

## Hastings Borough Council

### HECA Reporting 2021

#### Headline and Overview Questions

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

Hastings Borough Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and committed to preparing a report, outlining how to reduce carbon emissions and work towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Tackling climate change is a key priority for the council, as set out in our corporate plan. The priority is to minimise environment and climate harm in all that we do. This will be delivered by;

- Ensuring our services, buildings, land, and development schemes are as energy and waste efficient and carbon neutral as possible
- Generating income and offsetting carbon emissions through solar and wind power on our buildings and land where feasible
- Championing plans to make our borough carbon neutral and energy self-sufficient on our website, so that residents can get involved and track progress

Full information with regards to the corporate plan can be found at <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/my-council/corp-plan/>

In addition, Hastings Borough Council has also developed a Climate Emergency Strategy and action plan. (Further details in next question)

**If yes, please provide a link / If no, are you planning to develop one**

Hastings Borough Council have developed a Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/my-council/policies-strategies/climate/>

The Evidence base supporting this action plan indicates that most of the town's emissions come from existing housing stock, which accounts for 49% of direct emissions.

The action plan is Hastings Borough Councils first step towards carbon reduction and energy efficiency within the borough. The strategy is a starting point and considers some of the ways to reduce the towns direct emissions. The strategy also seeks to work with partners to prepare for the impacts of climate change and adapt to extreme weather events as a result of climate change, which are expected to increase in the future.

**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.**

The East Sussex Warm Home Check Service is a County-wide service. Commissioned by East Sussex County Council 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 2018-2021. The service has been recommissioned retaining the same delivery partners for an initial period of 3 years with a possible extension to 5 years.

The countywide fuel poverty reduction programme funding allocated by East Sussex County Council (Public Health ring fenced grant) was £350,000 in 2019/20 and £323,000 in 2020/21.

This 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.

This service provides the free installation of minor measures and energy advice as well as securing and utilising external funding – including – ECO, Warm Homes Fund, Green Homes Grant.

ESCC also supports the administration costs of the ECO Flex scheme for the post hosted at Hastings Borough Council.

During this period additional grant funding of nearly £2.2m was secured to contribute to the programme, from sources including National Grid's Warm Homes Fund, SGN, the DWP COVID Winter Grant and the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme. (Note: although funding was secured during this period, not all activity and spending of this funding was planned to take place by March 2021)

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

The East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator is hosted by Hastings Borough Council and coordinates the Keep Warm and Well Network which acts as a way to share information, best practice, stakeholder events and training for frontline workers. All third sector and community organisations across the borough are represented through the network including Hastings Advice and Representation Centre, FSN and all statutory services.

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Hastings Borough Council also provides the administration for the East Sussex ECO Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent

<https://www.hastings.gov.uk/content/housing/pdfs/EcoFlexSOI>

The various organisations and stakeholders Hastings Borough Council work with to deliver the schemes are;

- **The East Sussex Energy Partnership -** <https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/about-us/> was founded in 2007 by a partnership of local councils including Hastings Borough Council and the NHS in East Sussex, the aim to help to protect individuals and communities in East Sussex from the effects of living in a cold home. They provide resources and information to help people keep warmer for less. It includes members from all East Sussex Local Authorities and a range of other organisations. The partnership approach helps to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach to the delivery of interventions to tackle health and wellbeing issues related to cold homes, particularly for vulnerable groups, and other related issues.

Members include – Citizens Advice, Sussex Community Development Association, East Sussex CCG, Age UK East Sussex, Action in Rural Sussex, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Energise Sussex Coast and National Energy Action.

- **Warm Home Check Service** - through the Warm Home Check service the Hastings Borough Council works with SGN Fuel Poverty Network Extension Scheme. <https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/services-and-support/winter-home-check-service/>
- **SHINE EU Interreg project** - <http://2seas-shine.eu/> Hastings Borough Council together with Optivo, Citizens Advice 1066 and Brighton and Hove Council took part in the SHINE project. SHINE stands for Sustainable Houses in Inclusive Neighbourhoods. <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/housing/improvement/shine/>
- **CAN (Climate Active Neighbourhoods) -** <https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/climate-active-neighbourhoods-can/#tab-5> The CAN project enabled UK partners to develop new, local approaches to meeting the national challenge of delivering the Carbon Plan, and so support compliance with UK CO2 emission reduction targets. The CAN project emphasis is the implementation of technologies to improve energy efficiency in the home, encouraging behavioural change to reduce energy consumption and developing a 'bottom-up approach' (community development) to building community resilience to climate change.

