

Hastings Borough Council

HECA Reporting 2019

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	<p>If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Action Plan (https://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/my_council/decisions_how/policies_strategies/pdfs/Final_CCS_Cabinet_10_September2012.pdf) Climate Motion to Full Council (https://hastings.moderngov.co.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=15402) Energy Options Study (https://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/planning/planning_policy/aap-pdfs/Energy_Options_Study_by_CLS_Energy_June2017.pdf) Draft Energy Strategy Is being developed and will take account of the climate motion above As part of the upcoming review of the Hastings and St Leonards local plan a study has been commissioned on renewable and low carbon energy 	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	N/A
4	<p>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')</p> <p>Hastings Healthy Homes – This scheme for vulnerable households living in fuel poverty provided major measures to improve the thermal comfort of homes and alleviate fuel poverty. Funded in partnership with Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group and delivered through the East Sussex Homes Check Service. 149 major measures (full heating systems / new boilers) installed. The programme is presently being evaluated by Brighton University (http://www.hastingsandrotherccg.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=466500)</p> <p>EU Interreg 2 Seas Sustainable Housing in Inclusive Neighbourhoods – As reported in 2017 Hastings Borough Council is one of the UK partners in the SHINE project (http://2seas-shine.eu/en/). Highlights of this project locally since 2017 include; publication of a study into residential retrofit in conservation areas, installation of smart thermostats in private rented accommodation, study into large scale retrofit in residential</p>	

	<p>blocks, self-scans by residents for potential retrofit and the holding of a number of networking moments from the construction sector locally to promote retrofit.</p> <p>EU Interreg North West Europe Climate Active Neighbourhoods – As reported in 2017 Hastings Borough Council is a sub partner to the housing association, Optivo, as a UK partner in the CAN project (http://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/). Highlights of this project locally since 2017 includes commissioning of a neighbourhood specific democratisation of energy study and engagement with Hastings College construction students on renewable energy.</p> <p>Your Energy Sussex – Hastings Borough Council has engaged with West Sussex County Council on the introduction of the Sussex Energy Tariff.</p>
	<p><i>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')</i></p> <p>Hastings Borough Council is a project partner in the BEIS (Local Supply Chain Demonstration Project) funded Warmer Sussex project. Phase 2 of this funding will be used to develop products for households able to self-fund retrofit. This is proposed to include landlords and will inform the councils work in relation to its intervention in the private rented sector.</p> <p>Completion of both EU Interreg projects. As part of SHINE this includes the retrofit of a large privately owned block of flats.</p> <p>Through the Hastings Borough Council Selective Licensing Scheme we have begun to identify private rented properties with poor EPC ratings for enforcement under Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations.</p> <p>As detailed further under fuel poverty below Hastings Borough Council will continue to host the East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator and administer the East Sussex ECOFlex statement of intent.</p> <p>Solar on our estate building on the energy options report findings the Council will be exploring opportunities to further solarise its commercial rooftops and operational buildings, and consider district heat networks in its regeneration plans for the town.</p>
5	<p><i>What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), including the value of grants and other support, plus any other costs incurred? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel Poverty Officer – 2018/19 £ 50,000 2019/20 £ 50,000 • ECOFlex Admin – 2018/19 £ 13,000 2019/20 £ 13,000 • Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway (funding to promote fuel poverty) – 2018/19 £ 15,000 2019/20 £ 6,000 • Website development – 2018/19 £ 13,455 • CCG Funding (for Major Measures activity) – 2018/19 £ 145,500 • Warmer Sussex (Local Supply Chain Project) – 2018/19 £ 7,165 • EU Interreg SHINE – € 455,000 (total project sum for Hastings BC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Interreg CAN – € 175,000 (total project sum for Hastings BC) 	
6	<p><i>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advice 1066 as Warm Homes Check Provider and SHINE partner • Optivo (Housing Association) as CAN and SHINE partner • RetrofitWorks Ltd through Warmer Sussex • East Sussex Energy Partnership • Energise Sussex Coast as CAN partner • Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-operative through Warmer Sussex • Osbourne Energy Ltd • Switchee Ltd • Roost and Lets2Share (private landlords) • Hastings Housing Company (wholly council owned housing development / management company) 	
7	<p><i>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.)?</i></p> <p>Scheme outcomes are not generally measured at borough level however health improvement at county level is measured through the East Sussex Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway. More information is available at http://www.eastsussexinfigures.org.uk/webview/welcome.html</p> <p>The CCG funded major measures activity has been assessed independently by the University of Brighton. The result of this review are due to be published shortly; in the meantime video case studies can be found on the CCG's website – https://www.hastingsandrotherccg.nhs.uk/your-health/healthyhastingsandrother/improving-the-social-determinants-of-health/</p>	
8	<p><i>What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?</i></p> <p>The difficulties with delivering the CCG funded major measures activity forms part of the University of Brighton study. One particular challenge was in relation to tenants living in the private rented sector in fuel poverty in a high demand housing area such as Hastings. Indicative evidence highlights fuel poverty prevention measures in the private rented sector can contribute to increased eviction rates as landlords of improved properties seek to recoup their investment through increased rents.</p>	
Local Communications Strategy		
9	<i>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?</i>	No
10	<p><i>If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</i></p> <p>N/A</p>	

