



HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRESS REPORT- MARCH 2019

Action	Details	Timing
i) local energy efficiency ambitions, priorities and performance.		
<i>Ambitions and Priorities</i>	<p>It is a priority in the Council’s Housing Strategy 2016 -2021 to promote independence and inclusion to our most vulnerable residents by tackling fuel poverty. This will be achieved by identifying vulnerable households and working with partners to promote energy saving and fund energy efficiency improvements.</p> <p>In December 2014 the Government adopted the following fuel poverty target: <i>“To ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030.”</i></p> <p>It is proposed that this will be achieved in two stages;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020 and • As many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025. <p>The Council has adopted the first stage government milestone within its Housing Strategy, therefore the target is to ensure that as many fuel poor homes in the Borough as is reasonably practicable, achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band E by 2020. However, in recognition that this is an interim milestone, the Council will</p>	<p>2019-2021</p> <p>By 2020</p>

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<p>Performance</p>	<p>encourage the installation of measures well above this, ideally to a minimum of Band C. Currently the Council's Housing Stock Condition Survey 2016¹ estimates that 4,156 private sector dwellings have an EPC rating below band E.</p> <p>Carbon Emissions</p> <p>Government local authority and regional carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions national statistics show total emissions in the Borough from domestic sources in 2016 were 221.2 kt CO₂ which is a reduction of 29.4% from the 2005 baseline (313.4 kt CO₂)².</p> <p>Gas and Electricity Consumption</p> <p>Government sub-national electricity and gas consumption statistics for dwellings in the Borough show a reduction in domestic electricity consumption by 8.57% and domestic gas consumption, by 26.4% from the 2005 baseline³.</p> <p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>A household is said to be in fuel poverty if they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level) and were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.</p> <p>Based upon UK government sub-regional fuel poverty data⁴, the level of fuel poverty in 2017 has slightly decreased when compared with 2012, from a 13.4% figure to 12.9%.</p> <p>A number of factors have influenced the improvements in the above three areas including customer behaviour, financial assistance to low income households, improvements in the energy efficiency of appliances and the installation of energy efficiency measures in dwellings.</p>	

¹ <https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/housing/private-rented-accommodation/private-sector-housing-stock-condition-survey-2016>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2016>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>

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	<p>Housing Health and Safety Rating (Excess Cold)</p> <p>The Housing and Health Rating System contained within the Housing Act 2004 is used by the Council to determine the presence of hazards to health which includes excess cold and damp and mould. From April 2017 to the end of March 2019, the Council identified and ensured 45 Category 1 hazards (excess cold and damp and mould) and 74 Category 2 hazards were removed from dwellings in the private rented sector by requiring owners to provide appropriate heating and insulation measures</p>	
<p><i>ii) measures that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation.</i></p>		
<p><i>Energy Company Obligation (ECO)</i></p>	<p>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a programme to deliver energy efficiency measures in homes across Great Britain, which helps households to cut fuel bills and reduce carbon emissions.</p> <p>Information published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy shows that from January 2017 to September 2018, 386 ECO measures have been installed and of these 213 have been directed to those deemed to be vulnerable and in fuel poverty under the Affordable Warmth category.</p> <p>The Council has promoted the ECO scheme and worked with Beat the Cold (a local charity specialising in energy efficiency) to assist vulnerable households eligible to apply for ECO funding and arrange for works to be completed. The Borough Council was an early adopter of the ECO Flex, publishing a Statement of Intent in July 2017 and has Beat the Cold as a trusted intermediary in the delivery of ECO flex.</p> <p>We will continue to promote the Energy Company Obligation 3 and have updated our Statement of Intent to capture a greater number of households in fuel poverty and to have consistent criteria with neighbouring Councils - a collaborative approach which will allow energy providers to work seamlessly across the County.</p>	<p>2019-2021</p>

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<p>Fuel Poverty</p>	<p>There is no specific dedicated full time officer within the Council to address fuel poverty. However, the work is assimilated within the Housing Services, which encompasses the full range of services including housing strategy, homelessness and the enforcement of housing standards in the private sector.</p> <p>Over the last two years, the Borough Council has had to operate in a challenging financial environment with a reduction in capital spending, funding for energy efficiency projects and work has been extremely limited. The focus of our fuel poverty work has been primarily to signpost residents to Beat the Cold, a local charity (who was awarded funding by the National lottery, North Staffs Clinical Commissioning Group, and Western Power) for energy efficiency advice and assistance.</p> <p>Going forward, the Borough Council is a partner of the Staffordshire Warm Homes Fund, which has funding of £ 3.7 million for capital measures and energy efficiency and health related solutions. This has been provided jointly by Affordable Warmth Solutions, through the award of Warm Homes Fund and EON through ECO and Warm homes Discount Industry Initiative Obligation monies. Category 1 and Category 3 funding has been secured and a bid for Category 2 funding was submitted in April 2019.</p> <p>The programme will commence in May 2019 and aims to benefit up to 1,000 households in Staffordshire over the next 3 years. It is planned to deliver fully funded gas connection central heating installations and insulation measures to both private and social sector residents as well as income maximisation and energy saving services to up to 12,000 vulnerable residents. Apportionment of this fund will result in a allocation of £500,000 for central heating measures and £17,000 for insulation measures for the residents of the Borough</p>	<p>2019-2022</p>
<p>Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) and Minimum energy standards in the private rental sector</p>	<p>Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's) are legally required whenever a property is built, sold or rented. An EPC is a measure of the energy efficiency performance of a building and is rated from band A – G, with A representing the best performance. The government, in its fuel poverty strategy, has set the minimum standard as an E rating.</p> <p>There are approximately 6,000 privately rented dwelling in the Borough. The Council's housing stock condition survey indicates that the standard of private rented homes is generally worse than owner-occupied stock relating to excess cold hazards and energy efficiency (Simple SAP). Approximately 730 (12%) rented homes have an EPC rating below E.</p>	

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	<p>From April 2018, the Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations have applied to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. All privately rented properties have been legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy, unless registered on the PRS Exemptions Register.</p> <p>The work to improve housing standards in the private rented sector is carried out by the Housing Standards Team. This work consists of 'educating' landlords and tenants about housing and energy efficiency standards within rented properties and 'enforcing' these legislative standards.</p> <p>Various methods, such as the website, mailshots to letting agents, presentations and training sessions to landlords and Newcastle Housing Advice Service and partners have been used explain the legislative standards that need to be met and to inculcate good practice within the private sector.</p> <p>The housing enforcement programme is both reactive and proactive. Complaints received about housing standard are investigated. Datasets such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Data and Tenancy Deposit information are used to intelligently identify properties that are likely to have poor housing and energy efficiency standards, which are proactively inspected.</p>	Ongoing
Smart meters	Smart Energy GB is leading a national campaign to encourage households to have a smart meter installed. We have limited our promotion of Smart Meters to the use of our website, where our energy efficiency page has information and advice on smart meters with a link to national Smart Energy website.	Ongoing
iii) TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERY AND NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS		
	The Council will continue to work with, national regional and local partners to improve home energy conservation including energy suppliers, the Association of Local Energy Officers, Sustainability West Midlands, Staffordshire County Council, Beat the Cold and Aspire Housing.	Ongoing

SIGNED OFF BY:

J Halliday

POSITION:

Head of Housing Regeneration and Assets