

## **HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA) BI ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 To inform members and share the content of the annual submission for Home Energy Conservation to the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (see Appendix 1). This report was submitted online on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to comply with BEIS's deadline.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 This report shares what energy conservation measures have been adopted to improve energy efficiency of residential accommodation within the district. This covers measures across all tenures and not just the Council's social housing stock.

2.2 The submission has been written in collaboration with officers from Environmental Health and our Environmental Policy and Projects Officer.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

3.1 None

#### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

4.1 None

#### **5.0 Digital Implications**

5.1 None

#### **6.0 Financial Implications FIN21-22/2285**

6.1 None

#### **7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives**

7.1 This report supports two objectives in our Community Plan - Create more and better quality homes through our role as landlord, developer and planning authority and improve the health and wellbeing of local residents.

#### **8.0 Comments of Director(s) or Housing Advisory Group**

8.1 This report is for information to enable Committee members to review our annual submission to BEIS in relation to the Home Energy Conservation Act.

## 9.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**For members to note the report.**

### **Reason for Recommendation(s)**

#### **Background Papers**

Please see below in Appendix 1 the Home Energy Conservation submission report.

For further information please contact (Caroline Wagstaff) on Ext. 5637

Suzanne Shead  
Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing

# HECA Report 2021 Questions

**Note: All questions have a 4000-character limit (Approx. 500 words)**

Introductory Questions		
Name of Local Authority: Newark & Sherwood District Council		
Type of Local Authority: District Council		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report: Helen Richmond (helen.richmond@nsdc.info)		
Job title of official submitting the report: Energy & Home Support Officer		
<b>1.0 Headline and Overview Questions</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?</b>	(Y/N) N
<b>1.2</b>	<p>If yes, please provide a link: But the Council has a 10 year carbon management plan (currently under review) which is published on its website <a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/">http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/</a> The Climate Emergency strategy sets out a more detailed pathway to a sustainable future for Newark and Sherwood District Council. Our plans for carbon management are a key part of our environmental ambitions. The Authority over the next 5 years is prioritising LED lighting and Solar PV on the Councils Corporate and Leisure buildings.</p> <p>As part of our Asset Management Strategy for domestic properties owned by the Council we are developing a more holistic approach to capital investment spend which utilises carbon neutral initiatives when upgrading properties in a cost-effective manner. In addition, we are developing a methodology for assessing the success/impact of renewable energy heating systems that are currently be fitted into our new build homes.</p> <p>The council has a new build development program, which is currently delivering 335 new council homes within the district over a 5 years period. The program has now started to explore non-traditional greener heating solutions for its properties such as air source heating, solar panels linked to battery storage powering electric combi boilers linked to both under floor heating and properties with traditional wet radiators. Roof mounted solar thermal systems. Our current trials are ahead of the 2025 date when developers should cease installing traditional gas boilers in new build properties.</p> <p>The new build development programme is also exploring the viability of modern methods of construction to further improve the insulation, energy performance and the construction of the properties the Council develops. This strategy is in line and driven by the councils community plan to accelerate the delivery of safe and efficient homes for its tenants. Also the Council are completing a full review of our HRA Business Plan that will set out how carbon reduction in our new and existing stock will be funded, alongside other priorities such as building and fire safety..</p>	
<b>1.3</b>	<p>If no, are you planning to develop one? As part of the Council's social housing Asset Management Strategy we are developing an approach to carbon reduction within our housing stock that improves energy efficiency whilst testing a range of alternative sustainable energy solutions.</p>	(Y/N) Y
<b>1.4</b>	<b>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?</b>	

Subject to funding, the Council plans to continue to provide the Warm Homes on Prescription (WHOP) service.

We plan to continue working with current and future Energy Company Obligation schemes, as well as planning and implementing our own targeted ECO LA Flex schemes to enable owner occupiers to insulate and heat hard to treat/heat homes.

