

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 – Gravesham Borough Council – Progress Report 2017.

ACTION	DELIVERY	TIME-FRAME FOR DELIVERY
i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
	<p>Gravesham Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2015 - 2019 Gravesham Borough Council's Corporate Plan sets out the Our vision for a safer, stronger, sustainable Gravesham. Individually, three community focussed objectives each with their own portfolio of activities and initiatives, but together these are objectives that work with each other for the benefit of our local community. Given the challenge of ever reducing government funding, in order to be successful in realising our vision, each of our core community objectives will be underpinned and delivered by our ambitious final objective; the creation of a sound and self-sufficient council. The Plan sets out 4 priorities, underpinning all of the activities to improve health and wellbeing, and quality of life for Gravesham residents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Gravesham 2. Stronger Gravesham 3. Sustainable Gravesham 4. Sound & self-sufficient council <p>Priority 2 – Stronger Gravesham, we aim to improve the standard and efficiency of our housing stock. The council is determined to tackle social inequalities through a range of initiatives addressing for example, fuel poverty.</p> <p>Priority 3 – Sustainable Gravesham, we aim to reduce the impact the council has on the climate and work to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Corporately, to underpin our work in the 'green agenda', across all services the council has committed to 'Climate Local Kent', a county-wide pledge to work towards the Kent Environment Strategy, reducing carbon emissions and building resilience to climate change and severe weather.</p> <p>The Plan outlines the partner agencies and networks across the private, public and voluntary sector that will help us achieve our aims and objectives.</p> <p>Climate Local Kent Gravesham Borough Council have committed to Climate Local Kent, a county-wide pledge to reduce emissions and build resilience to a changing climate and severe weather. Climate Local Kent (One Year On) and Climate Local Kent 2014 report on progress across the County.</p>	Ongoing

	<p>The targets represent those of the newly updated Kent Environment Strategy (KES), delivery of which is a priority for the Vision for Kent (our community strategy). The Kent Environment Strategy Implementation Plan 2017 by Kent Partners (of which Gravesham Borough Council is one) sets out priorities for Kent under the Kent Environment Strategy.</p> <p>The overview of the priorities set out in the Kent Environment Strategy (KES) will be used and the relevant indicators provide an evidence base of what those priorities tell us about the state of our environment in terms of natural environment, resources, economy and health. It will form a baseline for identifying emerging priorities with regard to any gaps in the last five years of activity toward the KES, and from any relevant socio-economic or environmental trends or challenges that have arisen locally or regionally over that period.</p> <p>The challenges, learning and opportunities together underpin the priorities that have been identified in the following themes of the strategy:</p> <p>Theme One: Building the Foundations for Delivery. Theme Two: Making best use of existing resources, avoiding or minimising negative impacts. Theme Three: Towards a sustainable future.</p> <p>Under Theme 2, MR6.2: Improve the resource efficiency of our homes, reducing costs, tackling fuel poverty and improving health outcomes: The Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent and Medway has recently been completed by the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (Gravesham had taken lead on). The action plan that sits under this strategy will be the delivery mechanism to reduce fuel poverty in Kent via reporting through this HECA Report for both Gravesham at local level and across Kent districts.</p> <p>There is also an action to deliver a co-ordinated retrofit programme through Warm Homes Scheme which is to also reduce fuel poverty and carbon reduction.</p>	
ii) GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CARBON EMISSION		
	<p>We are committed to help government meet its carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. The current Kent performance on emissions (industry, domestic and transport) towards the overall 2020 target (60% by 2030) to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 34%, based on a 2005 baseline, shows we are two thirds of the way to meeting the 2020 target. Total reduction for Kent in CO² from 2005 – 2014 is 4,118 kt (31% total reduction).</p>	Ongoing

The total reduction for Gravesham from baseline year is 58% (2015/2016).

Data from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Local and Regional CO²Emissions Estimates for 2005-2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data – t CO ² per person	
Kent 2014	Gravesham 2014
6.0	4.8

Link to local GHG reports on websites: [Greenhouse Gas Emission Report](#)

Figures for Kent/Gravesham have seen a continual reduction from 2005 to 2014. Link to local GHG reports on website: [GBC Greenhouse Gas reports](#)

iii) FUEL POVERTY / PUBLIC HEALTH

Fuel poverty in England is defined using the **Low Income High Cost (LIHC)**, which considers a household to be fuel poor if they have:

- an income below the poverty line (including if meeting its required energy bill would push it below the poverty line); and,
- higher than typical energy costs.

