

HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: Brighton & Hove City Council		
Type of Local Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unitary Authority 		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report: Miles Davidson Miles.davidson@brighton-hove.gov.uk Tel. 01273293150		
Job title of official submitting the report: Housing Sustainability & Affordable Warmth Manager		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Sustainability & Affordable Warmth Team • Housing Mechanical & Electrical Team • Public Health • Private Sector Housing Team • International & Sustainability Team 		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE): 2 FTE posts work in Housing Sustainability & Affordable Warmth Team Approximately a further 10-13 FTEs actively involved in policy areas but varied proportion of time and fluctuating depending on workloads.		
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? We have a number of related strategies relating to this subject area; Fuel Poverty & Affordable Warmth Strategy HRA Energy Strategy City Sustainability Action Plan	(Y)
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here: See above	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	(Y/N)
4	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')	
We have continued to invest in our own housing stock through our capital improvement programme, this has included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal and domestic heating upgrades • Window replacement • Insulation improvements • Our longer term ambitions are outlined within our HRA Energy Strategy (see 		

above)

The [SHINE](#) project is an EU funded project giving advice and small energy saving measures to council tenants and leaseholders. It has also allowed us to trial some enhancing technologies as part of our boiler upgrade programme that increase efficiency and reduce carbon. The project will run up till 2020.

Warmth for Wellbeing is an annual Public Health funded programme that supports residents with energy saving advice and financial advice to reduce bills and energy use whilst staying warm in winter.

[SOLARISE](#) is an EU funded project that aims to trial different ways to maximise benefits of solar PV installations on council housing sites.

[Warm Safe Homes](#) is a DFG funded grant that supports vulnerable residents with energy saving measures such as heating upgrades and insulation measures.

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')

Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words
Schemes referred to in 4a. will continue to be delivered through all or part of the next two years.

Following the failure of Green Deal options explored through local partnerships we are supporting the work of Retrofitworks [Warmer Sussex](#) alongside local partners to develop a model for the 'Able to pay' market in owner occupied and private rented tenures to improve the energy efficiency of these homes.

We are exploring further funding streams to support delivery of wider energy efficiency improvements to our own housing stock alongside increased renewable energy production on our own corporate assets.

Further improvement programmes will be delivered through our HRA capital programme over the coming 2 years including other forms of heating such as air and ground source heat pumps.

5 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.

Retrofitworks model will be funded by homeowners, however some initial funding has been secured from BEIS to develop the model and build a local network of stakeholders and a supply chain.

For HRA capital projects this will be costed and reported in line with the Council's usual budget reporting cycle.

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

We work with a range of local partners on fuel poverty projects including a partnership of local charities such as Brighton & Hove Citizens Advice Bureau who

<p>have played a key role as a co-ordinating body and single point of contact for projects over the last few winters.</p> <p>We work closely with two local Energy Cooperatives on various projects; Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative and Brighton Energy Coop. Corporately BHCC works with a wide range of public, private and third sector stakeholders on energy projects as part of the Greater Brighton Economic Board.</p>	
7	<p>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.)?</p> <p>Warmth for wellbeing and the SHINE projects have had wide ranging benefits in reducing residents fuel bills and saving energy. It has been difficult to quantify some of these benefits but anecdotal evidence, case studies and direct feedback from beneficiaries is positive. Through previous Warmth for Wellbeing projects it is estimated that the recipients of financial, benefits and debt advice alongside the specific energy saving were on average financially better off by over £2,500 per year.</p> <p>Significant CO2 savings have been achieved through the heating upgrade programme in council housing approximately 300 tCO2 are saved per year through boiler upgrade programme. We are on course to have upgraded all the boilers in our housing stock to A rated boiler within the next 2-3 years.</p>
8	<p>What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?</p> <p><i>Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p>
<p>Local Communications Strategy</p>	
9	<p>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Y</p>
10	<p>If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</p> <p>Advice and signposting to further support is provided to residents through dedicated web pages on the Council website See previous information on SHINE & Warmth for Wellbeing projects both of which offer energy saving advice to residents</p>
11	<p>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')</p> <p>Alongside the projects described above We provide basic information and links to further advice through relevant pages on our own web site</p>
<p>Local Green Supply Chains</p>	
12	<p>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')</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(N)</p>
13	<p>If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.</p> <p><i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p>
14	<p>What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency</p>