We will deliver the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 to carry out measures of saving householder's money, cutting carbon and creating green jobs via use of Regional Energy Hubs and Eon partnership.

We will carry out a new stock condition survey for our owned domestic premises and calculate the costs and develop plans to improving our current average band C rating to an individual property band C rating, or above.

We currently commission a local Debt Advice Service from Citizens Advice and this will continue.

The Council also plans to subscribe to a public-facing communications service provided by Marches Energy Agency.

We will continue working with trusted partners such as the Nottinghamshire-wide Warm Homes Hub which offers support to residents struggling with their health, household income and energy costs.

<b>1.5</b>	<b>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.</b>
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Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 £724,850 for 2021.  
 Warm Homes on Prescription grant not yet confirmed.

The Council incurs administrative costs associated with the programmes in 1.4 of £74,650 per annum.

A challenge for the Council is the swift responses required to grant funding opportunities that challenge our procurement arrangements and the gap in our resources on carbon and project management for successful bids.

<b>1.6</b>	<b>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</b>
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Newark & Sherwood District Council works with a plethora of organisations to develop and deliver the fuel poverty alleviation schemes mentioned above, including:

- Other district/borough/county councils within Nottinghamshire
- Referral partners such as GPs, health & social care professionals and council officers
- Charities such as Citizens Advice and Age UK Nottingham & Nottinghamshire
- The Coal Industries Social Welfare Organisation
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Local contractors such as Vinshire Plumbing & Heating Ltd and UK Gas Services Ltd.
- Local insulation companies such as Westville Insulation Ltd.
- ECO funding providers, energy suppliers and managing agents such as AgilityEco

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP)</li> <li>• Marches Energy Agency (MEA)</li> <li>• Landlords and letting agents</li> <li>• Councillors</li> <li>• Efficiency East Midlands (EEM)</li> </ul>
<b>1.7</b>	<b>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.</b>
<p>The schemes outlined above help achieve improved health outcomes, alleviated/reduced fuel poverty by delivering affordable warmth and contribute towards both energy and carbon savings. Using local delivery partners helps protect/create jobs and brings wider societal impacts such as warm homes in which children and the elderly don't just survive but thrive. Improvements in domestic energy efficiency are contributing towards the government's Fuel Poverty Strategy; moving as many fuel poor residents as possible towards EPC Band C.</p> <p><b>Case Study</b></p> <p>PB was having problems with her heating so approached the council for help as she has few savings and couldn't afford to replace her ailing boiler. The Council's Energy advisor referred PB (an elderly home owner, living alone) to Citizens Advice to get free, confidential advice on maximising her income and getting a better energy deal.</p> <p>PB has several long-term health conditions and Citizens Advice identified that she qualified for Attendance Allowance. They helped her make an application and she was awarded Attendance Allowance at the highest level. This award qualified PB for Guarantee Pension Credit and full help with her council tax. Her benefit entitlement increased her weekly income by circa £135/week. Being entitled to Guarantee Pension Credit also meant PB met the council's criteria for help with a new free boiler. Citizens Advice then checked her energy tariff and carried out a comparison, discovering she could save up to £352 on her annual energy bills by switching to a different Supplier.</p> <p>PB also met the criteria for the Warm Home Discount which entitled her to an additional £140 payment into her electricity account. As her son (who lives nearby) dealt with her energy bills and operated an online account on her behalf, she gave Citizens Advice permission to contact him with the relevant details and they advised him how to switch once the Warm Home Discount had been paid to PB's account.</p>	
<b>2.0 Communications</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to customers on how to save energy?</b> (Y/N) Yes
<b>2.2</b>	<b>If yes to question, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</b>
<p>The Council subscribes to a public-facing communications service which provides residents with information, advice and education on domestic energy efficiency, carbon emissions reduction and affordable warmth. This service is delivered by third sector partner, Marches Energy Agency. A website provides advice and guidance to residents and active low carbon community groups to encourage and support domestic energy efficiency and other low carbon behaviour change. One-to-one advice is available for community groups wanting to set up community energy schemes or undertake low carbon initiatives. This partnership also enables access to training for front-line staff, including social workers, health professionals and Councillors.</p> <p>In addition, the Council uses its own website to promote energy saving home improvement grants, such as the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme, and other relevant support available to residents.</p>	
<b>2.3</b>	<b>How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local business?</b>
<p>The Council is a member of the Nottinghamshire &amp; Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership which commissions the delivery of an ongoing publicity campaign to raise awareness and encourage action on domestic energy efficiency. Charity, Marches Energy Agency (MEA), delivers this service</p>	

