>Climate Local Wolverhampton signed up to Climate Local commitment in April 2013 and the council's Sustainability Strategy & Implementation Plan 2013-18. An early review took place in 2014/15, resulting in a focus in fewer key areas (listed below) and greater inclusion of partnerships with organisations outside the Council. A review of the Sustainability Strategy & Implementation Plan 2013-18 is due out early 2017/18</p> <p>On emissions: The Sustainability Strategy & Implementation Plan contains several projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions and protecting the most vulnerable from the negative effects of rising fuel costs & climate change including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading on supporting the development of low carbon projects for the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership • Supporting partnership projects to explore the potential of 'smart grids' for managing energy demand across the city • Increasing renewable and low carbon energy generation on council property and seeking partnerships to develop other projects • Continued programme to improve the energy efficiency of the council's housing stock 	<p>2017/18</p> <p>By 2018</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximising the energy efficiency of new social housing, including a minimum standard of Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4• Continuing to record and report on carbon emissions from council activities• Promoting low carbon buildings and other technologies from regeneration schemes• Promoting energy efficiency and affordable warmth across housing sectors <p>Promoting adaption to extreme weather events by contributing to West Midlands Community Risk Register</p>	
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i)	LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES	
	Our current performance	
	<p>On Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Wolverhampton has 13,558 fuel poor households which equates to 13.1% of the total households across the City. Although this compares unfavourably with the West Midlands region at 12.1% and England at 10.6% (<i>DECC 2014 figures based on the Low Income/High Cost definition – published June 2016</i>), this is a marked improvement on the performance reported in 2015, where 18.3% of households were believed to be in fuel poverty.</p> <p>The City Council’s Affordable Warmth Assistance delivers energy efficiency measures to the most vulnerable private sector households in the City. The grant has been in existence for 17 years and assists 200 homes annually. The grant is City wide and available to any age group with a chronic health condition. There is an annual budget of £500,000. The capital element of the works is provided from the Housing Revenue Account.</p> <p>Case Study</p> <p>Wolverhampton Macmillan Welfare Rights Officer, Lorraine Mason, referred Mr S from Wolverhampton to the Affordable Warmth Grant scheme. Mr S suffers from bowel cancer and had recently undergone major bowel surgery as well as going through chemotherapy. He could not be discharged from hospital as the boiler at his home was not working leaving him with no heating or hot water. Our contractor replaced the faulty boiler and Mr S was allowed home for Christmas. As the case was particularly urgent the whole process took just 3 working days. In addition to assisting Mr S to return home it also contributed to significant health savings for the NHS and freed up a much-needed hospital bed. (<i>reported in local press</i>)</p>	On-going

	<p>Wolverhampton Homes are extremely proactive in delivering energy efficiency measures to its properties installing 1625 measures over the last 2 years, including central heating, cavity wall, loft and external insulation, in line with Decent Homes standards.</p> <p>Wolverhampton Homes have also upgraded the district heating schemes that serve 956 properties in the Heath Town area of the City. This work is also complimented by Heat Network Regulations 2014 compliant metering installs in 1103 tenancies that will have collective savings of £500,000 over 5 years.</p> <p>The organisation has a dedicated member of staff who does 150 Home Energy Visits a year to offer practical help and guidance on energy savings to tenants.</p> <p>The City of Wolverhampton has already exceeded its target “to reduce fuel poverty by 10% on 2010 levels (24.3% h/h’s in fuel poverty) by 2020” by 1.2%.</p> <p>Future Development to continue to reduce the instances of fuel poverty in Wolverhampton:</p> <p>Restructure the Affordable Warmth Grant - to include a repayable element for those in less financial need and to address issues in the Private Rented Sector.</p> <p>Launch a White Label Energy Company that offers an alternative, value for money electric and/or gas supplier.</p> <p>Create an advice line – to formalise help and advice we give to all our residents and improve support to tenants in the Private Rented Sector.</p> <p>Explore the potential to work with the energy providers to achieve wider and better outcomes through localism agenda using Local Authority’s flexibility to determine criteria for qualification for ECO (Energy Company Obligation) works - using our experience of being one of the first authorities in the country to successfully deliver Partnership projects with energy companies.</p>	<p>2015-17</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>Target Achieved and ongoing</p> <p>April 2017</p> <p>Autumn 2017</p> <p>2018/19</p> <p>On-going</p>
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	<p>Wolverhampton Homes also plan to continue to deliver approximately 500 central heating installation measures per year and do 150 home energy visits. The number has decreased due to targets being met, except for External Wall insulation.</p> <p>Off Gas Connections Work with National Grid in conjunction with Wolverhampton Homes to connect off gas properties (in LSOA) to the gas network, enabling them to access more energy efficient heating systems.</p>	<p>2017-19</p> <p>2017 - 2018</p>
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Action	Details	TIMING (Where relevant)
ii)	MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN OUR CITY	
ECO-Energy Company Obligation	<p>We are currently looking at opportunities to utilise ECO funding in conjunction with other projects including City of Wolverhampton Council's Affordable Warmth Grant and insulation programmes</p> <p>We work closely with Trading Standards to eliminate rogue traders and bad practice in the delivery of the ECO</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
Feed in Tariffs scheme	<p>Domestic Photovoltaic (PV) Installations –</p> <p>As part of the various programmes, 100 P.V. installations were reported previously as part of HECA 2015. A further 10 systems were fitted in the financial year 2016/17, we expect to install approximately 80 P.V. arrays in 2017/18 and a further 120 in 2018/19</p>	February 2015 & On-going