Household characteristics: Fuel poverty varies across household characteristics due to differences in income, different energy requirements, or a combination of both.

Projections Fuel poverty levels are projected to decrease in 2015 and then increase slightly in 2016. The average fuel poverty gap is projected to decrease in 2015 and remain at this level in 2016.

Ongoing

Local stats:

Gravesham	2014 LIHC
Estimated number of households in the borough	41,789
Estimated number of households in fuel poverty	3,814
% Fuel poor	9.1%

As at 2014, Gravesham is above the Kent average of 8.9 and South East average of 8.3%.

Data from BEIS Fuel Poverty Statistics 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/2014-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-low-income-high-costs-indicator>

Data under LIHC indicator

LIHC method of calculation				2014 data		
LA Code	LA Name	English region	2012 FP	All Households	Fuel Poor Households	2014 FP
29UG	Gravesham	South East	8.92%	41,789	3,814	9.1%
	Kent		8.46%	625,644	55,657	8.9%
	Kent+Medway		8.48%			
	South East		7.79%	3,674,407	305,289	8.3%

Data from BEIS Fuel Poverty Statistics 2014

In 2014 Government introduced the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations. These regulations gave effect to the fuel poverty target to ensure that as many fuel poor households as is reasonably practicable have a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030.

Following this, in 2015 the Government published 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm: a fuel poverty strategy for England'. This was to ensure that the Government stay on track and introduced two milestones:

- Band E by 2020, and;
- Band D by 2025

The Council will aim to provide access to affordable warmth through local initiatives which will contribute to reducing levels of fuel poverty in the district. Having regards to government targets to reduce fuel poverty in accordance with the latest Fuel Poverty Strategy, [Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm](#), Gravesham had implemented a local level Fuel Poverty Strategy that supported this HECA action plan to reduce fuel poverty in the borough, but the recent completion of the [Delivering Affordable Warmth, A Fuel Poverty Strategy for Kent](#) by the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership will now form the basis for action under this HECA Report.

The Strategy links to national outcomes and priorities with key local ambition set out in the revised Kent Environment Strategy and Climate Local Kent. It identifies and will work to achieve national and local targets. The Strategy and Action Plan aim to build on and increase partnership working across Kent, to broaden the evidence base and increase current levels of understanding of fuel poverty in Kent and to prioritise interventions, monitor and evaluate the effect of the strategy.

The Strategy demonstrates Kent is serious about its ambition to address fuel poverty which in itself will strengthen funding bids and make the county more attractive for future energy efficiency programmes/ funding.

The Strategy has identified four key priorities for Kent

- Priority 1: Information gathering and sharing
- Priority 2: Improving energy efficiency
- Priority 3: Reducing fuel costs
- Priority 4: Increase income – support vulnerable households to maximise income

To build on the continued work that Kent has achieved on fuel poverty, a multi-agency Fuel Poverty Action Plan Workshop was held and a range of local authority, housing, health professionals, community groups, voluntary organisations were invited to attend to inform and start the process of turning the action plan into a living document. A report of the workshop, outcomes and possible partners is currently being written, will be circulated in the near future and will be published on the Council's website. The outcomes from the workshop will be used to inform/ strengthen the Action Plan and partnerships to progress action on fuel poverty in the County.

The associated Action Plan outlines the activities Kent/Gravesham will deliver to start to address the priorities.

We will take advantage of any government initiatives (financial assistance and other benefits) for energy efficient measures and tackling fuel poverty.

Excess winter deaths

There were an estimated 24,300 excess winter deaths (EWDs) (provisional) in England and Wales in the 2015/16 winter period. This represents an excess winter mortality index of 15%; that is 15% more deaths occurred in winter compared to the non-winter months. The number of EWDs has almost halved since the 2014/15 period and is closer to the 5-year average (years 2011/12 to 2015/16)

The South East is one of the lowest Region in England and Wales with 14.7% EWDs (2015/16).

At the time of writing this report, data for Kent/Gravesham is currently not available. However, the council closely monitors these figures and looks at ways to ensure that provisions are in place for those vulnerable households who are most at risk.

Date from Office for National Statistics 2016

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/excesswintermortalityinenglandandwales/2015to2016provisionaland2014to2015final>

Looking at the wider agenda on poverty

The English Indices of Deprivation measures relative levels of deprivation in small areas of England called Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Most of the indicators used in these statistics are from 2012/13. The last statistical release provides an overview of the findings of the English Indices of Deprivation 2015 focusing on the national and sub-national patterns of multiple deprivations. There are seven domains for each LSOA nationally by local authority.