<p>which includes an informative website <a href="http://www.everybodys-talking.org">http://www.everybodys-talking.org</a>, 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 locally. The Council uses its own website to promote energy saving home improvement grants, such as the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme, and other relevant support available to residents. Residents who contact the Council for energy efficiency advice are generally referred to the government-supported Simple Energy Advice website. The Council's 'Invest in Newark &amp; Sherwood' business service operate a range of support programmes for business growth and diversification. This includes training and awareness programmes with key partners such as the East Midlands Chamber, Nottinghamshire Business Venture, Nottinghamshire Business Growth Hub, Local Colleges and Government departments. This training has included procurement, intellectual property, digital, skills and there is an intent to deliver awareness and training to business in carbon net zero and energy saving. Further the team also operate a 'grantfinder' programme and seek to provide businesses with direction in how to access finance for initiatives and programmes including on energy saving offers.</p>		
<b>3.0 Local Green Supply Chains</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<b>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.</b>	No
<b>3.2</b>	<b>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.</b>	N/A
The Council will consider a range of offers in the next three years 2021-23.		
<b>3.3</b>	<b>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?</b>	
The Council promotes the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers through the various schemes outlined above.		
<b>3.3b</b>	<b>If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered.</b>	Yes
	Not having sufficient resources or funding for resources to take action in this area.	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers?</b>	Do not directly engage.
<b>3.5</b>	<b>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?</b>	Yes
The Council is in the process of completing its de-carbonation strategy.		
<b>4.0 Social Housing</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	<b>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?</b>	
<p>The council funded through Renewal heating Incentive 2; has to date installed 24 air source heat pumps in social housing properties that were off gas mains supply and were using oil based fuel systems and solar thermal insulation where there was a solid wall construction.</p> <p>Over 5 year period the Council has insulated 714 (including all our Wimpey-No-fines) in our domestically owned stock.</p> <p>We have fitted solar PV 420 to social housing properties.</p>		
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit</b>	Partly

	<p><b>projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings).</b>  <b>If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information?</b></p>	
<p>Whilst the Council currently has access to stock condition data, we recognise that all our data needs refreshing and a 20% stock condition survey project will commence in July 2021.  The Council are also upgrading the IT system to ensure it can hold the data we are collecting as well as refreshing our energy efficiency modelling for our stock.  Once this data has been assessed it will form the revised capital investment programme for all the Council's social housing.  The Council continue to work on alignment of day to day repairs and longer term investment programmes to ensure value for money.  The Council will be looking at our new tenant engagement and participation model this year that will include how we engage around carbon reduction and responding to the Social Housing Charter.</p>		
<p><b>4.3</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p>The Council has not participated in some grant schemes due to the tight deadlines for completion, a lack of resource in-house to manage the schemes and the small supply of suitable contractors in the area.  Some of our blocks are mixed tenure which makes engagement challenging if the leaseholder has no access to funds.  A challenge for NSDC is our overall EPC rating is C, and nothing below a D – following all works completed via Decent Homes Programme so access to funding is limited as in some cases our stock isn't the most poorly rated.  There also remains some confusion on the impact of improvements on a Right To Buy application as this may affect our ability to retrofit if the tenant is looking to purchase and will lose discount due to works completed. Equally the Council is investing in homes that are moving into the private sector and has no recompense for this.  Over 50% of our tenants are over 60 and the level of disruption /timing of previous schemes (particularly with the pandemic) has meant a lot of our homes that could be included have not been put forward due to timing.</p>		
<p><b>4.4</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p>Working in partnership with other stakeholders and current partners in the district and obtaining robust stock condition data for the council's social housing stock. In the private rented sector, developing the relationship with private landlords in the DASH forum by sharing practical advice on improving energy efficiency.</p>		
<p><b>4.5</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	
<p>Simple application processes with longer timescales to complete the work, longer term funding programmes i.e. over 5 year not year on year, support for administration and project management. Also, how this links into wider regeneration as some stock, whilst it can be retrofitted would be better to be regenerated as it becomes no longer fit for purpose – there is no scope for this in current funding streams.</p>		
<p><b>4.6</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p><b>Not known</b></p>
<p>It is likely these are ease of use of new / unfamiliar technology, impact on rents and impact on their energy bills. The Council will consult with tenants</p>		

