

HECA Report 2023 - Hastings Borough Council Submission

| Question | Answer | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties? | Yes, Hastings Borough Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and have produced a Strategy and Action Plan to reduce emissions from both the council operations and the wider borough, this includes domestic premises. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q2. If yes, please provide a link. | Climate Change Strategy in Hastings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Q3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe? • Yes, within 1 year • Yes, within 2 years • Yes, within 3 years+ • No development plans | 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. | <p>Spending through schemes involved with Hastings Borough Council totals at over £955,379.23, comprised of spending from the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Spending Name</th> <th>Spending Total</th> <th>Notes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD1a)</td> <td>£68,394.23</td> <td>£56,355.19 funded by government, with £12,041.12 self-funded by households</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Homes Grant LAD1b</td> <td>£155,461.46</td> <td>Government-funded scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainable Warmth LAD3</td> <td>£31,523.54 (£41,448.54 Including 2023/24)</td> <td>Government-funded scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainable Warmth HUG1</td> <td>£0 (£3,205.00 including 2023/24)</td> <td>Government-funded scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy Company Obligation 3 & 4 Flex (ECO3/4 Flex)</td> <td>Unknown</td> <td>Energy company funded scheme</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Warm Home Check service (East Sussex)</td> <td>£700,000</td> <td>County-wide delivery of scheme</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The East Sussex Warm Home Check Service is a County-wide service. Commissioned by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Public Health team. The affordable warmth scheme targets low income households experiencing fuel poverty. The service is delivered by RetrofitWorks and Citizens Advice East Sussex. This service was commissioned in 2021 for the 2021-2024 period, with an extension to 2025.</p> <p>The countywide fuel poverty reduction programme funding allocated by East Sussex County Council (Public Health ring fenced grant) is at £350,000 per year. This</p> | Spending Name | Spending Total | Notes | Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD1a) | £68,394.23 | £56,355.19 funded by government, with £12,041.12 self-funded by households | Green Homes Grant LAD1b | £155,461.46 | Government-funded scheme | Sustainable Warmth LAD3 | £31,523.54 (£41,448.54 Including 2023/24) | Government-funded scheme | Sustainable Warmth HUG1 | £0 (£3,205.00 including 2023/24) | Government-funded scheme | Energy Company Obligation 3 & 4 Flex (ECO3/4 Flex) | Unknown | Energy company funded scheme | Warm Home Check service (East Sussex) | £700,000 | County-wide delivery of scheme |
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| Sustainable Warmth LAD3 | £31,523.54 (£41,448.54 Including 2023/24) | Government-funded scheme | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Energy Company Obligation 3 & 4 Flex (ECO3/4 Flex) | Unknown | Energy company funded scheme | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | <p>funding was used to support commissioning of the East Sussex Warm Home Check service (affordable warmth scheme), fuel poverty reduction programme coordination and delivery, administration of ECO flexible eligibility arrangements, enhancement of housing support services and the coldAlert cold weather advance warning community messaging service.</p> <p>This service provides the free installation of minor measures and energy advice as well as securing and utilising external funding - including - ECO4, Green Homes Grant, Home Upgrade Grant 2, Household Support Fund.</p> <p>ESCC also supports the administration costs of the ECO Flex scheme for the post hosted at Hastings Borough Council.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy savings, • Carbon savings, • Job creation • Increased business competitiveness • Alleviation of fuel poverty • Improved health outcomes • None of the above • Other - please specify. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy savings • Carbon savings • Job creation • Alleviation of fuel poverty • Improved health outcomes • Other - Development of networks |
| <p>Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Q7. If yes, please select all that apply;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority website • Local advisory service • ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website • ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ gov.uk phoneline • Leaflets • Social media • Local energy hubs • Other- please specify | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority website • Local advisory service • ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website • ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ gov.uk phoneline • Leaflets • Social media • Local energy hubs • Other- Warm Home Check service |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).</p> | <p>A retrofit strategy is in development ESCC, although finalised details are yet to be announced.</p> <p>Initial challenges identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmented approaches & a lack of leadership & coordination - varying stakeholders have |

