

# HECA REPORTING 2019

## Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all 326 local authorities ('LAs') 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 LAs 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.

These guidance notes are issued in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act and are to alert LAs of amendments to the HECA reporting framework in advance of May 2019 when the next reports are due. In previous years, reporting rates have been disappointing, with 282 reports submitted in March 2015 out of 326 LAs, and only 151 in March 2017. The refreshed reporting system for 2019 streamlines the process and reduces LA reporting burdens. Newly structured around a series of questions and direct information points, the amended framework aims to support LAs to provide information and updates on the key energy efficiency topics of interest to BEIS Ministers. It will also enable LAs to provide a consistent picture of energy efficiency promotion and delivery across England within a standardized framework. Following the principles of open data, the department may publish the information in an open data format to allow wider access and interpretation of the data, while ensuring that such publication complies with the terms of GDPR.

## HECA 2019 Reporting Requirements

The Report is to be divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes:

### Headline & Overview

- What main strategy and schemes LAs currently have to promote carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency, stakeholders involved and impact at a societal and economic level.

### Communication

- How LAs engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

### Green Local Supply Chain

- How LAs engage local businesses involved in the promotion of energy savings products and the societal benefits alongside any local economic impact this might have.

## Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

## Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

- Financial programmes used by LAs to promote energy efficiency.

## Fuel Poverty

- How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

## The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

- How LAs are using the recently introduced ECO 'flexible eligibility' programme to refer certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes, who are vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, to ECO obligated suppliers for support.

## Smart Metering

- How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

All questions are optional, but responses highly encouraged. While reporting is focused on energy savings related to homes, you are welcome to provide additional information on energy efficiency improvements in non-domestic properties, but this is fully optional. There will be a final free response section permitting local authorities to discuss any additional activities which they feel are relevant.

## Submission of HECA 2019 Reports

For the 2019 reporting year, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is piloting the submission of reports via a digital platform, and for this year LAs will be asked to populate their HECA Report and submit materials via a SurveyMonkey submission. No other reporting material or submissions will be required. LAs continue to be required to publish their responses, and they can do this in whichever form they wish, so long as the published report contains relevant information submitted via the digital platform. It is not necessary for LAs to publish all the information submitted via the digital platform. Before the online survey is completed, the Chief Executive or Director of the LA should approve the submitted content. If this approach proves effective and supports the engagement and compliance of a greater number of authorities than in recent previous years, BEIS will consider how this approach can be further improved for the 2021 reporting year.

The questions which LAs are asked to report on in the digital 'Survey' are listed below:

## HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: Gravesham Borough Council (GBC)
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Type of Local Authority:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Borough Council</li> </ul>		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report:		
Dipna Pattni		
<a href="mailto:Dipna.pattni@graevsham.gov.uk">Dipna.pattni@graevsham.gov.uk</a>		
01474 337326		
Job title of official submitting the report:		
Housing Partnerships Manager.		
Also Chair of the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership.		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool:		
Housing Partnerships Team		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE):		
Housing Section – 0.40 (40%)		
<b>Headline and Overview Questions</b>		
1	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	Y
2	<p>If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:</p> <p>Kent and Medway wide strategic initiatives</p> <p>Kent and Medway have a very strong partnership working ethos and have a number of join initiatives that cover residents, businesses and the wider public sector. The Kent and Medway Environment Strategy sets the framework, and identifies domestic energy and fuel poverty as a key strand. This is further complemented by the Fuel Poverty Strategy developed and co-ordinated by the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership.</p> <p>KES  <a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf">https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/10676/KES_Final.pdf</a></p> <p>Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy  <a href="http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/housing/saving-money-on-your-bills/fuel-poverty-strategy-for-kent">http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/housing/saving-money-on-your-bills/fuel-poverty-strategy-for-kent</a></p> <p>Kent and Medway have played an active role in influencing and developing the TRILEP Energy Strategy, covering the South East. The energy projects identified in the Strategy range from, supporting residents who are off gas to connect to the network, to identifying areas for micro generation.</p>	