	over 2021 to understand the barriers to retrofitting within the district.	
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate?</b>	
	The Council have low numbers of leaseholders who will be included in the consultation above.	
<b>5.0 Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards</b>		
<b>5.1</b>	<b>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?</b>	(Y/N) Y
<b>5.2</b>	<b>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.</b>	
Alan Batty (Business Manager, Environmental Health & Licensing). Email: alan.batty@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk		
<b>5.3</b>	<b>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</b>	
<p>The delivery of a Landlords Forum within current restrictions has been difficult but the Authority contributed to a virtual on-line forum hosted by DASH; made available to all private sector landlords in the North Notts area. Issues surrounding energy efficiency were highlighted, together with on-going changes to statutory obligations placed on the sector (e.g. minimum EPC standards and the relationship with the Housing Health &amp; Safety Rating system, practical ways to improve energy efficiency and the financial assistance available).</p> <p>Tenants have proved more difficult to target, despite a proactive advertising campaign, so help is given on a case-by-case basis.</p>		
<b>5.4</b>	<b>What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)?</b>	
<p>Tenants have proved more difficult to target, despite a proactive advertising campaign, so help is given on a case-by-case basis. This has been exacerbated by having absent landlords and a small private rented market that means demand far outstrips supply. There is therefore, not necessarily an incentive or the drive for private landlords to improve properties</p>		
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? If yes, how? If no, please explain.</b>	(Y/N)
<p>NSDC protocol is to request a copy of the EPC in all complaints by tenants against their Landlord. This response complements the proactive work taken by this Authority. The Authority is currently exploring options for improving our knowledge of non-compliant PRS properties (via the Local Authority Energy Partnership and a potential stock condition-modelling project) and this data will be used for an initial mail shot plus subsequent targeted enforcement (if deemed appropriate/proportionate/affordable).</p>		
<b>6.0 Financial Support for Energy Efficiency</b>		
<b>6.1</b>	<b>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. (If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')</b>	
<p>The Warm Homes on Prescription programme (WHOP) is now managed and delivered locally to Newark and Sherwood District Council's residents as an integral part of the Energy &amp; Home Support team's offer.</p> <p>WHOP targets fuel poor owner-occupiers/private-renters with long term, cold-sensitive health conditions. To qualify, householders need to either be in receipt of a qualifying passport benefits or have a gross household income of no more than £16,010 per annum. Savings and investments must not exceed £16K.</p> <p>WHOP installations are funded primarily by the Better Care Fund (plus ECO contributions where appropriate).</p>		

