

# North Hertfordshire District Council Home Energy Conservation Act Report 2019

## Submission to Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Headline and overview questions	
Local authority strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties.	The Council's Climate Change Policy is available <a href="#">here</a> . The policy is currently under review, with an amended version due for publication in Autumn 2019.
Scheme(s) that your local authority has implemented, or is planning to implement, in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation or non-domestic properties since 2017.	The Council has entered into a partnership with other local authorities in Hertfordshire called ' <a href="#">Hertfordshire Warmer Homes</a> '. This partnership is accessing ECO funding to enable residents to install free or subsidised energy efficiency measures.  We have also submitted a successful bid to the Warm Homes Fund, to provide full gas central heating systems to residential accommodation that currently has no heating system or less energy efficient systems.
What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s)?	The Hertfordshire Warmer Homes project has required a contribution of approximately £5,000-£6,000 for the first two years of the project. The Warm Homes Fund scheme will require a Council contribution of £15,000 for each year of the two year project.
What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?	Work in this area has been limited but we have engaged with Citizens Advice Bureau and Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation (LGCHF) to explore how we can collaborate on energy efficiency work. LGCHF has been working with the Building Research Establishment on a two year trial to retro fit energy efficiency devices to older homes.
What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?	Evidence that we have is largely anecdotal at this stage although there is limited data on carbon savings from the energy efficiency measures that have been installed through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes project.

What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?	Contracting out the management of the delivery of energy efficiency measures was less effective than had been hoped. There is a balance between trying to minimise project costs and effectiveness of delivery.
<b>Local communications strategy</b>	
Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers and businesses on how to save energy?	With regards local businesses, NHDC promotes two Business Energy Efficiency programmes (funded by the former Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough and Herts LEPs). These both conduct energy audits and provide advice and grants to match client funding of energy saving activities.
How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses?	<p>Information for residents is available on our website. We have published articles on energy efficiency measures for residents and promoted the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes project in our Council magazine. We have a number of leaflets available in our reception area highlighting energy efficiencies (Herts Help - Keep Warm, Stay Well advice and Recommended room temperatures thermometer and Hertfordshire sustainability Forum - Home Energy Saving leaflet).</p> <p>Our two business energy efficiency schemes are advertised via the NHDC website. We have also held a workshop on business energy efficiency and plan to include more in in our new workshop programme.</p>
<b>Local green supply chains</b>	
Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)?	We do not promote directly but the energy efficiency programmes (mentioned above) available for local businesses may suggest suitable products following an energy use audit.
What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	North Herts has had two energy efficiency programmes funded by the Herts and the former Cambridge Peterborough LEPs. We signpost businesses to these via our website, on one-to-one interventions and indirectly via referrals to the Growth Hub and Wenta, both of which provide business support and signposting services. We have also held a workshop on business energy efficiency and carbon reduction and propose more for the coming year.

<b>Domestic private rented sector (PRS) minimum energy efficiency standards</b>	
Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?	Yes.
Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	We believe that enforcement of the PRS MEES is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council Trading Standards but we are committed to working with Trading Standards about this matter.
What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	We do adhoc mail outs to known landlords and property agents on specific issues and attend landlord forums from time to time.
Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?	No. We have not targeted landlords of EPC F and G properties directly to date but this is something that we are considering doing subject to staffing resources.
<b>Financial support for energy efficiency</b>	
What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving?	As outlined above, we are working in partnership with other local authorities in Hertfordshire to access ECO funding for the benefit of residents. We have also recently made a successful Warm Homes Fund bid, which will require a capital contribution by the Council of £30,000. Most of these resources are targeted at addressing fuel poverty but also with the benefit of improving energy efficiency and reducing the carbon impact of our housing stock.  We advertise and signpost local businesses to the Herts LEP Engage programme of business energy efficiency audits, recommendations and grant funding for improvements.
<b>Fuel poverty</b>	
Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?	No.
What steps have you taken to	We have recently written to all properties with an EPC rating of F or G to advise of the availability of

identify residents/properties in fuel poverty?	funding for energy efficiency measures through the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes project.
How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy?	Through the upgrading of the energy efficiency of dwellings, households will be able to reduce their income expenditure on energy bills. This tackles one of the root causes of fuel poverty.
What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty?	Much of the work of the Hertfordshire Warmer Homes project is focused on trying to reduce fuel costs for those in fuel poverty.
<b>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)</b>	
Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?	Yes. The Council's Statement of Intent is available <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Smart metering</b>	
Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to engage and support your residents to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits.	Smart Energy GB was asked to present at a recent Local Strategic Partnership meeting to a mix of voluntary and statutory organisations. The presentation addressed the perceived issues with the national smart meter roll out. A range of leaflets were requested and these are freely available in our reception area and staff breakout area.
Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to integrate your approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation with the opportunities presented by the installation of smart meters.	We will be considering our approach when we publish our revised climate change strategy later in 2019.
Please detail any resources/ support	Residents may be eligible for a home repair assistance grant.

<p>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).</p>	
<p>Please detail any existing relationships with energy suppliers to help ensure that the opportunities presented by vacant properties under your control are effectively utilised (i.e. gaining access to install a smart meter).</p>	<p>The Council does not own any housing stock.</p>
<p><b>Future schemes or wider initiatives</b></p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>The new Local Plan for the District will include planning policies which will help to address climate change issues, for example by including policies on the standards of design or renewable energy developments.</p> <p>The Ngage Business Efficiency Grant scheme funded by the Herts LEP ends in Dec 2019. An extension of 2 years and £500k grant funding is being negotiated. Future workshops on business efficiency are being planned for 2019/20.</p>