

Home Energy Conservation Act Report 2023

Headline and Overview

Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

- Yes

Q2. If yes, please provide a link.

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/2451/carbon-action-plan>

Q3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

- N/A

Q4. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented.

PSH Capacity and capability funding covers PSH costs, in 2022 and 2023 this totalled £20,480 but other costs are not recorded.

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave1 was delivered between March 2022 and is concluding in Feb 2024 with an overall capital cost £2.50m plus additional service and scheme charges of £0.48m. We have embarked on the SHDF wave2.1 two year programme in March 2023 with an anticipated capital expenditure of £4.48m plus additional service and scheme charges of £1.40m.

Q5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply.

- Energy savings,
- Carbon savings,
- Job creation
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes – through qualitative measurement around improved ventilation and air quality and warmer home.

Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

- Yes

Q7. If yes, please select all that apply;

- Local Authority website
- Local advisory service – through tenant liaison officers

- ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website – through tenant liaison officers and targeted promotions
- Social media
- Local energy hubs
- Other- please specify - website details Simple Energy Advice website, plus council website. Referrals to Home Improvement agency for winter warmth loans and home safe loans. Referrals (HUG2) to GSENGHub and Eon (HUG2 managing agent).

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

Q8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

- No

Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

N/A

Q10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply

- Encouraging lead contractors to:
 1. utilise local, suitably qualified businesses as sub-contractors with some success in solar PV and roofing
 2. take on apprenticeships
 3. provide digital access and signposting to ‘green careers’

Q11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

- No, not for social housing but for other housing and small businesses we will signpost using the EPC as a guide for measures that may be appropriate.

Q12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

- No – we are not aware of any issues - Unknown as this is a county (KCC) function

Q13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

- Yes

Q14. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

- Installers of insulation
- Installers of windows/doors
- Installers of heat pumps
- Retrofit assessors
- Retrofit coordinators

Q15. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

- Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses – yes for social housing carbonisation.
- Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff) – yes for GSENZH consortia for HUG2.
- Other (The GSENZhub worked on this on behalf of the consortium)

Home Energy Conservation Act 2023 report 10 Social Housing Decarbonisation

Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- Yes, and successful in securing funding

Q17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.

- Financial support for retrofit
- Technical support for retrofit
- Tenant needs – for vulnerable and low efficiency social homes
- Expectations of future energy performance regulations – complying with landlord requirements and best practice

Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?

- applied and were successful, but the co-funding requirements limited the size of the application and number of homes to be treated.

Q19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- Yes - as a part of the planned maintenance programme and Decent Homes Standard we adopt a whole house approach and consider the impact on net zero as a core part of measures selection for the home

Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- Internal funding – for social housing we maintain an internally funded budget that includes retrofit measures.

Q21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply.

N/A

Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

Don't know of any.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

- Yes

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- No

Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

- Yes, but I haven't used it

Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 0 we have not come across any F or G rated properties in the course of our duties.

Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 0

Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 0 – the properties we have worked on would be E or above already.

Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- Please enter the amount /estimated amount. 0

Green Home Finance

Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

- Nothing

Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- No

Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- No

Fuel Poverty

Q33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- No, not any longer as the Kent one is now out of date and no resource to update

Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing for HUG and LAD schemes plus for social housing where we are the landlord we use up-to-date EPCs and stock condition survey to determine the worst performing and most expensive homes to heat to target energy efficiency retrofit.

- Used local data sets on household income

- GSEnz Hub have assisted us with this and they have access to datasets procured specifically for this purpose.

Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.

Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

- Yes - see cl1.4 of the Folkestone & Hythe DC Carbon Action Plan

- If yes, please can you explain how it does this?

It is a policy that includes fuel poverty as an outcome alongside carbon reduction. The purpose is to identify an evidence-based pathway to deliver cleaner growth, and specifically, strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway

Q37. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A – we did apply through the GSEnzH consortia

Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- Yes via the GSEnzHub

Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

N/A

Home Upgrade Grant

Q40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A – we did apply through the GSNZHub consortia

Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

- Yes, via the GSENZHUB

Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking. N/A

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

- No

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

- N/A No SOI in place during this time due to a previous contract framework with Kent County council not being renewed.

Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

- N/A

Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

- N/A

Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

- N/A

Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

- N/A

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- N/A

Q 50. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.

Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

- No, but we are exploring options currently.

Q52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

- Yes, lack of dedicated resources.

Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?

- No but plan to in future

54b. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

- All four routes available

Smart Metering

The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

Q56a. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

- No.

Q57b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- Lack of resources and reliant on assessments from ECO4 installers. Hoping to engage with energy supplier shortly for ECO and ECO flex scheme.

Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- No.

Q59b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- Lack of resources. No plans in future.

Q60a. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

- Yes

Q61b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this

- N/A