	products or carbon reduction?	
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	Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018? (if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')	Y
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	
<p>Enforcement activity, where identified as required, will be taken forward on a case by case basis by those teams already dealing with PRS properties, landlords and agents; primarily Private Sector Housing and Trading Standards.</p> <p>A general enforcement policy for Private Sector Housing is currently being developed this will include enforcement of MEES.</p>		
17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i> Private Sector Housing Team (Interim Manager) – Tracey Lewis Tracey.lewis@brighton-hove.gov.uk</p>		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<p>Information is regularly shared with landlords and letting agents registered with our licensing schemes, in the form of newsletters, information on our websites and via direct contact with officers.</p>		
19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? If yes, how? If no, please explain.	N
<p><i>Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p>		
Financial Support for Energy Efficiency		
20	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. (If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')	
<p>The Council provides financial support to eligible householders through our Disabled Facilities Grant Housing Policy 'Warm Safe Homes Grant'</p>		
Fuel Poverty		
21	Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy? If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support	Y

	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.	
<p>Fuel Poverty & Affordable Warmth Strategy</p> <p>Support for low income and fuel poor households is provided through a small Public Health funded annual Warmth for Wellbeing Programme delivered through local 3rd sector partner.</p> <p>We also currently operate an EU funded SHINE project for Council tenants and leaseholders</p>		
22	What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p>Projects we have deployed over recent years have been based on the local knowledge of partners in the 3rd sector, health and social care sectors. This approach has led to good targeting of the most vulnerable residents through established networks.</p>		
23	How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
N/A		
24	a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<p>The schemes described previously offer advice on energy saving measures and support available for improvements in the home alongside energy switching advice and uptake of appropriate support such as the winter fuel payment and warm homes discount.</p>		
	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)	
<p>We are an Affiliate member of Your Energy Sussex who launched an Energy Tariff Scheme in 2018, this is provided by Robin Hood Energy under a 'white label' agreement led by West Sussex County Council. This is promoted alongside other energy suppliers and schemes to encourage residents to get the best deal they can on their energy.</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	Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.	N
Residents potentially eligible under ECO flex would be directed to the Councils Warm Safe Homes Grant, however a SOI is currently being worked on after recent changes in guidance.		
26	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>Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>		
Smart Metering		
27	Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to: 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.	
Information on smart meters is provided on our website. Local and national partners (members of the Brighton & Hove Fuel Poverty & Affordable Warmth Steering Group) have carried out engagement work in the area through the Smart Energy GB Partnership Programme.		
28	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, drawing upon materials from the Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project or other sources of independent information.	
No current planned approach		
29	Please detail any: 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).	
N/A		
30	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).	
Through the Your Energy Sussex partnership working with Robin hood Energy's void switching scheme starting in May 2019 void properties, new build, or newly acquired properties will switch to the YES tariff and a smart meter will be installed		

where possible.

Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives

31	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').
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We are moving forward with a number of projects in this area, they are at various stages and some are dependent on successful funding bids;
Solarise – Interreg funding secured – to pilot models that address the further uptake of Solar technologies in social housing blocks with shared roofs.
ERDF bid – funding bid outcome expected summer 2019 – to build upon measures and information learnt from SHINE programme, a minimum of 60 social housing properties will be retrofitted with energy saving measures such as lighting upgrades, insulation, heating system improvements, renewable technologies and/or battery storage for homes with solar panels.
Heat Network – further studies following on from previous successful HDNU funding to explore heat network opportunities at identified sites in the city.