- **Solar Together Sussex** – <https://solartogether.co.uk/hastings/home> to encourage and support local homes owners to buy solar PV (and battery storage system) though a LA backed bulk purchase initiative in partnership with your Energy Sussex and Ichoosr

**What has been, or will be, the outcome of the scheme(s)? These outcomes could include energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness or societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc**

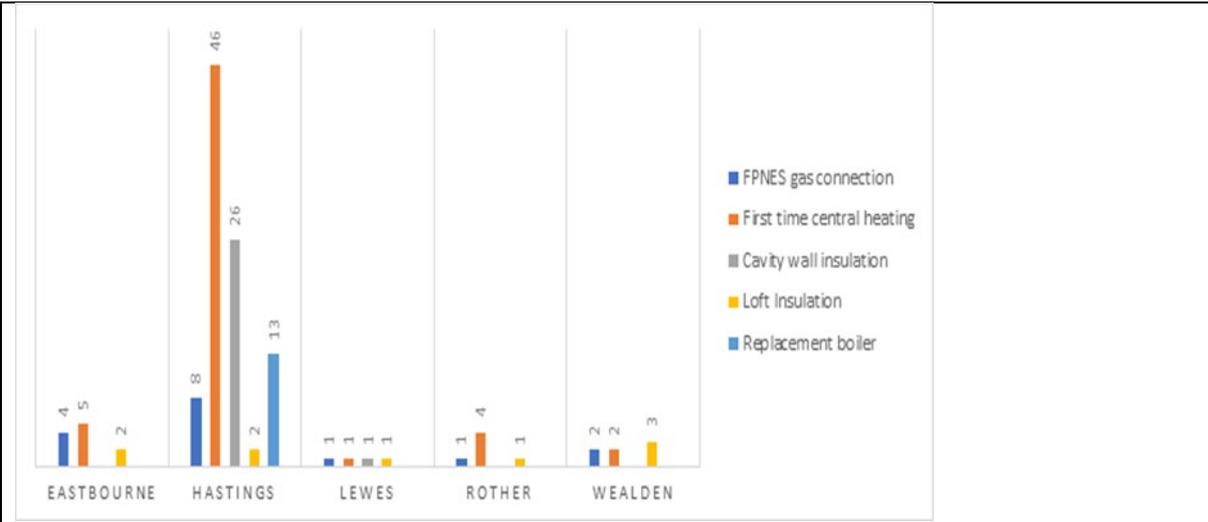
**Warm Home Check service activity April 2019 to March 2021**

	Number of households receiving 'keep warm and well' helpline advice	Number of households receiving energy efficiency measures or interventions	Number of small measures and interventions provided	Estimated income maximisation (energy switching and additional benefits incl. Warm Home Discount)
<b>Eastbourne</b>	705	167	237	Not available
<b>Hastings</b>	3,091	441	617	Not available
<b>Lewes</b>	599	83	128	Not available
<b>Rother</b>	576	153	203	Not available
<b>Wealden</b>	1,109	151	231	Not available
<b>EAST SUSSEX</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>£746,675</b>

**Table 1: Keep warm and well helpline, warm home check visits and minor measures installed between April 2019 – March 2021**

**Table 2: Major measures installed between April 2019 – March 2021**

	FPNES gas connection	First time central heating	Cavity wall insulation	Loft Insulation	Replacement boiler	Grand Total
<b>Eastbourne</b>	4	5	0	2	0	11
<b>Hastings</b>	8	46	26	2	13	95
<b>Lewes</b>	1	1	1	1	0	4
<b>Rother</b>	1	4	0	1	0	6
<b>Wealden</b>	2	2	0	3	0	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>123</b>



**Communications**

**Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy?**

The East Sussex Warm Home Check service provides this service countywide. <https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/>

**If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken.**

The East Sussex Warm Home Check Service provides:

The Keep Warm and Well Helpline – anyone can call this service for advice on energy saving and keeping warm at home

Warm Home Check visits for eligible households (private tenure, low income) – this includes a holistic assessment of the property and installation of minor measures (i.e., LED lightbulbs, draft proofing, boiler service, TRVs etc.) and advice on saving energy and income maximisation.