<p>The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a reduction in spend for WHOP for the financial year 2020/21. However, any unallocated funding will be carried forward into the next financial year and re-invested into future WHOP activity 2021-23 estimated at £200k.</p> <p>Newark &amp; Sherwood District Council's is currently completing a park homes improvement project in the deprived ex-coalfield community area of Ollerton. This scheme, funded by the Warm Homes Fund, resulting in the first time mains gas connections to 44 park homes, together with the replacement of expensive-to-run LPG/solid fuel heating systems to mains gas. The total capital value of this scheme is circa £200K.</p>		
<p><b>6.2. What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for?</b></p>		
<p>The Council is currently in talks with Cadent, the Warm Homes Fund and other strategic partners regarding future investment plans but, at the time of writing, proposals are still at early development stage. As outlined above, the Council's own housing asset strategy has targeted for all its domestically owned buildings to be EPC C rating or above by 2026 the details of how this will be achieved have not yet been agreed.</p>		
<p><b>7.0 Fuel Poverty</b></p>		
7.1	<p><b>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</b></p>	<p>(Y/N) Y</p>
<p>The Council's priorities, ambitions, achievements and plans are summarised in our bi-annual HECA report (<a href="http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/">http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/</a>) which shows how, locally, we are supporting the aims of the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England and the statutory target to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030.</p> <p>The Council collaborates with other councils across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire as the Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) to tackle fuel poverty. All LAEP councils have an intention to tackle the 'worst first' both in terms of the most energy inefficient housing and the most fuel poor and vulnerable households. This has resulted in the development and delivery of highly effective warm and healthy home programmes across the area and, specifically, the Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription project. This targets the most vulnerable fuel poor householders who also suffer from long term health conditions made worse by the cold. Over the last two years hundreds of individuals have been assisted with a combination of fully funded new heating systems, gas connections and insulation, and assistance to maximise income and reduce energy costs across the county.</p> <p>The limited human resources available within Newark &amp; Sherwood District Council make it impossible to assist the broader fuel poor population, so councils' strategies aim to guide and support all fuel poor residents to access whatever help is available. Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health commissions local charity Nottingham Energy Partnership (NEP) to provide a Healthy Housing programme which supports residents to access local and national grants that tackle fuel poverty.</p> <p>Other collaborative partnerships have recently been formed (such as the Nottinghamshire-wide Warm Homes Hub) which are enabling Newark &amp; Sherwood District Council residents to be signposted to ECO/ECO LA Flex/GNG LAD funded energy efficiency home improvement measures.</p>		
7.2	<p><b>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if appropriate). What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty?</b></p>	
<p>The WHOP project helps identify, target and assist the most vulnerable fuel poor residents through a now well-established support process. Clients are referred into the project by a network of trusted partner organisations that deliver frontline services such as environmental health officers, health &amp; social care professionals and consumer advice organisations.</p> <p>The wider fuel poor population are assisted through the Healthy Housing programme, outlined above, which is promoted through a range of community activities such as flu clinics and stalls at public</p>		