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| | <p>differing priorities between affordable warmth and decarbonisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing and subsidy - obtaining sufficient financing for retrofit is difficult, and subsidies are complex, short-lived and hard to access • Data - there are issues with quality, coverage and the lack of skills county-wide for building a route-map to net zero • Technological solutions - there is an evolving and changing technological landscape which makes timing commitment to any particular technologies hard to pin-point • Network & planning issues - infrastructural and planning policy is misaligned at times with decarbonisation objectives |
| <p>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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other - recruitment of a Retrofit Partnership and Programme Development Manager, alongside growing capacity within the local workforce through sub-groups within the Construction and Built Environment/Civil Engineering Task Group from Skills East Sussex |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>Yes, it is a part of the advice provision (if relevant) of the Warm Home Check service, and is provided on the Warm East Sussex website</p> |
| <p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes - there has been action taken on a regular basis • Yes - but rarely • No - resourcing constraints have curtailed potential activity • No - we are not aware of any issues | <p>No - resourcing constraints have curtailed potential activity</p> |
| <p>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?</p> | <p>No</p> |
| <p>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)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installers of insulation • Installers of windows/doors • Installers of heat pumps • Retrofit assessors • Retrofit coordinators | <p>N/A</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the above • Other (please state) | |
| <p>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)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing to drive supply chain interest • Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses • Supporting training and upskilling more generally • Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff) • Delivering in-house e.g. by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams, directly employing retrofit coordinators etc • Other (please state) | N/A |
| <p>Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, and successful in securing funding • Yes, and not successful in securing funding • No • Don't know | No |
| <p>Q17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support for retrofit • Technical support for retrofit • Tenant needs • Expectations of future energy performance regulations • Other - please tell us your motivation(s) for applying | N/A |
| <p>Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application window too short • Too much information needed at application • Don't own enough stock • Not enough capability • Too Costly | <p>Application window too short</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much information needed at application • Don't own enough stock • Not enough capability • Too Costly |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too Costly • Retrofit work is not a priority • Not enough information • Don't know • Other - please tell us what prevented you applying | |
| <p>Q19, Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't know | Yes |
| <p>Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal funding • Funding from other Government schemes • Other | Funding from other Government schemes |
| <p>Q21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding • Lack of internal resource • Lack of capacity • Lack of technical support • Retrofit work is not a priority • Other • Don't know | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding • Lack of internal resource • Lack of capacity |
| <p>Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?</p> | N/A |
| <p>Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Yes/No) | Yes |
| <p>Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Yes/No) | Yes |
| <p>Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, and I've used it • Yes, but I haven't used it • No | Yes and I've used it |
| <p>Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to</p> | 194 |

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| <p>enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please enter the amount /estimated amount. | |
| <p>Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please enter the amount /estimated amount. | 97 |
| <p>Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please enter the amount /estimated amount. | 75 |
| <p>Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please enter the amount /estimated amount. | 22 |
| <p>Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay?</p> <p>Please provide links to any relevant online materials.</p> | <p>Hastings have been involved with the Solar Together Sussex (https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-action-in-east-sussex/case-studies/solar-together) scheme to enable group-buying of solar panels within Sussex at a discounted rate.</p> <p>Hastings are also involved with promotion of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme for suitable households, most notably through advice services such as the Warm Home Check service.</p> |
| <p>Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No, but we have plans to do this in the future • No <p>Please include links to any relevant online materials.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, but we have plans to do this in the future |
| <p>Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No, but we have plans to do this in the future • No | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, but we have plans to do this in the future |
| <p>Q33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?</p> | Yes (East Sussex Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway) |

