

SBC HECA Report 2019 v1.

The questions which LAs are asked to report on via the digital 'Survey' are as follows:

Name of Local Authority:

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Type of Local Authority:

Borough Council

Name and contact details of official submitting the report:

Paul Taylor

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Job title of official submitting the report:

Principal Environment Officer

Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool:

Environment Policy

Housing

Public Health

Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE) broken down by team if possible:

Environment Policy 2

Housing Unknown

Public Health Unknown

Headline and Overview Questions

- 1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?**

Yes

2. If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:

Carbon reduction

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/6001/stockton-on-tees-climate-change-strategy-2016-final-jan-16.pdf>

Energy efficiency

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/8082/affordable-warmth-strategy-and-action-plan-2017-2.pdf>

3. If no, are you planning to develop one?

N/A

4 a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017? (if you have not implemented any scheme, please enter 'N/A')

Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words

'Warm Homes Healthy People' – boiler servicing and replacement, tariff switching and small scale energy efficiency measures for qualifying households

'Energy Champions' national pilot scheme with Citizens Advice Bureau to reduce domestic energy consumption

Training programme for 497 front line staff to identify energy inefficiency and fuel poverty in the home

Annual 'Big Community Switch' - collective tariff switching service accessed by 6,933 households since 2013

Warm Homes Fund Round 1 funding to replace inefficient electric and storage heating with first time central heating and air source heat pumps

Large scale renewable energy installations across Registered Social Landlord housing stock including Air Source Heat Pumps

Feasibility study into development of District Heat and Power scheme to RSL properties including tower blocks

b. What scheme(s) is your local authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties in the next two years? (if you are not planning to implement any scheme, please enter 'N/A')

Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words

'Warm Homes Healthy People' – boiler servicing and replacement, tariff switching and small scale energy efficiency measures for qualifying households

Continued training programme for front line staff to identify energy inefficiency and fuel poverty in the home

Annual 'Big Community Switch' – continue to operate the collective tariff switching service

Warm Homes Fund Round 3 funding to replace inefficient electric and storage heating with first time gas central heating and air source heat pumps for 1,200 properties

Continue to work with Registered Social Landlords to improve housing stock by installing renewable energy installations including Air Source Heat Pumps

5. What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), such as the value of grants and other support made available, plus any other costs incurred (such as administration) as desired? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.

Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words

'Warm Homes Healthy People' - £100k per annum

'Energy Champions' - £100k pilot

Training programme for front line staff – no cost

Annual 'Big Community Switch' - £2k per annum on marketing

Warm Homes Fund Round 1 funding - £91k approx.

Registered Social Landlord renewable energy installations – unknown

District Heat and Power feasibility – part of separate study, individual cost unknown

6. What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?

Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Citizens Advice Bureau, Cleveland Fire Service, Yorkshire Housing, Thirteen Group, iChoosr Group

7. What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?

This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.

Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words

- 19.5% reduction in CO2 emissions from domestic energy sector in the last 2 years
- £219,126 total annual saving for households through collective tariff switching
- £107,086 secured for households via income maximisation work through Energy Champions programme
- Identified and secured over £1m of previously unclaimed entitlement through income maximisation, welfare and energy visits
- Training 497 front line staff from 32 referral agencies in the past 24 months
- Over 7000 heating, energy and fuel poverty interventions delivered through Warm Homes Healthy People in last 5 years
- Fuel poverty rates have fallen by over 8% points resulting in 6,556 fewer households
- £2.6m of health related quality of life savings from increased domestic energy efficiency, evidenced by independent Newcastle University study.

8. What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?

Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Energy inefficiency and fuel poverty is not tenure specific and is affecting households across every ward therefore programmes should respond across whole geographies.

Partnership working through with wide ranging stakeholders is key stakeholders including the voluntary and community sector, Registered Providers and Private Sector Landlords to achieve common goals is the most effective way to deliver

There are existing mechanisms that do not require funding such as collective tariff switching, that can have a big impact in positively addressing energy efficiency, which are often more valuable than large scale, capital funded programmes.

Local Communications Strategy

9. Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?

Yes

10. If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)

Free text response to question 10 - please outline in no more than 100 words

With domestic consumers it has only been through funded welfare advice services delivered by Citizens Advice Bureau as part of our Warm Homes Healthy People programme

With business consumers we have only promoted 'Make it Cheaper' tariff switching opportunities

11. How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')

Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words

N/A

Local Green Supply Chains

12. Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)? (if you answer no please move onto the next section 'Private Rented Sector')

No

13. If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.

Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words

N/A

14. What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?

Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words

None

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018, all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS's published guidance documents for the full details on the standard).

The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.

15. Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?

(if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')

Yes

16. Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?

Free text response to question 16

Private Sector Housing – domestic

17. Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.