Opportunities to secure additional funding for major measures – i.e., fuel poverty national extension scheme, warm homes fund first time central heating, ECO, Green Home Grant etc.

**How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses?**

The East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator coordinates communication throughout East Sussex. The following activities have been undertaken;

- Social media (both organic and targeted posts) through Hastings Borough Council communications
- Direct mail outs targeted using CROHM database

- Working with the front line voluntary, health and social care sector to advise on resources and help available to their clients and referral mechanisms that can be used
- Training on importance of keeping warm and saving energy at home for frontline works to take a Making Every Contact Count Approach (MECC) and refer to the East Sussex Warm Home Check Service
- Using resources – such as flyers, thermometer cards, posters, GP surgery screens etc.

**Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? If Yes, please summarise the outcomes.**

Hastings Borough Council is a project partner in the BEIS (Local Supply Chain Demonstration Project) funded Warmer Sussex project. This has piloted and developed an approach to whole house retrofitting and has worked with the local supply chain to deliver whole house retrofitting and energy efficiency measures.

Warmer Sussex – Retrofit today Save Tomorrow.

<https://www.warmersussex.co.uk/> Warmer Sussex is a not-for-profit organisation, partnering with a range of community organisations and fully vetted local tradespeople to help the people of Sussex in their journey to an energy efficient home.

In addition, the local college is developing its syllabus to take account of whole house retrofitting and new low carbon technologies such as heat pumps and EV vehicles.

The Green Homes Grant Phase 1b initiative has funding to run a number of local workshops across East Sussex and within Hastings to engage the local supply chain in retrofitting and the new certification requirements such as PAS 2030 and PAS2035

**What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities.**

Within our East Sussex Consortium, the Green Home Grant Phase 1A elements of the project included £20,000 from Team East Sussex (TES), as part of the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, to fund the provision of Whole House Plans and further support for local SMEs to enable them to meet the higher quality assurance and industry specifications to work on the project (Trustmark accreditation and the PAS 2030:2019 and PAS 2035 installation specifications)for retrofitting homes.

Local government officers promoted through professional networks the Greater South East Energy Hub supply chain workshops as well as through council communication team.

The Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme includes a retrofit training programme with RetrofitWorks and Sussex Coast College to promote green skills development for local students. There are six workshops with Plumbing HND students on the installation of sustainable electric heating systems. Students who have taken part in the workshops will be offered an opportunity to go on retrofit installation visits with Optivo's contractor as well as with RetrofitWorks so they can observe the practical installation of the energy efficiency measures required. It is intended that this experience will help students with the learning process and enhance their employment opportunities when they enter the workplace.

**What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit?**

This is an important piece of work for Hastings Borough Council. We have been a partner in the Warmer Sussex project and on the board.

Primarily this work aimed to develop the local supply chain whilst also exploring ways to encourage able to pay households to undertake whole house retrofit work. This included the local authority referring clients to the Warmer Sussex Project (5 referrals made). A further 33 contacts were made to Warmer Sussex from the Hastings Borough area, of these 20 households continued on to have work carried out.

Those 20 households undertaking work resulted in a reduction of 80 carbon tonnes.

LA	Heard from LA	Total leads	Total clients	tCO <sub>2</sub>
Eastbourne	0	5	2	23.1
Hastings	5	38	20	80.0
Lewes	4	46	16	86.6
Rother	1	11	9	85.6
Wealden	6	31	8	92.6

Warmer Sussex outcomes (the average cost per household is between £10,000-20,000)

As part of the SHINE project there were several outreach events for the local supply chain. <http://2seas-shine.eu/>

We attend the local National Landlord Forum to promote retrofit to landlords and discuss their responsibility with Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.

Additionally, there is a BEIS funded MEES Enforcement Pilot <https://www.hastings.gov.uk/housing/landlord/MEES/> which Hastings Borough Council is participating in.

The communications plan for Keep Warm and Well East Sussex includes targeted social media advertisements covering the Green Home Grant, Keeping warm and well and the East Sussex Warm Home Check Service.

Solar Together is the Sussex-wide scheme promoting solar PV and battery purchase and install – this includes a direct mailout. With the recent addition of LIDAR to the CROHM license we hope to extend this mail out.

**How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers?**

This is primarily through the East Sussex Warm Home Check Service lead partner, RetrofitWorks.