The LSOA ranks go from 1 for the most deprived LSOA to 32,844 for the least deprived of the 32,844 LSOAs in England.

	<p>The seven domains are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income • Employment • Health Deprivation and Disability • Education, Skills and Training • Barriers to Housing and Services • Crime • Living Environment <p>Gravesham have 64 LSOAs in the Borough.</p> <p>Data from BEIS Fuel Poverty Statistics 2014 https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-fuel-poverty-statistics-report-2016</p>	
<p>iv) MEASURES WE ARE TAKING THAT RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS OF OUR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION</p>		
<p>Current scheme/action</p>	<p>Gravesham are currently looking to promote and help government target on the following schemes/measures to reduce carbon emission and fuel poverty:</p> <p>Smart Meters</p> <p>The Smart Metering Programme aims to roll-out over 50 million smart gas and electricity meters to all domestic properties and smart or advanced meters to smaller non-domestic sites in Great Britain - impacting approximately 30 million premises. Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters and offer a range of intelligent functions. All domestic consumers will be offered an In-Home Display (IHD) as part of the smart meter roll-out, which shows how much energy is being used, and how much it is costing, in near-real-time. This information will help them control and manage their energy use, save money and reduce emissions. Smart meters will also bring an end to estimated meter readings, providing consumers with more accurate bills.</p> <p>Smart meter is compliant with the Smart Meter Equipment Technical Specification (SMETS), which has the functionality to transmit meter readings to energy suppliers and receive data remotely. Only smart meters that meet the SMETS regulations count towards supplier roll-out obligations. Energy suppliers must take all reasonable steps to replace other meter types in domestic properties with these meters by the end of 2020 in order to fulfil their licence conditions.</p>	

National statistics:

From the start of the Programme (from main installation stage April 2013) up until 30 September 2016, large energy suppliers have reported installing an estimated total of 4,044,100 smart meters across domestic properties in Great Britain – 1,690,700 of which have been gas smart meters and 2,353,400 have been electricity smart meters.

Collectively across both large and small suppliers, around 4.33 million smart meters have been installed in domestic properties to date – 4.04 million of which were installed by the large energy suppliers.

Current statistics are available on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/smart-meters-statistics>

Local statistics:

Gravesham is currently using Smart Energy GB media resource to enable promotion of smart meters in its community. We are starting to engage with Smart Energy GB and BEIS to enable better targeting and resource data for this reporting.

Awaiting statistics from the Smart Energy GB, once the Programme has re-launched for 2017 (as per email dated 01.02.2017)

Measures installed (from April 2016 to 16 March 2017):

The council is committed to ensuring that heating and insulation measures are compliant with building regulations and ensuring that appropriate technologies are installed with property requirements.

Scheme Name – HRA programme	Social
Loft Insulation	126
Cavity Wall Insulation	12
Heating	285
Windows/doors	70 properties

Scheme Name - Warm Homes measures	Loft insulation	Cavity Wall insulation	Heating	EWI	Total
Private	67	57	8		
Social				2	
Public Health Winter Warmth Fund	1		10		
TOTAL	68	57	18	2	145

v) ECO

There are new changes to the existing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) (ECO 2) scheme that ensures energy companies continue to provide support to those households who struggle with their heating bills. Plans to extend the scheme have been confirmed and the next transitional period is 2017-2018. This will be followed by Fuel Poverty Obligation from 2018-2022.

The key principles for the transition years and for longer-term scheme, are to:

- focus on households who are most in need;
- simplify and remove complexity, improving cost effectiveness;
- encourage greater involvement of local actors, especially where vulnerability is a concern; and
- reduce carbon emissions and make progress towards carbon budgets.

The new changes also include 'Flexibility eligibility'. This means that local authorities can target/identify those vulnerable households as eligible under Affordable Warmth up to a percentage of the ECO target. We are awaiting government guidance on this, which will enable us to move forward with this action. As part of Kent Partners, we are also currently exploring this area and what it means for Gravesham and Kent.

