

HECA Reporting 2019-21

LA Hart District Council

Type of LA District Council

Louise Lyons

Tel: 01252 774278

Email: louise.lyons@hart.gov.uk

Senior Environmental Health & Housing Officer

Names of teams working on policy

Private Sector Housing Team - Community Services - domestic energy efficiency

Environment & Technical Services - non-domestic energy efficiency in Council owned buildings

Number of staff

Private Sector Housing Team

Senior Environmental Health & Housing Officer - 0.6 FTE

Environmental Health & Housing Officer - 0.6 FTE

Environmental Health & Housing Officer - 1 FTE

DFG Caseworker - 0.6 FTE

DFG Caseworker – 0.4 FTE

We do not have a dedicated HECA Officer. Alongside domestic energy efficiency work, the team are responsible for all areas of Private Sector Housing including housing standards in private rented sector; HMO licensing; DFGs, grants & loans; caravan site licensing, unauthorised traveller encampments.

Headline and Overview Questions

Q1 Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties? (Y/N)

N

Q2

If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:

N/A

Q3 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')

Hart District Council provides financial assistance for home improvements in domestic properties, including energy efficiency. This is provided via Minor Works Grants up to £5K and low-cost loans for larger scale works. Under our new Private Sector Renewal Policy approved in January 2019 we now offer Prevention Grants using Better Care Fund funding. These grants can be used for such things as heating improvements and insulation where we have a referral from a health professional identifying the need for works.

There is a county wide affordable warmth service Hitting the Cold Spots (HTCS), funded by Hampshire County Council and delivered by the Environment Centre (tEC), which is available to residents in Hart District Council. The Hitting the Cold Spots service provides information and advice about saving energy to residents of any tenure, and additional practical support and funding for energy efficiency measures to eligible owner occupiers and private tenants.

The Council refers residents to 'Hitting the Cold Spots' who provide alternative heating measures; grant support for winter fuel emergencies; practical support and advice with debt, money and benefits; assistance to switch energy provider or tariff to help give them savings on their fuel bill and assessment for funding for a gas mains to be laid to their property and a central heating system to be installed.

Through Hitting the Cold Spots, residents can access ECO funding for insulation, boiler replacements and heating upgrades.

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.

No new schemes planned, continuing as in a) above.

Q4 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? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.

Hitting the Cold Spots value of grants, by local authority, 2017-2019:

Local authority	Hitting the Cold Spots grant contributions, from Hampshire County Council	Other grant contributions incl. ECO, local authority, energy trusts, other charity
Hart	£8,605	£1,000

Hitting the Cold Spots estimated cost of running and administrating the service, by local authority, 2017-2019:

Local authority	Service cost
Hart	£7,591

Cost and value of grants and loans for energy efficiency works in in from Hart's Private Sector Housing scheme:

2017/18

Minor Works Grants £2K

Loans - £23K

2018/19

Minor Works Grants £4K

Loans - £2K

Q5 What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?

The Council's DFG Caseworkers approach charities for funding where works go in excess of the grant maximum.

The Hitting the Cold Spots service is delivered by the Environment Centre charity. Energy efficiency measures are installed by local Buy with Confidence contractors and PAS2030 accredited installers. Households are referred or signposted to a wide range of other organisations to deliver further support, for example Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service for safe and well visits, Blue Lamp Trust for home security and local Citizens Advice branches for income maximisation. Local authorities are members of the Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership (HEEP) to facilitate inter-council cooperation, knowledge sharing and joined-up action.

Q6 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.)?

Unfortunately, there is not the resource locally to extensively monitor and evaluate all of these outcomes for the Hitting the Cold Spots schemes or services.

Outcomes available:

- Households advised and supported through Hitting the Cold Spots to save energy, money and reduce their risk of fuel poverty (see table below)
- ECO measures by ECO obligation by administrative area (see table below). Data from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics> (Most recent figures from April 2019 are for December 2018)
- Local businesses supported through working with local Buy with Confidence contractors

- Households benefiting from energy efficiency improvements in local authority council or social housing: [to be completed by local authority]
- Households benefiting from other local authority schemes e.g. grants, loans, DFG, switching:

Households provided with energy saving advice through Hitting the Cold Spots, by local authority, 2017-2019

Local authority	2017-18	2018-19	Total per local authority
Hart	13	15	28

Households supported with energy efficiency measures through Hitting the Cold Spots, by local authority, 2017-2019

Local authority	2017-18	2018-19	Total per local authority
Hart	2	3	5

ECO measures by ECO obligation, by local authority, December 2016 – December 2018

Local authority	Obligation			ECO measures installed
	Carbon Saving Target (CERO)	Carbon Savings Community (CSCO)	Affordable Warmth (HHCRO)	
Hart	188	0	18	206

Q7 What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?

The Council have found it very useful linking with Hitting the Cold Spots scheme as we have been able to assist our residents by jointly funding energy efficiency works such as replacement boilers and heating repairs.

Local Communications Strategy

Q8 Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?

Yes, through Hitting the Cold Spots.

Q9 If yes to question 8, please briefly outline how this is undertaken

Our DFG Caseworkers and Private Sector Housing officers signpost residents with energy efficiency queries to HTCS for advice.

