

HECA REPORTING 2021 – RUSHCLIFFE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all local authorities ('LA's) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

HECA 2021 Reporting Requirements

The Report is to be divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes using pre-set question from Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

HECA Report 2021 Questions

- Name of Local Authority – *Rushcliffe Borough Council*
- Type of Local Authority - *Borough Council*
- Name, job title and email address of official submitting report - *Paul Phillips, Environmental Sustainability Officer, environmentalissues@rushcliffe.gov.uk*

Headline and Overview

- Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties? **Yes**
- If yes, please provide a link - <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/energy/carbonneutral2030-councilstrategy/>
- If no, are you planning to develop one – *N/A*
- What scheme(s) is your Local Authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation properties in the next two years?
 - Scheme 1 - Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme (from July 2021)*
 - Scheme 2 - Warm Homes on Prescription (continuation)*
 - Scheme 3 - Provision of ECOflex declarations (continuation)*
 - Scheme 4 – Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Warm Homes Hub (Continuation)*
 - Scheme 5 – Sustainable Warmth delivery (LAD 3 and HUG 1) Jan 22 to be confirmed subject to funding and resource availability*

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.

Scheme 1 - £57,150.00 (LAD 2 funding allocation element) plus the £57,150 for admin and project management costs

Scheme 2 - Estimated p.a. - RBC staff costs (including NI, Superannuation and on-costs: £6,925 – or 30 days FTE staff time; RBC grants/contributions: £ 20,000 External grants/contributions: £5000

Scheme 3 - Estimated RBC staff costs (including NI, Superannuation and on-costs: £1940 – or 10 days FTE staff time; Funding through ECO obtained by installers, funding total unknown

Scheme 4 - Estimated RBC staff costs (including NI, Superannuation and on-costs: £3880 – or 20 days FTE staff time; Funding through Warm Homes Fund / ECO obtained by E.ON, funding total in Rushcliffe unknown

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

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP), Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottinghamshire Public Health, Age UK Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP), Vinshire Plumbing and Heating Ltd, NHS Rushcliffe CCG, E.ON, plus many ECO installers

What has been, or will be, the outcome of the scheme(s)? These outcomes could include energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness or societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.

- Reduced health issues / hospital admissions impacted by cold housing

- Alleviation of fuel poverty

- Improved Energy efficiency

- Carbon Saving

- Economic support for energy efficiency sector

Communications

• Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy?

• If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken.

Residents who contact the council for energy efficiency advice are generally referred to the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Warm Homes Hub.

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

Domestic consumers

The Rushcliffe Borough Council website provides basic advice at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/energy/energyefficiencygrantsandrenewables/> and

the schemes mentioned above all provide energy efficiency advice as part of their delivery. Advice is also published in our magazine sent to residents three times per year and on our social media.

The council is a member of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) which commissions the delivery of an ongoing publicity campaign to raise awareness and encourage action on domestic energy efficiency. Charity MEA are currently delivering the service which includes an informative website <http://www.everybodys-talking.org> providing tips on energy efficiency and affordable warmth. Tailored support is also given by MEA to community groups which are active in promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon reduction at a local level.

Local businesses

The Rushcliffe Borough Council website provides basic advice at <https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/energy/reducingyourcarbonfootprintbusiness/>.

The Energy for Business programme, based at Nottingham University, supports small and medium sized enterprises (SME) located in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to become energy innovators or more energy efficient. Delivered by the Energy Innovation and Collaboration team and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, this low-carbon innovation project offers product research and development, business support and capital funding. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/research-areas/energy-technologies/business-support/index.aspx>

Big Business Carbon Club - Meeting quarterly, these are meetings facilitated by RBC. The aim of the group is for RBC big businesses to act as champions of low carbon in Rushcliffe to share ideas and to support other businesses in the Borough, particularly SMEs.

Sustainability Consultants (SME's) - As part of the Sustainability in Enterprise (SiE) ERDF programme, NTU (Nottingham Trent University) were awarded funding. Some of this funding has been used to employ two Sustainability Consultants whose remit is to work with Greater Nottingham SME's, which includes a number of Wards in Rushcliffe. This is to not only help them to reduce their carbon emissions but to encourage greater overall sustainability. The funding covers a two-year period and delivery of the project begins in July 2021.

Local Green Supply Chain

- Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? If Yes, please summarise the outcomes. – No, however with regards LAD 2 there is real concern that there are not the contractors in place to support all the retrofit requirements Midlands districts. There is also a large level of concern around EWI installation, as the contractors specialising in this, are booked up well in advance. EWI installation should only take place between April and September.

- What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities. - *We are working with EON; in terms of delivery they are using local contractors where possible.*
- What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit? *Website and advise through schemes mentioned above*
- If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered. – *N/A*
- How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers? - *Limited, usually by firms proactively contacting the council. With regards to LAD 2 delivery E.ON have the expertise and use suppliers that are certified.*
- Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts? - *Potentially – we are exploring the possibility of applying for Sustainable Warmth funding. Future plans are however dependent on whether funding extends beyond the Sustainable Warmth programme due to finish in March 2023 RBC have started to capture actions around retrofit for residents within its Carbon Management Plan and its Housing Delivery Strategy*