RetrofitWorks is a not-for-profit cooperative to support installers. Members are organisations or individuals working in the building industry, including, but not limited to; installers/contractors, energy assessors, retrofit coordinators, architects, designers, project managers, and other refurbishment specialists.

Contractors and businesses who work with RetrofitWorks can expect warm leads from interested clients, community support, ongoing training opportunities and more. Retrofit Coordinators are also assigned to each job so that the customer is represented, and Quality Assurance is carried out on 100% of jobs.

**Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts?**

This is something we hope to develop further alongside our Town Investment Plan, Retrofit College and the Green Home Grant funding and is also likely to form part of the next Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan.

**Social Housing**

**What action, if any, has your LA taken to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures in social housing? Have these been installed to a satisfactory quality? What actions (if any) have your social housing partners taken?**

Optivo are one of the partners in the East Sussex Consortium Green Home Grant Local Authority Delivery project for both Phase 1a and b. In total this will result in 100 properties undergoing retrofit across the County, including Hastings. These measures are being installed by a TrustMark fully quality assured contractor Osborne Energy - <https://osborneenergy.co.uk/about-us/>

All the social housing properties have been identified that are going to benefit from this work. This is a total of 10 properties in the Hastings Borough area.

**Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g., stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings)**

Hastings Borough Council does not own any of its own social housing stock. With regards to housing associations that we work with, they would hold and manage their own information with regards to the condition of their stock, procurement procedures etc

**If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information?**

N/A

**Have you experienced any challenges to retrofit, including during any previous government schemes you have taken part in (e.g., supply chain, funding, tenant cooperation, mixed tenure, split incentive, policy clarity, etc)?**

N/A

**Please provide some detail. Have social housing partners reported any challenges to retrofit?**

N/A

**How does your LA currently/how will your LA in future plan to go about identifying suitable housing stock and measures for retrofit? How do social housing partners identify suitable stock? By the same measures or via a different method?**

Hastings Borough Council will be commissioning a housing stock condition survey in 2021/2022 which will provide an up-to-date picture of the housing status in Hastings. The last one was completed in 2016. It is hoped once commissioned the report will be completed by the end of the year.

Hastings Borough Council is also considering a licence for CROHM software including lidar to support our domestic retrofit strategy and ambitions and build a comprehensive and up to date database of EPCs and other retrofit information.

**What considerations would make you more or less likely to apply for government funding? If known, what is the opinion of your social housing partners?**

Partnership working between Hastings Borough Council and Optivo has been successful over a number of projects included EU Interreg and also Green Home Grant LAD Phases 1a/b

For funding to be successful social housing partners need to ensure quality as well as oversight and control. It is important for them to ensure servicing and warranty arrangements are also in line with their procurement.

**To what extent are social housing tenants willing or unwilling to undergo retrofit, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their participation? If known, is this the same opinion across all social housing tenants or is it different with HA and ALMO tenants?**

Not Known

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Not Known

**Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate?**

Not Known

### **Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards**

**Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations requiring private rentals in England and Wales to meet a minimum energy performance rating of EPC Band E as of April 2020, unless a valid exemption applies?**

Yes

**Which team within your authority is responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard? Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.**

Housing Renewal Team– Sandra Thornton -Housing Renewal Manager - [sthornton@hastings.gov.uk](mailto:sthornton@hastings.gov.uk)

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

Hastings Borough Council (HBC) use several methods to communicate with landlords in an attempt to improve their awareness of MEES.

A quarterly newsletter is sent out to landlords and we currently have in excess of 3000 landlords subscribed to this.

We are in the process of refreshing the newsletter, so it also contains housing information relevant to private sector tenants.

We have also used social media campaigns and the local press to raise awareness of MEES and to signpost landlords and tenants to sources of further information.

Where possible, we send awareness letters to landlords prior to enforcement action. We regularly maintain the housing webpages of the Hastings Borough Council website to ensure they contain up to date, relevant guidance, and sources of information.

**What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g., identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)?**

One of the main obstacles in enforcing the MEES regulations is having access to accurate data to show a property has triggered the requirement of MEES within the last 12 months. Having access or the ability to make requests for data for MEES purposes would greatly assist and help to build a wider and more informed picture. For example, Council Tax data relating to the tenancy agreements that they collect to confirm rental arrangements. Also, a better understanding of housing benefit data and how this may be able to be used to identify excess cold and fuel poverty

If a property doesn't have an EPC it doesn't trigger MEES. This creates a barrier as the local housing authority has no powers where an EPC has not been completed. This power lies with Trading Standards. We are looking to combat this via joint working with Trading Standards who enforce EPC regulations. At the current time we are scoping a joint project to take a more coordinated approach to MEES and EPC's.