Free text response to question 17

Gary Knight, Private Sector Housing Manager, 16 Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD

18. What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?

Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words

We have not set communication methods due to some uncertainty on the standards and how they can be enforced at present. The standards state that any improvement have to be at no cost to the landlord and at present as the provision for green deal funding was removed improvements cannot be made at no cost to the landlord. We are aware that this was being looked into and are awaiting the response from central government on this issue. In the meantime we are giving ad-hoc advice to landlords on the issue on a case by case position and advising landlords in the meantime to apply for an exemption if their properties fail to meet the minimum standard.

19. Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?

If yes, how? If no, please explain.

No

Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Until the Council can meaningfully enforce the standard, we can see little point in targeting.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

20. What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.

(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')

Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is part of the North East Regional Loan scheme which can provide financial assistance towards domestic energy efficiency measures. The local and regional Registered Social Landlords such as Thirteen Group, North Star and Karbon Homes confirmed that they do not operate any financial assistance schemes for domestic energy users.

The Council does not promote non-domestic financial programmes for energy efficiency.

Fuel Poverty

21. Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?

If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support that is available for low income and vulnerable households to help tackle fuel poverty in your local area. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.

Yes

Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/8082/affordable-warmth-strategy-and-action-plan-2017-2.pdf>

22. What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words

The Council invests heavily in time and resource to identify fuel poor households and uses wide ranging intelligence and partnerships to map the vulnerable. This includes:

- Using the BEIS LSOA fuel poverty estimates as broad context.
- Using statistical and administrative data, such as claimant numbers from the DWP, as indicators to highlight areas with a high likelihood of fuel poverty.
- Monitoring indicators to track the prevalence of key diseases and long term conditions associated with fuel poverty from sources including Public Health England and the NHS
- Work in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau under data sharing protocols to identify vulnerable households
- Has a dedicated telephone number for households to contact who may be in fuel poverty
- Maintain an 'UNO database' of the Boroughs entire housing stock to identify improvement areas supported with analysis of Energy Performance Certificates and internal monitoring practices.

23. How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Fuel poverty and carbon are inextricably linked in our strategies. Our Climate Change Plan has a vision to 'achieve a healthy, vibrant and successful low carbon community, resilient to the challenges of climate change and resource pressures' with one of its three underpinning objectives being to 'achieve a healthy community through affordable warmth', with the Affordable Warmth Strategy a key underpinning strategic document.

Our climate change plan is based on 4 key priorities, the third of which is '4.3 Increasing the energy efficiency and warmth of all homes', as almost 20% of the Borough's emissions are from domestic properties.

24. a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words

The cost reductions and annual savings for Stockton-on-Tees households from the programmes we deliver, alone or in partnership, are significant:

- £219,126 total annual saving for households through collective tariff switching so far
- £107,086 secured for households via income maximisation work through Energy Champions programme
- Identified and secured over £1m of previously unclaimed entitlement through income maximisation, welfare and energy visits in last 2 years
- £2.6m of health related quality of life savings from increased domestic energy efficiency, evidenced by independent Newcastle University study.
- Combined £6.2m of household energy savings per year from the external wall insulation programme of 3,265 solid wall properties between 2011 - 2016

b. If you have taken measures or initiatives to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words

None

The Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures. Following the Spring 2018 consultation, the Government set out in its response that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.

The recently introduced ECO "flexible eligibility" (ECO Flex) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO. LAs involved are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify

households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

25. Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?

If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.

Yes

Link to Sol: <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/1584395/stockton-on-tees-borough-council-statement-of-intent-v2.pdf>

26. Please use the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand ECO Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.

Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Whilst the Council has chosen to publish an Sol and utilise ECOFlex, the cumbersome, complicated processes and limited staff resource can be challenging. The innovation element of ECO3 is felt to be beneficial as this will permit the installation of measures which will achieve the biggest impact to households. However, the funding rates are felt to be still too low.

Smart Metering

27. Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

Engage and support your residents (including those in vulnerable circumstances or with pre-payment metering) to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits (e.g. ability to control energy use, identify best value tariffs)? Please detail any work undertaken or planned with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.

Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

None

28. Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

Integrate your approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation with the opportunities presented by the installation of smart meters, drawing upon materials from the Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project or other sources of independent information.

Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

None

29. Please detail any:

Resources/ support (e.g. services, funding) available to residents who have had an appliance(s) condemned for safety reasons and cannot afford to replace it (e.g. during visual safety checks conducted during their smart meter installation or otherwise).

Free text response to question 29 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

Qualifying households can have a domestic heating boiler or system replaced under our Warm Homes Healthy People scheme. However this is completely unrelated to any smart meter work which we do not participate in or promote.

30. Please detail any:

Existing relationships with energy suppliers to help ensure that the opportunities presented by vacant properties under your control are effectively utilised (i.e. gaining access to install a smart meter).

Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

None

Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives

31. Please outline any future schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation or businesses in your area, for example, within your Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Energy Strategy (if you do not plan any future schemes currently, please enter 'N/A').

Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words

N/A