	<p>Energy initiatives identified in the TRILEP Strategy have been reflected in the draft Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy going out for consultation in June 2019. The strategy aims to create actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. It makes the link between supply of energy for housing, industry and transport and air quality, recognising that reducing emissions from the former will lead to improvements in the latter.</p> <p>This Draft Energy and Low Emissions Strategy goes further with regards to domestic energy, suggesting a range of strategic actions from collective switching, collective solar and domestic energy efficiency improvements through the Kent Warm Homes framework, website and call centre. The Strategy linking sustainability, housing environmental health and planning officers is one of the first of its kind and domestic energy is a key element.</p> <p>Kent Energy and Low Emissions Strategy</p> <p><a href="https://kccmediahub.net/kent-and-medway-energy-and-low-emissions-strategy745">https://kccmediahub.net/kent-and-medway-energy-and-low-emissions-strategy745</a></p> <p>South East LEP Energy Strategy</p> <p><a href="https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/03/Local-Energy-Strategy-FINAL.pdf">https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/03/Local-Energy-Strategy-FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>The Local Plan for Gravesham sets out long-term vision for the future of Gravesham based on evidence of what's needed to support communities.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/local-plan/gravesham-local-plan-core-strategy">http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/local-plan/gravesham-local-plan-core-strategy</a></p> <p>Gravesham Borough Council collates and submits an annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report showing carbon emissions resulting from it's estate/ functions.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/policies-strategies-open-data/transparency-and-open-data/greenhouse-gas-emission">http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/about-the-council/policies-strategies-open-data/transparency-and-open-data/greenhouse-gas-emission</a></p>	
3	<p>If no, are you planning to develop one?</p> <p>As Gravesham Borough Council is in the process of seeking adoption of the above, feel that at present there is no specific need to write an individual carbon reduction strategy.</p>	Y
4	<p>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')</p>	

*Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words*

[Warm Homes Scheme](#) (Kent wide scheme) promotion on Kent County Council webpages, DDC webpages, mailshots, face to face/telephone energy advice, and via social media

[LA Flexible Eligibility](#) – GBC have delegated Authority to Dartford Borough Council and are now promoting and delivering measures through a concise procedure.

SGN first time central heating – Kent Authorities have signed an agreement with SGN to refer fuel poor households/ LA Flexible Eligibility households to first time gas connections. Promotion at Landlords Forum, mailshots, face to face/ telephone advice.

[Energy Deal](#) – Collective Energy Switching Scheme – promotion of DDC webpages, articles in Parish/ district wide magazines, mailshots, social media, attendance at events

GBC carry out repairs and planned maintenance including energy efficiency measures on the Council Housing Stock.

[Housing Assistance Grants](#) are provided to support installation of energy efficiency measures to address excess cold, improve efficiency ratings in Private Rented Sector and assist households vulnerable to the cold to achieve affordable warmth. Promotion on DDC webpages, mailshots, workshops, landlord forums, events and home visits.

Triple A project – Solar PV and battery storage installed at 4 properties within the District. The purpose of the project is to monitor and evaluate the cost/carbon saving benefits of the technologies and promote too 'able to pay' households in the Borough.

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*

The Kent Warm Homes Framework is currently being reviewed.

Kent local Authorities are in the process of finalising contract details with Southern Gas Networks who have agreed funding for 210 first time gas connections to properties across Kent (50% of cost of heating up to £2500). GBC will target specific households in the Borough. Work with SGN Vulnerability team will also support households that have been disconnected.

GBC's Housing Assistance Policy was revised in 2018 to ensure top up funding was available to low income/ households vulnerable to the cold so that they would not need to contribute towards the cost of energy efficiency measures.

Kent Authorities have finalised a contract for external wall insulation through the Warm homes framework. This type of insulation would benefit a number of properties within the Borough.

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.
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*Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words*

Warm Homes Scheme provides a call centre facility – 110 calls received from Borough residents 2017-2019. The call centre was originally funded by contributions from all Kent Authorities and is now funded by referral income and Kent County Council.