Another obstacle in enforcing the regulations going forward is the lack of staff resource and budget to be able to solely focus on this area. Hastings Borough Council have only been able to give dedicated time and resource to MEES work over the last 10 months as a result of external funding received from BEIS.

**Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? If yes, how? If no, please explain.**

We are currently targeting landlords of EPC F & G rated properties via funding for a project that runs till September 2021. Using bulk EPC datasets from Central Government and EPC information gathered as part of the selective licensing application, we are overlaying that data with Fuel Poverty data sets to target the wards most effected by fuel poverty. Once properties/landlords are identified that may be in breach of the regulations, we are sending out awareness letters requesting landlords contact us to let us know how they plan to address the issue surrounding the EPC being an F or G. We are achieving a good level of compliance from landlords at this stage. However, if no communication is received then the formal enforcement route is considered

**Financial Support for Energy Efficiency - Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing).**

**What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable please outline the budget (and % of the budget that is used), where such funding is sourced and where it is targeted.**

The countywide fuel poverty reduction programme funding allocated by East Sussex County Council (Public Health ring fenced grant) was £350,000 in 2019/20 and £323,000 in 2020/21. This 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.

During this period additional grant funding of nearly £2.2m was secured to contribute to the programme, from sources including National Grid's Warm Homes Fund, SGN, the DWP COVID Winter Grant and the BEIS Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme. (Note: although funding was secured during this period, not all activity and spending of this funding was planned to take place by March 2021)

**What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for?**

Any future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures will be based on the availability of grant funding going forward.

### **Fuel Poverty**

**Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?**

Yes - East Sussex Fuel Poverty Reduction Pathway

**What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty?**

The key activities that have been undertaken in order to identify residents / properties in fuel poverty are as follows;

- Targeted social media advertising which has promoted the Warm Home Check Service and people's potential eligibility to access advice, support, and minor works
- Frontline workers awareness sessions – engagement has been undertaken with a wide range of organisations that provide front line support and advice to people who may be experiencing fuel poverty. They are encouraged to make referrals on behalf of their clients to East Sussex Warm Home Check Service

- Direct mail out of advice and information to target specific households and residents using CROHM and Fuel poverty statistics

**How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?**

The current 2020 to 2022 Climate Emergency Strategy is Hastings Borough Councils first step towards carbon reduction and energy efficiency within the borough. The Evidence base supporting the action plan indicates that most of the town's emissions come from existing housing stock, which accounts for 49% of direct emissions.

The action plan incorporates the development of a whole house retrofit plan and the promotion of Warmer Sussex to homeowners. It recognises the link between tackling fuel poverty whilst at the same time being able to make homes more energy efficient.

As the development for the 2022-2030 plan get underway, the intention is to increase the interlink between fuel poverty and the Councils overall carbon reduction strategy.

**Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area.**

Hastings fuel poverty is significantly higher than the rest of East Sussex, South East and England and it is a key issue for residents both for their health and for their financial security.

The private rented sector in Hastings is very large with 38% of housing stock being privately rented. These homes are increasingly unaffordable, often of poor quality, let on a revolving door basis with little or no social support for the many vulnerable residents living in them.(Narrative taken from Town Investment Plan)

Improving the quality of the housing for the private rented sector is therefore an important task in contributing to improving energy efficiency and alleviating fuel poverty. Working with landlords to meet their legal duties to their tenants and supporting landlords, often with a small stock portfolio to access and benefit from the funding available to them.

**What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have.**

East Sussex Warm Home Check Service – The service offers telephone advice for anyone struggling to afford to keep warm at home, with money-saving advice and tips on how to stay warm for less. It also provides eligible vulnerable households with a holistic home assessment. This can include:

- advice on how best to keep their home warm/reduce energy costs
- advice on financial support available to help with heating costs
- minor home improvement measures such as improving pipe insulation, draught-proofing, boiler service.

- Subject to funding being available, the service can also coordinate and source funding for the installation of heating & insulation measures available through schemes such as the government's Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- An emergency temporary heating scheme is also available.

County wide £688,199 has been secured as income maximisation for Warm Home Check service clients for this HECA period.

