

Bedford Borough Council
Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)
Updated Further Report, March 2017



ACTION	DETAILS	TIMING
i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
Climate Local Commitment	<p>We have signed the Climate Local Commitment (see www.bedford.gov.uk/sustainability).</p> <p>We will continue to deliver on the local commitments and actions developed for Climate Local.</p>	<p>26 Oct 12</p> <p>Apr-15</p>
Bedford Borough Carbon Emissions	<p>Bedford Borough's current emission estimate is 5.4 tonnes of CO₂ per capita – 2014 (2 tonnes of CO₂ is from domestic emissions) (data from DECC – ‘Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities for 2005-2014’: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2014).</p> <p>We will aim to reduce carbon emissions in the housing sector across Bedford Borough.</p>	<p>Mar-20</p>
Fuel Poverty in Bedford Borough	<p>It is estimated that 9.2% of Bedford Borough's households are fuel poor (data from DECC – ‘Fuel Poverty 2014: Sub Regional Data’: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2014-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-low-income-high-costs-indicator).</p> <p>Warm Homes Project: In 2016, Age UK Bedfordshire secured funding from British Gas for a project to lift people from fuel poverty across Bedfordshire. The project aims to directly support 1,000 people by end of March 2017. Age UK have identified 2,165 older people who are likely to benefit from the programme; to receive an energy efficiency/affordable warmth home-survey and behaviour change guidance; plus, assessment (re: other health and wellbeing related interventions). 847 assessments have been carried out to-date 26.01.2017 (commencing client's 12-week journey of support to achieving affordable warmth). Project clients have been supported with: fuel debt (payment plans); to read meters (including meter-exchange); to use heating systems and controls; to switch energy suppliers (reducing bills by £9,777.47); to receive Warm Homes' Discounts and other entitlements (including minor aids, equipment, adaptations); 2,635 items of energy efficiency equipment have been supplied/installed free of charge by Age UK Handypersons; home repairs have been organised; and, social isolation reduced (outings, befriending, gardening services and onwards referrals: Sight Concern, Ready Meals; Occupational therapists, etc.).321 older people in Bedford Borough were visited by Age UK, and 229 have been provided with energy saving equipment. 47 clients have been assisted with claiming benefits, resulting in £176,161.65 claimed and £5,110.64 was saved in clients' energy bills when they were assisted with switching.</p> <p>The council is working with third parties in order to support the Government's statutory target to 'ensure that as many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of a Band C by 2030', and the interim milestones of Band E by 2020, and Band D by 2025.</p>	<p>March-17</p>

Private Sector House Condition Survey 2015-16	The survey provides information about housing conditions in the wards of the Borough, including the levels of energy efficiency and fuel poverty and will be used to support targetting initiatives on the stock that is identified as most in need.	2015-16
Housing Strategy 2016-20	The Housing Strategy Review builds on the Housing Strategy 2012-17 and extends it up to 2020. A key theme of the Strategy is 'Making Best Use of the Existing Housing Stock'. This involves actions to improve the fabric of the existing housing stock, in particular to improve energy efficiency, reducing the carbon footprint of the existing stock, increasing adaptability to climate change and reducing fuel poverty.	2016-2020
Bedford Borough's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board named 'working in partnership to address fuel poverty' one of its primary objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-16. An update to this strategy is being developed for summer 2017.	2014/16
ii) MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF OUR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMODATION:		
Green Deal & Energy Companies Obligation (ECO)	Bedford Borough Green Deal & ECO Statistics up to 30 th June 2015: 1,088 Green Deal Assessments, 39 Cashback vouchers issued, 22 GD Home Improvement Fund vouchers issued. ECO: 1,137 measures were installed under the Carbon Saving Target (CSO), 506 measures under Carbon Savings Community (CSCO) and 722 under the Affordable Warmth (HHCRO) target (total of 2,365 measures). www.gov.uk/government/statistics/green-deal-energy-company-obligation-eco-and-insulation-levels-in-great-britain-detailed-report-to-june-2015	
	The government has stopped funding the Green Deal Finance Company, which was set up to lend money to Green Deal providers, however it may still be available directly from providers financing the scheme themselves.	Ongoing
	We will working on links with Public Health to consider ways in which the Council can contribute to targeting energy efficiency measures towards residents whose health and care needs will be relieved by the measures. We will review currently available referral systems to ensure that effective referrals are made, particularly in relation to vulnerable clients to ensure that their multiple needs are identified.	Ongoing
Feed in Tariffs scheme	The cumulative number of domestic solar photovoltaic installations in Bedford Borough was 1,644, as of September 2016 (installed capacity of 6,101 kW) (<i>data from DECC – 'Sub-regional Feed-in Tariffs confirmed on the CFR statistics': www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/sub-regional-feed-in-tariffs-confirmed-on-the-cfr-statistics</i>)	
	We will continue to promote awareness of the carbon reduction and financial benefits of installing renewable energy generating technology, such as solar photovoltaic (PV) to householders of the Borough, to increase the number of installations.	Ongoing

Renewable Heat Incentive	We will promote awareness of the carbon reduction and financial benefits of installing renewable energy generating technology, such as biomass boilers, to householders of the Borough, to increase the number of installations.	Ongoing
EPCs	From April 2018, private domestic and non-domestic landlords will need to ensure that their properties reach at least an E EPC rating, or have installed those improvements through subsidies available to pay for them, before granting a tenancy to new or existing tenants. These requirements will apply to all private rented properties – including occupied properties – from April 2020 in the domestic sector, and from April 2023 in the non-domestic sector.	Ongoing
Minimum standards in the private rental sector	We are working with our local private sector landlords through a proactive programme to support them to improve the energy efficiency standards of their properties.	Ongoing
Smart meters	We will continue to promote the benefits of smart meters to residents of the Borough and encourage them to have them installed in their homes.	2014-2019
iii) MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION BY USING AREA BASED/ STREET BY STREET ROLL OUT:		
Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Carbon Saving Communities	We will continue to work with local partners to identify and facilitate the delivery of area-based energy efficiency measures schemes in the Borough.	Ongoing
iv) TIME FRAME FOR DELIVERY AND NATIONAL LOCAL PARTNERS		
Local Authorities and Housing Associations	We will work with local partners including Housing Associations and neighbouring Local Authorities to identify future potential projects to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the Borough.	Ongoing
Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Board	The Bedford Borough Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2014-16), informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, has prioritised working in partnership to reduce fuel poverty. We will continue to develop shared objectives that will exploit joint problem solving and decision making to tackle this issue in Bedford Borough. This will be updated in 2017	Ongoing

Signed	
Name	Stewart Briggs
Position	Executive Director Environment and Sustainable Communities