Social Housing

- What action, if any, has your LA taken to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures in social housing? Have these been installed to a satisfactory quality? What actions (if any) have your social housing partners taken? - *We are exploring working with social housing partners to apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) from Autumn 2021. Discussions with Metropolitan Homes have been initiated.*
- Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings) – *We have limited data based on EPC data.*
- If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information? - *N/A*
- Have you experienced any challenges to retrofit, including during any previous government schemes you have taken part in (e.g. supply chain, funding, tenant cooperation, mixed tenure, split incentive, policy clarity, etc)? Please provide some detail. Have social housing partners reported any challenges to retrofit? - *N/A*
- How does your LA currently/how will your LA in future plan to go about identifying suitable housing stock and measures for retrofit? How do social housing partners identify suitable stock? By the same measures or via a different method? - *Not Known*
- What considerations would make you more or less likely to apply for government funding? If known, what is the opinion of your social housing partners? - *Reasonable delivery targets and especially timelines. Social Housing partners opinion unknown*

- To what extent are social housing tenants willing or unwilling to undergo retrofit, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their participation? If known, is this the same opinion across all social housing tenants or is it different with HA and ALMO tenants? - *Not Known*
- Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate? - *Not Known*

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations requiring private rentals in England and Wales to meet a minimum energy performance rating of EPC Band E as of April 2020, unless a valid exemption applies? - *Yes*
- Which team within your authority is responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard? Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team. – *Environmental Health, Gary Pickering, GPickering@rushcliffe.gov.uk*
- What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues? - *We have not carried out any form of marketing / media campaign on this subject as of yet, however EPC rating information has been captured within the HMO licencing conditions.*
- What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)? - *It is an area we have not fully explored as of yet / it is something we are looking at doing later this year. A barrier exists due to resource issue regarding compliance monitoring.*
- Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? If yes, how? If no, please explain. - *No see above*

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing).

- What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable please outline the budget (and % of the budget that is used), where such funding is sourced and where it is targeted. – *Only as per the schemes outlined above. For scheme 2, funding is sourced from Nottinghamshire Public Health, all spending was for owner / occupier tenure. In 2019/20 £40,000 was available and 38% was spent. In 2020/21 £25,000 was available and 80% was spent.*

For schemes 3 and 4 no specific council budgets were available, all funding was sourced by external partners.

- What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for? - *Continuation of schemes as outlined above*

Fuel Poverty

- Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy? – *Fuel Poverty is included in our Housing Delivery Strategy (2016-21) which includes a priority for reducing fuel poverty by; improving the energy efficiency of homes and by directing residents to appropriate information and advice on ways to reduce their fuel bills*
- What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty? – *Currently use EPC data and the governments fuel poverty sub regional statistics.*
- How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy? *This will be linked once the new Housing Delivery Strategy has been refreshed.*
- Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area. *We are / have identified specific housing clusters of non-traditional housing and off gas properties in development of our work for the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes Fund; LAD 2 application and will be identifying additional areas across the borough in order for RBC to possibly develop its Sustainable Warmth application*
- What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have. *Information on our energy webpages recommends that householders look whether their energy tariffs provide best value. Specific advice is also available for residents on pre-payment meters (this method of payment is the least cost effective for the resident). Our referral partner Nottingham Energy Partnership promotes cost reduction and can provide advice.*

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery

Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades.

£200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.

- Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD? – Yes, LAD 2

If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project.

LAD 2 - Initially the project will focus on a specific area in the borough located in the village of East Leake. Gotham Road estate built Circa.1948 consists of properties constructed using non-standard methods and a large portion of the properties were finished with a tin cladding, enveloping the first-floor walls externally. The impact of energy efficiency upgrades would be

hugely positive to the residents living in these types of properties, both in terms of alleviating fuel poverty/the risk of fuel poverty, and ultimately improving the health and wellbeing as many will undoubtedly suffer from extreme cold, damp and condensation issues. As this area has a high concentration of D, E, F and G properties indications are that an estimated combined household income of less than £30,000 is highly likely (i.e. high fuel poverty or a low score on the index of multiple deprivation).

The estate consists of approximately 290 properties of mixed tenure of which half are either owner occupied (145) or private rented (24). Of those properties; 90 are without an EPC rating, 30 EPC rating D, 11 EPC rating E, 3 EPC rating F and 1 EPC rating G. As the properties are non-traditional BISF build the measures chosen for the project are threefold:

- *External Wall Insulation (EWI)*
- *Photo Voltatic's (P.V)*
- *Loft insulation*

If no, please indicate what barriers prevented you from participation in the scheme. – *N/A*

- *Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022? – Consideration for the Sustainable Warmth funding programme (LAD 3 and HUG 1) is currently being explored.*

If yes, please indicate the anticipated number of homes that could be upgraded per year. - *Approximately 115 measures potentially more. Multiple measures may be installed into one property.*

If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area. - *N/A*

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

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 ECO “Local Authority flexible eligibility” (LA 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 in the LA Flex programme 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.

- *Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility? (Y/N)*
- *Yes.*

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail:

- *How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households? - 82*

- How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households? - 26
- How many declarations were issued for in-fill? - 0
- What is the highest income cap published in your Sol? - £26,800
- If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason have you given? - N/A
- Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much? - No

Smart Metering

- Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits. - *We have no current plans to promote smart metering.*
- Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:
 - a. Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation - N/A
 - b. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises - N/A
 - c. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake - N/A
 - d. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes - N/A
 - e. Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons - N/A
 - f. Other supporting activities - N/A

Future Schemes and Wider Incentives

- Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation. - *None*