Ongoing

National Statistics - Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics (Publication as at Jan 2017)

Data up to end Sept 2016 data						
ECO type	ECO measures installed - Gravesham		ECO measures installed-Kent	Percentage of ECO measures	Medway	
CERO	1,137		14,805		3,400	
CSCO	561		6,342		1,610	
HHCRO	450		6,788		1,773	
TOTAL	2,148		27,935	1.4%	6,783	0.3%

Data from BEIS 2017:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics#headline-releases>

Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership (KMSEP)

The KMSEP is an executive level group providing overall direction to the establishment of a coordinated retrofit programme of sustainable energy efficiency measures and sustainability retrofitting for Kent and Medway.

The partnership comprises public, private and voluntary sector bodies including representation from all local authorities in Kent and Medway, water companies, registered housing providers in Kent, National Landlord Association, and the Kent Members of the South East Consortium. Key aims of the partnership are:

- To ensure residents and businesses get a clear and consistent message about what funding and finance options are available to support retrofitting of energy efficiency measures.
- To tackle fuel poverty by drawing in as much Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and other funding to Kent as possible.
- To support our local network of Small/Medium Enterprises (SME's) to be 'Green Deal Ready' and take advantage of economic growth and opportunities in the sector.
- Reduce carbon emissions in Kent and Medway.

	<p>Kent Warm Homes Since March 2012, the KMSEP has run the Warm Homes initiative to provide a clear and subsidised offer to residents for making energy efficiency improvements to their homes. Since October 2014, a Retrofitting Framework was procured with 15 service providers to offer subsidised heating, loft, and cavity wall insulation to residents, taking advantage of available Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding (HHCRO/CERO/CSCO) and public health funding to reduce the cost of these measures for residents.</p> <p>To date, the Warm Homes initiative and its Retrofitting Framework has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported 2220 energy measures across 2075 homes in Kent and Medway. • Utilised £1.6million of ECO grant funding and £1.3mil public health and wider government funding to make energy measures as affordable as possible. • Saved residents an estimated £8.8million on their energy bills across the lifetime of these measures. • Saved an estimated 38,0000 lifetime tonnes of carbon dioxide across Kent and Medway. <p>An independent county wide Warm Homes Call centre has also been procured with the support of the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP) and is delivered by Shepway Lifeline. To date, the Warm Homes call centre has processed 1235 referrals for residents into the Warm Homes initiative.</p> <p>Kent Warm Homes Phase 3 From April 2017, the Warm Homes initiative will continue to take advantage of ECO funding (CERO/AWG) and wider partner funding to provide subsidised energy measures to residents across Kent and Medway.</p>	
vi) RENEWABLE / SUSTAINABLE ENERGY		
Feed in Tariffs scheme	Gravesham completed 1099 PV installations in our social housing stock which reached 2.58875kw capacity back in 2015. There is continued savings for the tenants on the electricity bills and reducing carbon emissions in the social housing properties to support the ambitions in the Carbon Plan.	Ongoing
Renewable Heat Incentives	Renewable Energy for Kent was a study undertaken by Aecom in 2012 and funded through Interreg IVc project ClimactRegions. This has given Kent partners an understanding of the key opportunities and restraints for the deployment of renewable energy across the county and underpins the development of the Kent-wide Renewable Energy Action Plan due for completion in April 2013. Through undertaking these actions, Kent will look to achieve a 10% reduction in carbon emissions in the county and unlock the potential for Kent's economy. This is the equivalent of 13.2% of our energy usage through renewable energy deployment.	