#### **Heating and Insulation Scheme April 2017 To March 2018**

	Number of measures	ECO	Council	Public Health	Client contribution
Cavity Wall Insulation	11	£1,507.99	£1,390.41		
Heating	7	£6002.4	£18,735.80		£8,069.16
Loft Insulation	38	£ 3,559.80	£1,120.63		£ 910.66
External Wall Insulation	3 Blocks (27 flats)		£18,417.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£9,869.64</b>	<b>£37,540.62</b>		

#### **LA Flexible Eligibility Scheme April 2017 To March 2019**

	Number of Measures	ECO	Council funding	Client contribution
Heating	8	£10,720.94	£26,976.87	
Loft Insulation	1	£379.15	£257.17	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>£11,100.09</b>	<b>£27,234.04</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

## LA Social Housing other measures

	Number of Measures/ properties
Heating (CH)	359
Heating (Elect)	19
Windows and Doors	125
Roof replacement (block of flats)	8
Roof replacement	12
Fire Safety work	353
<b>TOTAL</b>	

## Renewable

	Number of Measures	Cost – Council funding (exc VAT)
Solar PV Panel – Council stock (2588.75kWh)	1100	£4,207,830.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>£4,207,830.02</b>

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

*Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words*

Aran Services – Warm Homes Framework provider of insulation/heating.

Southern Gas Networks – Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme and Vulnerability Team.

British Gas - Vulnerability Team.

iChoosr – Collective Energy Switching Scheme – Energy Deal.

Home Improvement Agencies and Hospital Discharge team – refer residents into Warm homes, LA Flexible Eligibility, Energy Deal and Housing Assistance Grants.

Energy Saving Specialist and European Partners – Triple A Solar PV and battery storage project.

Health Partnerships through One Your Officers, CCG MDT multi-disciplinary meetings (MDT).		
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>This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Total saving through Energy Deal for GBC residents up to and including February 2019 auction is £101,948.04 with 2608 registrations for this auction.</p> <p>The estimated savings to health and wider society from installing insulation and heating in a cold home is £7,410.00 per year and £18,525.00 per year respectively.</p> <p>The Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership has won the following awards in recognition of the success of many Partnership schemes:</p> <p>ALEO South East Award 2017</p> <p>Kent Environment Champions Group – supporting the vision of the Kent Environment Strategy in 2017.</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>The design of energy efficiency schemes has become increasingly complex for fewer numbers of households - many low cost measures already installed.</p> <p>Through a combination of initiatives Kent Local Authorities have been able to maximise funding and signpost residents to wider opportunities and services.</p> <p>The promotion of any one of the schemes (Energy Deal, Warm Homes, LA Flexible Eligibility) allows a joined up, 'whole' household approach to improve the home environment, and offers the ability to signpost residents to other assistance – maximising benefits for Kent residents. GDPR has meant that projects are much harder and slower to deliver in a time where reaching the vulnerable is urgent.</p> <p>GBC have access to HB/CTX data, however DWP benefit data/ priority service register information would make it easier to reach vulnerable residents – the Digital Economy Act Fuel Poverty Section should have made this easier.</p>		
<b>Local Communications Strategy</b>		
9	<p>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?</p>	Y

10	If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)	
<p><i>Free text response to question 10 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>The Warm Homes Call Centre enables Kent residents to be referred to ECO schemes (either through HHCRO or LA Flex) and signposts to Energy Switching scheme and local authority financial assistance.</p> <p>GBC offer a Collective Switching to residents which enables wider energy advice to be offered at registration, including information on Priority Services register, Warm Home Discount etc.</p> <p>GBC offer Energy/ Climate Change advice from enquiries received through residents and on webpages.</p> <p>Promotion of assistance available through Landlord Forum, attendance at events, face to face contact, over the telephone, mailshots, articles in Parish/ Local Magazines , posters and leaflets and through social media.</p>		
11	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><i>Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>GBC energy and climate change webpages, social media posts, mailshots and through attendance at events. Recently have promoted through CCG/Public Health.</p> <p>GBC signpost business to Low Carbon Kent. The network aims to help businesses reduce costs by cutting emissions and promotes the opportunities low carbon market opportunities.</p> <p>The Energy Deal has received 181 enquiries to the Make It Cheaper energy switching service for SMEs - comparing prices, helping SMEs to choose the right tariff and set up their contract, with support through the switching process. 40 have signed up to deals.</p>		
<p><b>Local Green Supply Chains</b></p>		
12	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')	Y
13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>GBC webpages provide information on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency advice to householders</p> <p>GBC signposts businesses to Kent Sustainable Business Team and Low Carbon Kent (network of businesses with the aim to reduce costs by cutting emissions and promote the low carbon market)</p>		