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ii)	MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN OUR CITY	
Building Control – Part L Conservation of Energy	Our Colleagues in Building Control ensure that the requirements of part L of the current Building Regulations are met in residential properties by a combination of plan/design vetting and inspection of works as it progresses on site. A minimum of 1100 applications are received per year.	On-going
EPCs	We are taking a more formal approached action against landlords and agents who do not have or provide a valid EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) to the Local Authority for inspection. All landlords, agents, and those selling their homes have a legal obligation to provide and make available an EPC. If an EPC is not provided upon request, then a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) will be issued. This FPN charges the landlord or agent £200 for non-compliance. Only 2 notices have been served in the financial year 2016/17, as advertising the new approach has led to landlords and agents becoming more aware of the requirement and thus compliant.	On-going

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ii) MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION IN THE CITY		
Minimum standards in the private rental sector	<p>The Energy Act 2011 proposes that from April 2018, all private rented dwellings should be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard rating, likely to be set at EPC rating “E”. We already work with landlords and tenants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote energy efficiency grants, loans and offers available to improve properties • Ensure that all new tenants are provided with EPC’s by their landlord so they can consider potential energy costs • Enforce landlords to improve the energy efficiency of properties under the Housing, Health Safety Rating System (HHSRS) category 1 hazard of excess cold <p>We have resources dedicated to achieve regulatory requirements within the Private Rented Sector.</p> <p>In October 2016, The City of Wolverhampton Council introduced “Rent with Confidence” (RwC) – A 5-star rating system for private sector landlords. Providing a current EPC forms part of the scoring criteria, which assists in the Council proving compliance. RwC also carries advisory notes on all correspondence re: rental properties being energy rating E or above by 2018.</p>	<p>On-going and by 2018</p> <p>2016 and on-going</p>
Smart meters	<p>All households should be fitted with Smart Meters by 2020</p> <p>Along with our colleagues at Wolverhampton Homes, we actively promote the “roll-out” of smart meters with residents across all tenures and are Smart Meter Champions. There is a dedicated smart meter web page on the Council’s Web-Site.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Action	Details	TIMING (Where relevant)
iii)	MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION BY USING AREA / STREET BY STREET ROLL OUT.	
	<p>12 LSOA (Lower Super Output Areas) have been identified as areas where intervention is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 of which have the highest instances of Excess Winter Deaths • 6 of which, because of construction type, would benefit most from EWI (external wall insulation) <p>We work in partnership with Wolverhampton Homes to deliver schemes that benefit from being mixed tenure projects to ensure whole area improvement.</p> <p>We also run specially tailored promotional events in these areas to encourage take-up of national and local schemes.</p>	On-going
iv)	TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERY AND NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS	
	<p>Wolverhampton City Council recognises the importance of working in partnership to deliver the aims and objectives of the Private Sector Housing Strategy, that includes improving domestic energy efficiency across all tenures.</p> <p>Partners we currently engage with include Community Groups, West Midlands Fire Service, Wolverhampton Health Services, Welfare Rights, CAB (Citizens Advice Bureau), Age UK, Wolverhampton Homes, Housing Associations and Energy Companies.</p> <p>The work the Energy Efficiency team delivers and compliments, among others, the Public Health Framework, The Sustainability Strategy and the Strategic Partnerships overarching City Strategy 2011-2026</p>	On-going