11	<p><i>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')</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost to Warm Homes Check Service • Planned use of Warmer Sussex for able to pay / self-funders • Training on fuel poverty through Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway • LOCASE (Low Carbon Across the Southeast) – support to SMEs to tackle and adapt to climate change • CHART-CLLD Connecting Hastings and Rother Together Community-Led Local Development programme – an EU funded programme that requires applicants to develop a sustainability action plan for their project including greenhouse gas emission reduction and energy efficiency measures 	
Local Green Supply Chains		
12	<p><i>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')</i></p>	No
13	<p><i>If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>	
14	<p><i>What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?</i></p> <p>A recent partnership event with Trustmark for landlords and the construction sector on greenhouse gas emission reduction and domestic retrofit has been held. This was attended by a number of local businesses engaged in retrofit.</p> <p>Through the EU Interreg CAN project we are engaging with construction students at Hastings College with a view to promoting carbon reduction.</p>	
Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards		
<p>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).</p> <p>The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.</p>		
15	<p><i>Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?</i></p> <p><i>(if you answered no, please move on to the next section</i></p>	Yes

	<i>'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')</i>	
16	<i>Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Renewal Team 	
17	<i>Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.</i>	
	Matthew China – mchina@hastings.gov.uk	
18	<i>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord forums in partnership with National Landlords Association • Provision of an EPC is a condition of our housing licensing schemes • Through Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government rogue landlord funding we were able through our partnership with ESCC trading standards undertake a series of focussed enforcement visits to managing agents. Part of these visits involved enforcement action re MEES 	
19	<i>Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?</i>	Yes
	If yes, how? If no, please explain.	
	Intelligence gathered via licence applications and other partner agencies enables us to prioritised proactive licensing compliance visits on the private rented homes with the poorest EPC ratings.	
Financial Support for Energy Efficiency		
20	<i>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.</i>	
	Presently most financial programmes are delivered through the Warm Homes Check Service who seeks funding via ECO and other grant streams. Other than this Hastings Borough Council no longer administers any financial programmes directly.	
	LoCase provided business grants of up to £20,000 for energy efficiency measures (EU ERDF funded project total £ 6 million)	
Fuel Poverty		
21	<i>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</i>	No
	<i>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.</i>	
	Hastings Borough Council continues to host the East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator and in addition since 2017 we now administer the East Sussex ECO Flex on behalf of East Sussex local authorities	