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| <p>Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing Used local data sets on household income Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out Other [option to provide additional information] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing - the PIPLIFT and UKPN LAEP platforms have been utilised to identify potentially eligible households Used local data sets on household income - PIPLIFT platform integration of some household data such as council tax information as a proxy for identifying low income households Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out - making use of social media alongside mail drops, leafletting, event attendance and printed resource distribution of posters and other branded useful information for a range of audiences Other - delivery of training for frontline staff across East Sussex and beyond for the identification of households in or at risk of fuel poverty, as well as initial steps to support these households. <p>Utilisation of broader datasets such as LSOA & IMD maps.</p> <p>Collaborative network of referring professionals into fuel poverty services.</p> |
| <p>Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Other [option to provide additional information] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. - Sustainable Warmth, Home Upgrade Grant 2, Energy Company Obligation (ECO4 Flex) are all being delivered within East Sussex, with an aim to deliver Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS Flex) from 2024-2025. Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households. - Funding for small measures, including boiler repairs, is available through the Warm Home Check service, alongside energy advice and support to provide long-term support for households. Links with the Warm Home Check service exist through its partnership with Citizens Advice 1066 to support households with fuel vouchers for short term support. Utilisation of Household Support Fund monies has helped to further this support package. Other - Promotion of fuel poverty advice and support services on Warm East Sussex webpage Other - Involvement within East Sussex Energy Partnership to network, collaborate and inform partners of updates on fuel poverty-related matters Other - Training of professionals, volunteers and organisations on identifying and supporting fuel poor households from the Fuel Poverty Coordinator post funded through the East Sussex Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway. |
| <p>Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?</p> | <p>Yes, fuel poverty is a key factor in the broader Climate Change Strategy from East Sussex County Council, which can be found here.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> lack of capacity | <p>N/A</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of capability • lack of awareness • other - please specify | |
| <p>Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Yes/No) | Yes - Housing Stock Condition Survey, EPC register, UKPN Local Area Energy Plan database |
| <p>Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.</p> | N/A |
| <p>Q40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of capacity • lack of capability • lack of awareness • other - please specify | N/A |
| <p>Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Yes/No) | Yes - Housing Stock Condition Survey, EPC register, UKPN Local Area Energy Plan database |
| <p>Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking.</p> | |
| <p>Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?</p> | Yes |
| <p>Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3 (during 2022)?</p> | 0 |
| <p>Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3 (during 2022)?</p> | 4 |
| <p>Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3 (during 2022)?</p> | 0 |
| <p>Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your SoI?</p> | £52,000 (Gross) and £25,700 (net after deductions for rent and mortgage) or households of 2 adults and four or more children |
| <p>Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?</p> | To account for high rent and mortgage costs; although the net figure was more frequently referred to. |
| <p>Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?</p> | No |
| <p>Q50. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.</p> | N/A |
| <p>Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?</p> | Yes |
| <p>Q52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?</p> | N/A |

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| Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?) | Yes |
| Q54b. 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) | <p>ECO4 Flex (supplier-led)- onboarding of installers requires energy supplier confirmation</p> <p>ECO4 Flex (supplier-led)- we have been building relationships with energy suppliers to onboard additional installers and circulate these resources</p> <p>ECO4 Flex / GBIS Flex (supplier-led) - we are pursuing bespoke schemes for generating referrals with energy companies and installers</p> |
| Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All four routes available • Route 1 • Route 2 • Route 3 • Route 4 |
| 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? | Yes, through the Warm Home Check service provision of energy advice. |
| • [Yes/No]. | |
| Q57b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this. | N/A |
| Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes. | Yes |
| • [Yes/No]. | |
| Q59b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this. | <p>Recommendations for a smart meter are provided on a case-by-case basis in instances of Excess Cold and struggling with bills being reported.</p> <p>Uptake of smart meters would be considered as an addition for any new selective licensing schemes, and for any new Additional HMO licensing scheme (where the license holder for the building has control of one of the flats).</p> |
| Q60a. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises? | No |
| • [Yes/No]. | |
| Q61b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this. | We are aiming to install new smart meters in vacant social housing premises from April 2024 |

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These answers were submitted by a Microsoft Forms link on March 14th 2024, in line with an extension on reporting from DESNZ.

Answers were provided by Dan Bainbridge (Housing Renewal), Sam Phyall (Transformation) Lisa Guest (Housing Renewal), Sam Taylor (Housing Renewal), Teresa Rodousaki (Housing Operations).

Answers were culminated by Dan Bainbridge, Fuel Poverty Coordinator for East Sussex.