

Home Energy Conservation Act 2023 report – North Herts Council response

Introductory Questions

Name of Local Authority

North Hertfordshire District Council

Type of Local Authority

District Council

Headline and Overview

1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties? (Yes/No)

Yes

2. If yes, please provide a link.

North Herts Council has a broad carbon reduction strategy, with some actions to promote domestic energy efficiency measures, at <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/climate-change>

3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe? (Yes, within 1 year; Yes, within 2 years; Yes, within 3 years+; No development plans)

N/A

4. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented

£0-200 on marketing for HUG2

5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply. (Energy savings; Carbon savings; Job creation; Increased business competitiveness; Alleviation of fuel poverty; Improved health outcomes; None of the above; Other - please specify.)

Energy savings; Carbon savings; Alleviation of fuel poverty; Improved health outcomes.

Consumer Advice and Information

6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy? (Yes; No)

Yes

- 7. If yes, please select all that apply; (Local Authority website; Local advisory service; 'Find ways to save energy in your home' (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website; 'Find ways to save energy in your home' gov.uk phonenumber; Leaflets; Social media; Local energy hubs; Other- please specify**

Other - we promote the HEAT app which provides advice for measures to save energy. We also use an engagement platform called the Hive to promote energy efficiency grants available.

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

- 8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? (yes; no)**

No

- 9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).**

N/A

- 10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply. (Supporting training provision at local training providers; Supporting FE colleges to improve facilities or train trainers or otherwise enable better delivery of retrofit training; Providing installer networking opportunities or other business support for growing companies; Careers advice or similar involving local businesses doing schools outreach to encourage young people into the sector; None of the above; Other (please state)**

None of the above

- 11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements? (yes; no)**

No

- 12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures? • Yes – there has been action taken on a regular basis • Yes – but rarely • No – resourcing constraints have curtailed potential activity • No – we are not aware of any issues**

No – we are not aware of any issues

- 13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver? • (yes; no)**

No

- 14. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)? • Installers of**

insulation • Installers of windows/doors • Installers of heat pumps • Retrofit assessors • Retrofit coordinators • All of the above • Other (please state)

N/A

15. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)? • Marketing to drive supply chain interest • Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses • Supporting training and upskilling more generally • Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff) • Delivering in-house e.g. by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams, directly employing retrofit coordinators etc • Other (please state)

None

Social Housing Decarbonisation

16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1? • Yes, and successful in securing funding • Yes, and not successful in securing funding • No • Don't know

No

17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply. • Financial support for retrofit • Technical support for retrofit • Tenant needs • Expectations of future energy performance regulations • Other – please tell us your motivation(s) for applying

N/A

18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1? • Application window too short • Too much information needed at application • Don't own enough stock • Not enough capability • Too Costly • Retrofit work is not a priority • Not enough information • Don't know • Other – please tell us what prevented you applying

Don't own enough stock

19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding? • Yes • No • Don't know

No

20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded? • Internal funding • Funding from other Government schemes • Other • Don't know

N/A

21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply. • Lack of funding • Lack of internal resource • Lack of capacity • Lack of technical support • Retrofit work is not a priority • Other • Don't know

• Lack of funding • Lack of internal resource • Lack of capacity • Lack of technical support

22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

1

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies? • (Yes/No)

Yes

24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register? • (Yes/No)

No

25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities? • Yes, and I've used it • Yes, but I haven't used it • No

Yes

26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations? • Please enter the amount /estimated amount.

0

27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant? • Please enter the amount /estimated amount

0

28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them? • Please enter the amount /estimated amount

0

29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations? • Please enter the amount /estimated amount

0

Green Home Finance

30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

None

31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works? • Yes • No, but we have plans to do this in the future • No Please include links to any relevant online materials

No, but we have plans to do this in the future

32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products? • Yes • No, but we have plans to do this in the future • No

No

Fuel Poverty

33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy? • (Yes/No)

No

34. How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible. • Used local data sets on energy

efficiency/housing • Used local data sets on household income • Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out • Other • [option to provide additional information]

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing • Used local data sets on household income
- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out

35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible. • Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. • Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households. • Other • [option to provide additional information]

Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy? • (Yes/No) • If yes, please can you explain how it does this? • If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?

No, this could form a basis for future updates to our climate strategy but barriers around resource and capacity remain.

Local Authority Delivery

37. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying. • lack of capacity • lack of capability • lack of awareness • other – please specify

lack of capacity • lack of capability

38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties? • (Yes/No)

Yes

39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

Home Upgrade Grant

40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying. • lack of capacity • lack of capability • lack of awareness • other – please specify

N/A

41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties? • (Yes/No)

Yes

42. If no, please specify what is lacking

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022? • (Yes/No)

No

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

N/A

45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

N/A

46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

N/A

47. What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

N/A

48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

N/A

49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed? • Yes/No

N/A

50. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure

N/A

51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4? • (Yes/No)

N/A

52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

N/A

53. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)? • (Yes/No)

N/A

54. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

N/A

**55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex?
Select all that apply. • All four routes available • Route 1 • Route 2 • Route 3 •
Route 4**

N/A

Smart Metering

The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

56. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company

**Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation? •
[Yes/No].**

Yes

57. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this

N/A

58. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes. • [Yes/No]

No

59. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

Individual landlord's responsibility to consider this

60. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises? • [Yes/No].

No

61. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

Individual landlord's responsibility to consider this