	<p>(https://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/housing/pdfs/ECOFLEX2). Through the Fuel Poverty Coordinator the East Sussex Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway is still the primary activity for reducing fuel poverty in East Sussex. Since 2017 the Winter Homes Check Service has been recommissioned and rebranded as the Warm Homes Check Service (to take account for its year round availability). A new web resource has been developed to support households at risk of fuel poverty – www.warmeastsussex.org.uk.</p>
22	<p><i>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</i></p> <p>As covered in 21 above fuel poverty intervention in Hastings is undertaken through the wider East Sussex Fuel Poverty Prevention Pathway. One aspect of the pathway is to identify residents in fuel poverty; this is undertaken by the East Sussex County Council Public Health Information Unit and reported to the East Sussex Energy Partnership.</p> <p>In addition to public health data information on properties in relation to their thermal efficiency is being compiled through the Warmer Sussex Project and populating a bespoke CHROM database by Parity Projects on behalf of RetrofitWorks. This property information is being cross referenced with various sources of resident data as an additional fuel poverty identification method.</p>
23	<p><i>How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
	<p><i>a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</i></p> <p>The Warm Homes Check Service provides fuel switching advice along with other energy saving advice. In addition to this advice the service also provides minor energy saving equipment such as draught proofing, heating repairs, hot water tank jackets, etc. Since the last HECA reporting period the service has assisted 734 fuel poor households in Hastings.</p> <p>Through a partnership with Energise Sussex Coast a weekly energy café is run in the Hastings Town Hall to encourage visitors to reception to engage in energy matters; including switching.</p> <p><i>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)</i></p> <p>Officers from Hastings Borough Council regularly attend the Your Energy Sussex partnership board quarterly meetings.</p>
<p>The Energy Company Obligation</p>	

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
25	<p><i>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?</i></p> <p><i>If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</i></p> <p>https://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/housing/pdfs/ECOFLEX2</p>	Yes
26	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>As previously stated Hastings Borough Council administers the East Sussex wide Sol on behalf of the East Sussex Energy Partnership. To date 53 declarations have been issued;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41 in the Hastings Borough Council area • 10 in the Wealden District Council area • 1 in the Rother District Council area • 1 in the Lewes District Council area <p>Initially, referrals for declarations have been slow due to the mobilisation of the new Warm Homes Check Service provider. The scheme also had concerns early on with a lead generating company cold calling residents and sending out correspondence using East Sussex local authorities’ logos and names without prior consent from the local authorities. In particular correspondence was sent to local authority areas using the incorrect authority logo for that area which caused significant concern to residents and affected trust in the scheme.</p>	
Smart Metering		
27	<p><i>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>One positive aspect of the Sussex Energy Tariff (through Your Energy Sussex) is the</p>	

	<p>replacement of pre-payment meters with smart meters wherever possible.</p> <p>One of the deliverables for the EU Interreg SHINE project was the provision of smart devices to encourage behaviour change for energy. In the Hastings Borough Council area a total of 27 smart thermostats have been installed in private rented accommodation owned by two large portfolio holder landlords. The devices, from Switchee, are normally a technology being installed by social housing providers and using them in private homes is particularly innovative.</p>
28	<p><i>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>We have no specific additional projects other than those detailed in 27 above.</p>
29	<p><i>Please detail any:</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p>None</p>
30	<p><i>Please detail any:</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p> <p>Your Energy Sussex provides a void service including the installation of a smart meter if required – and is actively working in partnership with local RSL including Optivo in Hastings.</p>
Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives	
31	<p><i>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').</i></p> <p>As highlighted in question two Hastings Borough Council has recently declared a climate emergency. Among the far reaching commitments made by the council in relation to this is to use whatever powers and influence we have, taking advantage of any new powers as they are made available by central government, to aim to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030, or by 2050 at the latest. In addition it is proposed to use the current review of the Local Plan to introduce policy requirements that new buildings should meet the most rigorous possible energy efficiency standards (for example, the 'Passivhaus' standards), include electric vehicle charging points in new housing and commercial developments, minimise the impacts of climate change (for example, by making sure contribution to flooding is minimised) and include solar arrays or other sustainable</p>

energy generation wherever possible.

Following the launch of the Tri-LEP strategy Energy South2East we will be exploring energy options for the borough including maximising the opportunity for low carbon & renewable energy installations. We will continue to promote initiatives such as LoCase to local businesses.

At time of writing we are waiting on a decision on phase 2 funding for the BEIS Local Supply Chain Demonstration Project (Warmer Sussex). If this project receives funding we will progress to the development and marketing of products to retrofit homes for able to pay households.