The county-wide Hitting the Cold Spots service provides advice to residents in Hart District Council. This includes information about : energy efficiency grants, heating systems and controls, insulation, draught-proofing, energy bills, smart meters and switching tariffs. Our DFG Caseworkers and Private Sector Housing officers also signpost residents with energy efficiency queries to HTCS for advice.

Q10 How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses?

We promote Hitting the Cold Spots to residents and communicate and encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and local businesses. There is information available on the Council website and our Caseworkers offer advice at any events and networking opportunities they attend.

Q11 Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)?

N

Q12 If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.

N/A

Q13 What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?

N/A

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

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).

The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.

Q14 Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?

Y

Q15 Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?

Private Sector Housing
Louise Lyons
Tel: 01252 774278
Email: louise.lyons@hart.gov.uk

Q16 What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?

Our Engagement & Support team have a good relationship with landlords and tenants and communicate via newsletters, Landlord Forums and mailouts. We wrote to all the landlords known to us to make them aware of the requirements of MEES and we also wrote to all known estate agents and letting agents in the District. We also posted on social media (Facebook & Twitter) to raise awareness amongst landlords.

The Environment Centre (tEC) through the Hitting the Cold Spots service provides information to local landlords and tenants about Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.

Q17 Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? (Y/N) If yes, how? If no, please explain.

Where we identify properties which have an EPC of F & G and are not subject to the relevant exemptions, we will provide advice to the landlord on what they need to do to comply with the requirements of MEES or take enforcement action where necessary.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

Q18 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.

Hart District Council provides financial assistance for home improvements in domestic properties, including energy efficiency. This is provided via Minor Works Grants up to £5K and low-cost loans for larger scale works. Under our new Private Sector Renewal Policy which was approved in January 2019 we offer Prevention Grants using Better Care Fund funding. These grants can be used for such things as heating improvements and insulation where we have a referral from a health professional identifying the need for works.

The Hitting the Cold Spots service provides financial support to promote domestic energy efficiency and energy saving across Hampshire. Hampshire County Council

provide £120,000/year for the service, totalling £240,000 for 2017-2019. Through the service domestic consumers are helped to access grants for energy efficiency measures, such as boiler repairs or replacements and insulation. Funding is sourced from Hampshire County Council, district authorities, national schemes such as ECO, energy trusts and individual funding options based on a client's circumstance e.g. work history, disability or armed forces connection. Grant funding is subject to eligibility criteria, including broken or no heating, tenure type, means-tested benefits or low income and little savings, plus vulnerability to the cold due to age, health or disability and/or young children.

Q19 Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy? (Y/N) 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.

N

Q20 What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty?

Our DFG Caseworkers make referrals to HTCS when they find clients who they suspect may be in fuel poverty.

Hitting the Cold Spots identifies residents and properties in fuel poverty through training frontline workers, outreach to target groups or areas, and mapping. Their mapping work utilises publicly available data on energy efficiency, financial circumstances and health conditions.

Q21 What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty?

Hitting the Cold Spots promotes fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, through energy advice, support with switching tariff or supplier, guidance on fuel debt and help with applying for Warm Home Discount.

The Energy Company Obligation

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 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.

Q22 Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?

N - Due to staffing levels we have not been in a position to produce an Statement of Intent to date. However this is something we will consider in future subject to staff/resources being available.

Q23

Through Hitting the Cold Spots, the Environment Centre (tEC) engages and supports residents, including those in vulnerable circumstances, to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits. tEC is a member of Smart Energy GB Partnership Programme and has previously received Smart Energy GB in Communities funding to reach out to low income households.

Smart Metering

Q24 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.

We will raise awareness regarding the roll out of smart meters and the benefits to our residents of being in control of their energy use and how this can help reduce energy bills. We will provide information on our website and utilise resources from Smart Energy GB to distribute at events.

Through Hitting the Cold Spots, the Environment Centre (tEC) engages and supports residents, including those in vulnerable circumstances, to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits. tEC is a member of Smart Energy GB Partnership Programme and has previously received Smart Energy GB in Communities funding to reach out to low-income households.

Q25 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.

Hart District Council can provide financial assistance in the form of Minor Works Grants up to £5K and low-cost loans. Under our new Private Sector Renewal Policy which was approved in January 2019 we now offer Prevention Grants using Better Care Fund funding. These grants can be used for such things as heating improvements.

Hitting the Cold Spots funding may be available to replace condemned gas heating appliances, for eligible owner occupiers.

Q26 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).

N/A – don't own our own stock

Q27 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.

CitizEn Energy

We were approached by Reading Borough Council in 2017, inviting us to be part of a group of Local Authorities (LA) who would be endorsees to a White Label energy company set up by Southampton City Council (SCC). The group includes LA from Surrey, Berkshire and Hampshire. The main aim of the scheme is to offer residents competitively prices gas and electricity tariffs and the Council would also benefit from a small financial return. To date we have only signed an expression of interest, the group are still in negotiations with SCC around the Endorsee Agreement and taking the scheme forward.

Partnership working

We attend the Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership (HEEP) meetings and would take the opportunity to join any Hampshire wide schemes should they emerge.

We also attend Association of Local Energy Officers SE meetings to keep abreast of national energy efficiency issues and those in the Southeast in particular where further opportunities may arise for joint working on energy efficiency schemes.