14	What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>Kent wide framework procured South East Contractor</p> <p>Triple a funded project – SME from Dover won the tender process for installing Solar PV/Battery plus monitoring equipment.</p> <p>ECS Peterborough 1LLP maintain the solar PV Panels in the Council Housing stock.</p>		
<b>Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards</b>		
<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 be to 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	<p>Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?</p> <p>(if you answered no, please move on to the next section ‘Financial Support for Energy Efficiency’)</p>	Y
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 16</i></p> <p>Private Sector Housing Team, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.</p> <p>Training on PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards was arranged by the Association of Local Energy Officers SE region and held on 6 February 2019 at Oxford City Council. Presentations and contact details provided to Officers unable to attend the meeting.</p>		
17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i></p> <p>Private Sector Housing Team, <a href="mailto:private.housing@gravesham.gov.uk">private.housing@gravesham.gov.uk</a></p>		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	

*Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words*

The Private Sector Housing Group has produced two generic leaflets giving details of MEES requirements. One leaflet for tenants and one for landlords.

Local Landlords are invited to Landlord Forums - providing updates about regulation, and assistance available. This is also attended and supported by the National Landlords Association Representative.

19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?  If yes, how? If no, please explain.	Y
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*Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words*

It is our intention and aim to target such properties but current resources do not allow proactive action.

### **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')
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*Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words*

GBC Housing Assistance funding through the Better Care Fund (Disabled Facilities Grant delivery). LA flex Top-up grant.

The Warm Homes contractor has funding from different utility for ECO eligible residents. LA Flexible Eligibility funding available for low income/ vulnerable to the cold households.

Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme – SGN. Up to £2,700 per connection for Fuel Poor/ low income/ households vulnerable to the cold. Funding for 210 properties across Kent.

2 properties had 2kWp solar array, battery storage and monitoring equipment installed – through European Triple A funded project.

NEA Warm Homes Campaign Awards - £500 funding towards cost training provision for Pharmacies to raise awareness of the impacts of living in a cold home, and assistance available through Local Authorities.

Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP) submitted bids for Warm Homes fund on two occasions– both occasions were unsuccessful.

Open Data Institute (ODI) Kent Public Health bid – this followed conversations between KEEP and the Kent Integrated Dataset (KID) project Officer. KCC Public Health obtained ODI funding to look at different ways to link health data with energy efficiency

issues with the aim of highlighting areas KEEP officers could target with projects.		
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>		
21	Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?  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. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.	Y
<i>Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words</i>		
Yes – Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy- Gravesham Borough led and approved the Strategy and committed to support the action plan to reduce fuel poverty in Kent in line with national targets in September 2016.		
22	What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<i>Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>		
<p>Mailshots sent out to households through the council's 'Your Borough' magazine. This has included, promotion on Energy Deal, Smart meters and Assistance for energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>GBC website contains information on Warm Homes, and financial assistance available to help with achieving affordable warmth.</p> <p>Collective switching through the council's Energy Deal provides opportunity to advise residents regarding energy efficiency, energy switching and assistance, such as Priority Services.</p> <p>EPC data (which is now out of date) and the Council's Housing Stock Condition survey to identify households that may require assistance.</p> <p>Partnership meetings with health agencies including local MDT, CCG meetings, work with Hospital Discharge team through Better Care funding and also Care Navigators</p> <p>The Home Improvement Agency refer residents to Collective Switching and assistance from Private Sector Housing team, i.e. for Disabled Facilities Grants</p> <p>Social Media including Facebook and Twitter have been used to promote schemes.</p>		
23	How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
<i>Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>		
Kent Environment Strategy – Theme Two: Making best use of existing resources and minimising negative impacts focuses on minimising the impacts of current activities through reducing resource usage across all sectors.		

ELES – Currently being prepared for Consultation by Kent County Council.

SELEP - Energy Efficiency in homes that include a programme of home energy efficiency measures enabling improved levels of loft and cavity wall insulation to assist in homes achieving an EPC rating of C to align with the 2032 Pathway.

GBC Corporate Plan – meeting the housing needs of all residents, including vulnerable people by tackling social inequalities and reducing fuel poverty.