Zero Carbon Homes	<p>We aim to deliver the Government's policy on lowering CO2 emissions from new developments through the application of the approved Building Regulations and Planning Policy to help reduce the carbon footprint in the borough. This aim's primarily, to secure energy-efficient design where the energy consumption of new buildings is minimised through the use of materials, orientation and density. In addition this also aim's, where feasible and viable and in line with the Government's growth agenda, to secure the supply of energy from decentralised low and zero carbon sources. This will be delivered through the application of the approved Building Regulations and through the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, as part of the LDF that lay under the council's Corporate Business Plan.</p> <p>Whilst the Government has made it clear that their intention is to wind down the Code for Sustainable Homes and replace this with changes to the Building Regulations the Council will continue to seek energy efficient measures in our new build Affordable Homes, by working towards code level 3/4 (the Code for Sustainable Homes, linked with the planning system and Building Regulations).</p>	
vii) EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES DELIVERED		
	<p>We aim to introduce innovative ideas that will assist householders to reduce carbon emission, eliminate fuel poverty and provide behavioural changes to using energy more efficiently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Warmth funding from Public Health Kent – additional funding granted to Gravesham to help residents with existing health conditions to fund alongside ECO. • Warm Homes – Kent wide partnership framework that has providers with ECO funding who are able to install measures part/ fully funded by HHCRO and ECO. • Collective switching. We aim to deliver through joint local authority partnership, to support the government's collectives switching initiative. The joint aim is to reduce fuel poverty by aggregating the communities' energy spend in order to achieve more affordable energy. • NEA Technological Innovation Fund – this pilot project was delivered across many Kent districts, including Gravesham. Heating controls were installed to 8 Gravesham housing properties. This pilot was a study that included Hills Fuel Poverty calculation method to identify those in deepest fuel poverty in need of intervention, and follow-up post installation to measure impact. Canary Control and Radfans were installed to monitor internal temperature and increase warm air flow. • LED lighting. We aim to replace under our lighting maintenance programme, as many LED lighting in our communal social housing area as possible 	Ongoing
Promotion/ Media/Advice Education	The Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership continues to deliver a number projects/schemes across Kent to promote and maximise uptake of ECO and energy efficiency work through KMSEP. The partnership will work together to develop schemes in Kent to combine energy efficiency messages where appropriate.	Ongoing

	<p>We will aim to promote ECO through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council website, newsletter, social media, etc • Energy Information Packs for communities • Local newspapers and radio • Community events and forums <p>We will work to promote government programmes and schemes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Saving Advice Service (0300 123 1234) • Cold Weather payments • Winter Fuel payments • The Warm Home Discount scheme • Big Energy Saving Network • Home Heat Helpline <p>List of local energy efficiency events and actions in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway events • Partner organization events across Kent <p>Raising awareness: Provide information and education to residents/landlords/organisations</p>	
viii) MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION BY USING AREA BASED/STREET BY STREET ROLL OUT.		
	<p>We will aim to deliver cost-effective delivery using area based roll out through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying local partners for area based energy measures for both social and private sector stock • Identify target areas and priority roll out; for example, identify solid wall/hard to treat properties which will be incorporated in the ECO projects through the KMSEP • Determine any interactions with other refurbishment work and other Local Authority objectives (e.g. area regeneration, ECO Carbon Saving Communities Obligation) 	Ongoing
ix) NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS		
	<p>We will work with the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership to deliver all areas of energy conservation measures that we consider to be practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation.</p>	Ongoing

	<p>We will work as part of the KMSEP to deliver ECO and share good practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our other local partners are: NHS/PCTs, Home Improvement Agencies, voluntary organisations and other Kent based partnerships, including; Climate Change Network, Kent Housing Group. • The measures we propose will be those highlighted above under ECO <p>Delivering aims and objectives in the Climate Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing timelines and commitments for Climate Local • Monitoring and evaluation 	
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x) ASSESMENT/ DATA GATHERING/MONITORING

	<p>We are establishing ways to determine data on the energy efficiency rating of our residential accommodation, both social and private sector:</p> <p>The council is awaiting the release of EPC data from Government to update statistics below.</p> <p>To carry out stock condition survey for social/private sector housing to identify areas where energy efficiency activity is required, every five years. Currently scheduled to be completed 2017.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Average SAP rating Social (2014/15 LAHS return)</th> <th>Average SAP rating Private (2006)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>68 – band D According to 20% survey completed in January 2016</td> <td>57 – band D</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>We will monitor EPC data across the borough and also as the social landlord, carry out EPCs in our social housing stock where necessary.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number of EPCs current in Gravesham (social and private sector)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23,591</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Average SAP rating Social (2014/15 LAHS return)	Average SAP rating Private (2006)	68 – band D According to 20% survey completed in January 2016	57 – band D	Number of EPCs current in Gravesham (social and private sector)	23,591	Ongoing
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<p>Minimum standards in the private rental sector</p>	<p>Private Rented Sector</p> <p>Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards. We aim to work and engage with our local landlords (also as per our stock condition survey) to encourage them to increase the energy efficiency and minimum standards within their properties. This will be achieved through KMSEP and ongoing landlord activity, for the landlords to achieve EPC band 'E' or above on their properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information pack on energy efficiency and ECO • Landlord engagement to reduce Category 1 Hazards in Excess Cold, Housing Act 2004 	
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Signature: 

Signed off by: Wale Adetoro
Dated: 31 March 2017

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Gravesham Borough Council– *Connecting with the Community*