Sussex-wide fuel voucher scheme – funding through Energy redress scheme. The voucher scheme helps vulnerable residents that are struggling to meet their winter fuel costs. The vouchers (£28 for a single person and £49 for a family) are for vulnerable residents (i.e., due to age or a health condition) who are on limited incomes or means-tested benefits and are facing difficult financial circumstances.

The vouchers, which are limited to one per household, are available from local Citizens Advice branches

### **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery**

**Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low-income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades. £200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.**

#### **Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD?**

- **If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project.**
- **If no, please indicate what barriers prevented you from participation in the scheme.**

Phase GHG LAD 1A – delivered between October 2020 and June 2021

#### Eligibility

- Properties must have an EPC rating of E, F, or G
- Household income of £30K or less
- Eligible measures include all (non-fossil fuel) measures that increase Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) i.e., improve the EPC banding.

The aim is to move a significant proportion of the properties having measures installed to an EPC Band C (In line with the fuel poverty strategy (2021) and Net Zero 2050).

The project comprises two main work packages totalling a value of £912,714.

Work Package 1:

- Delivered through the East Sussex County Council commissioned Warm Home Check service <https://warmeastsussex.org.uk/>
- Private Tenure (owner occupied and private rented) – target of 75 properties

Work Package 2:

- Social Housing (Optivo Housing) – target of 50 properties

Additional elements of the project included £20,000 from Team East Sussex (TES), as part of the East Sussex Economy Recovery Plan, to fund the provision of Whole House Plans and further support for local SMEs to enable them to meet the higher quality assurance and industry specifications to work on the project (Trustmark accreditation and the PASPAS 2030:2019 and PAS 2035 installation specifications). for retrofitting homes)

The East Sussex Consortium put in a similar bid for Phase 1B comprising the same two work packages totalling a value of £1,165,462.

Work Package 1 – target of 100 properties (private tenures)

Work Package 2 – target of 50 properties (social housing)

**Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022?**

- **If yes, please indicate the anticipated number of homes that could be upgraded per year**
- **If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area.**

Yes - It is anticipated that were the funding to be similarly modelled to existing 1a and b funding approximately 300 all tenure properties would be able to receive upgrades over 12-18-month period.

### **The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

**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 ECO “Local Authority flexible eligibility” (LA 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 in the LA Flex programme 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.**

**Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? (Y/N)**

Yes – Can be viewed here

**Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail:**

	Hastings Borough	Eastbourne Borough	Lewes District	Wealden District	Rother District	Countywide
ECO Flex declarations issued	35	3	3	18	11	70
Low-income High Cost	31	2	2	11	11	57
Low income Vulnerable to Cold	4	1	1	7	0	13

**How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households?**

31

**How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households?**

4

**How many declarations were issued for in-fill?**

0

**What is the highest income cap published in your Sol?**

£52,000 is the maximum income. All income is related to household composition. Starting at a one adult household income threshold of £18,500 to £52,000 for a household comprising 2 adults and 4 or more children.

**If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason have you given?**

All income is related to household composition. Starting at a one adult household income threshold of £18,500 to £52,000 for a household comprising 2 adults and 4 or more children.

**Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much?**

No

### Smart Metering

**Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits.**

There are no plans for this with the current delivery model and project priorities.

**Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:**

- a. Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation**
- b. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises**
- c. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake**
- d. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes**
- e. Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons**
- f. Other supporting activities**

Age UK East Sussex and National Energy Action South East project coordinator have both received funding to promote smart meter rollout. The East Sussex Fuel Poverty Coordinator hosted at Hastings Borough Council has promoted and supported these projects.

#### **Future Schemes and Wider Incentives**

Lewes District Council (LDC) has taken the lead on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) and both are working on housing development programmes, primarily in the affordable sector.

The estimated value of LDC's portion of the framework is £41.25m, for EBC it is £35.25m and for other contracted authorities it is £33.5m. Hastings Borough Council are able to make use of this framework.

**Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation.**

The Hastings Town Deal board submitted Town Investment Plan to the government. The plan, if approved, will see £28.2m of Town Deal money and a further £85m of match funding for the town over the next six years. The plan has 4 key Challenge Themes – one of them being housing.

<https://www.hastings.gov.uk/regeneration/towndeal/>

If successful, the ability to make improvements to the current housing stock will have a direct impact on energy efficiency and fuel poverty.