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)
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*Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words*

Energy Switching – Energy Deal (since 2013) – auctions held 3 times a year.

Partnership working with Care Navigators, Hospital Discharge team and Local CCG and also various council departments and members.

Promotion of Warm Home Discount and Priority Services Register via website, face to face, over the telephone.

Partnership working with SGN and British Gas Vulnerability team to build knowledge to ensure able to impart accurate, up-to-date and advice to residents.

Partnership working through contractors and energy companies.

	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)
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*Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 word*

Partnership working with SGN and British Gas Vulnerability team to build knowledge to ensure able to impart accurate, up-to-date and advice to residents.

EDF funding secured through Kent Warm Homes Scheme.

Working with Aran Services to ensure measures for qualifying fuel poor/low income/ vulnerable to the cold households receive fully funded energy efficiency measures to alleviate the adverse impacts of living in a cold home.

Meetings with Eon took place to discuss ECO funding, however could not proceed due to conditions in contract.

Work in partnership with iChoosr on Energy Deal – iChoosr provide regular updates on tariff/ legislative changes to the agenda.

**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.

25	<p>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?</p> <p>If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</p>	Y
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*Link to Sol:*

[LA Flexible Eligibility](#) published 27 June 2018.

26	<p>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.</p>
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*Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words*

Complexity of scheme and the fact that referrals that may not receive any/ little funding due carbon saving calculations is both difficult for the Local Authority to understand/ explain to residents.

Barriers which may lead to measures not being installed – the loft is full, no loft hatch, small loft opening, failed cavity wall insulation, rat trap bond type properties. No funding for failed cavity wall insulation or removal of incorrect insulation in flood area etc.

Limitation on number of gas heating replacement means many residents are unable to afford alternative heating measures. Also ECO grants to solid wall properties should be more generous as many of the cavity/ loft properties have already been filled.

Local Authorities who are active in applying for funding for their community, should be looked on more favourably when decisions are made about awarding funding. Currently many organisations that are not local government, levy funding but cannot deliver without LA involvement. Historically energy grants worked well in Kent when delivered through LAs

GDPR restrictions and procurement requirements hamper identification of, and sharing of vulnerable residents details, hence limit ability to target, reach and assist those that most need assistance. How should Digital Economy Act regarding Fuel Poverty and GDPR work?

<b>Smart Metering</b>	
27	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>Some LAs in Kent attended training session, including GBC Officer. Officers provide information on Smart Meters through web page and telephone/email enquiries.</p>	
28	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>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 <a href="#">Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project</a> or other sources of independent information.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>Information provided on Council website and responses given to enquiries from residents based on Smart Meter GB website. The Council's 'Your Borough' magazine article.</p>	
29	<p>Please detail any:</p> <p>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).</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 29 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>No referrals received from Smart Energy GB on properties in Gravesham area.</p> <p>SGN Vulnerability team to notify Authority of any future disconnections in the district. A referral pathway to SGN voucher scheme to help vulnerable residents replace condemned appliances.</p>	
30	<p>Please detail any:</p> <p>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).</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>GBC have internal social housing maintenance team who work with Housing</p>	

Partnerships Manager to levy ECO.

### **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').

*Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words*

As funding is spread widely amongst different organisation and there are some funding streams LAs cannot bid for and they have no direct influence/knowledge of where what measures have been installed.

Agreement currently being finalised between Kent Authorities and SGN for the installation of 1st time Central Heating systems in properties connected to gas under their Fuel Poor Network Offgas – SGN to provide up to 50% of cost of system up to maximum of £2,500.

Represented SELEP Energy Strategy Workshop and launch of Strategy – and hope to build on existing relationship through County partnership working.

Lower Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) - <https://locase.co.uk/> - a grant and advice scheme aimed at helping businesses become more efficient and reduce carbon footprint

The Kent & Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership is currently being reviewed, and looking to next steps, that could include a Collective Solar PV purchasing scheme countywide that could build on the Triple A funded Solar PV and battery storage project.

Partnership working with SGN to look at assistance for Offgas properties through their mapping tool, and work with their Vulnerability team on promotion of Energy Efficiency schemes, and gas safety (including awareness of carbon monoxide and locking cooker valves).

Initial meetings held with SSE looking at new ways of working.