<p>events.</p> <p>Park Home residents are at relatively high risk of fuel poverty and were previously targeted for Warm Homes Discount payments. (The Council wrote to residents reminding them of the need to apply for the grant directly to the charity, Charis, to avoid missing out.) We then applied for Warm Homes Grant Fund funding to pro-actively target a park homes site where a high proportion of residents were known to be living on low incomes and struggling to achieve affordable warmth. The scheme is nearing completion and has benefitted over 40 low income residents by providing mains gas connections/gas central heating to replace the expensive LPG/solid fuel alternative.</p> <p>N.B. Blockers – limited resources, creating demand can't satisfy</p> <p>The Council are undertaking "getting to know you" visits with all our tenants over the next two years, part of this contact is to understand how well the home is working for the residents and issues around affordability including fuel poverty.</p>	
<b>7.3</b>	<p><b>How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</b></p> <p>The Council acknowledges the requirement for local government to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation as outlined in the Climate Change Act 2008 and has an ambition to reduce domestic emissions of carbon dioxide and to help reduce fuel poverty across the district.</p> <p>Improvements in a home's energy efficiency is likely to result in an overall reduction in carbon emissions even if the household was under-heating the home due to fuel poverty; given the tight constraint on finances in these circumstances, a household is likely to aim to spend at least a little less on its heating than prior to improvements as long as the home is also warmer – a balancing act that can be achieved if a significant improvement in energy efficiency can be achieved.</p>
<b>7.4.</b>	<p><b>Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area.</b></p> <p>Park Homes in Newark &amp; Sherwood district have been specifically identified as difficult to heat. We have a number of areas that are off gas, and or very old buildings that are not easy to retrofit. Some of our residents are asset rich and cash poor making upgrading homes very difficult.</p> <p>In the mainly rural and old mining communities in the west of the district, the working population is expected to significantly drop in the next 18 years, and that on top of current below average wages (for Nottinghamshire) and higher proportion in part-time employment in these areas will make it difficult for families to move out of poverty.</p>
<b>7.5</b>	<p><b>What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</b></p> <p><b>Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have.</b></p> <p>Previously, the LAEP has engaged with fuel tariff switch provider iChoosr to investigate the merits in a whole county approach to encouraging residents, particularly those in fuel poverty, to seek a cheaper fuel tariff. A pilot auction was held in Nottinghamshire which demonstrated the potential impact of the initiative which works by aggregating the 'buying power' of large numbers of residents and seeking the best tariff on the day of the auction. Newark and Sherwood District Council promoted the offer on the council's website.</p> <p>The WHOP project (via its partnership with Citizens Advice Sherwood &amp; Newark) and the Healthy Housing project both offer fuel tariff switching advice and support on a bespoke basis to households in fuel poverty both private and social housing sector.</p> <p>We also work with Severn Trent to promote initiatives that encourage savings on water bills.</p>
<p><b>8.0 Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery</b></p> <p><b>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.</b></p>	
<p><b>8.1 Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD?      Yes</b></p> <p><b>If no, please indicate what barriers prevented you from participation in the scheme.</b></p>	

<p>8.2 Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022? Yes with support</p> <p>If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area.</p> <p>Support with resources (maybe across a number of LAs in Notts) to enable us to manage a fast-turnaround upgrade scheme. Also local and national contractors indicate very limited capacity due to high demand for their services. We are seeing these challenges in existing procurement exercises.</p>		
<p><b>9.0 The Energy Company Obligation</b></p>		
<p>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 <a href="#">response</a> that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.</p> <p>The recently introduced ECO “<a href="#">flexible eligibility</a>” (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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
9.1	<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>	<p>(Y/N)</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p><a href="https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/energycompanyobligationflexibleeligibility/">https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/energycompanyobligationflexibleeligibility/</a></p>		
<p>9.2. • Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? (N)</p> <p>Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households?</li> <li>• How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households?</li> <li>• How many declarations were issued for in-fill?</li> <li>• What is the highest income cap published in your Sol?</li> <li>• If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason have you given?</li> </ul>		
<p>Homes not connected to the gas grid and/or without central heating and likely to be using more expensive alternatives such as electricity or solid fuel for heating/hot water, making them ‘high cost’ and this is often reflected in the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating. Installing a gas connection and first time gas central heating are costly home energy improvement measures which often prove unaffordable for lower income families. For this reason, the Council is focusing resources in this area and, along with the other 6 district/borough councils participating in this County-wide First Time Central Heating: Warm Homes Hub initiative, we have agreed to use consistent qualifying gross household income levels, based on household composition. The qualifying gross household income for a family comprising 2 adults and 4 or more children is ≤£51,909 including all state benefits and an EPC rating of D or below.</p>		

<p>9.3 Do you charge for declarations to be signed? No If so, please state how much? N/A</p>	
<p><b>10. Smart Metering</b></p>	
10.1	<p><b>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits.</b></p> <p>NONE</p>
<p><i>The Council works with partners such as Citizens Advice, Nottingham Energy Partnership, Age UK Nottingham/Nottinghamshire, Marches Energy Agency and others, e.g. energy suppliers, to ensure smart meters are promoted to residents alongside other relevant energy saving measures.</i></p>	
10.2	<p><b>Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:</b></p> <p><b>a. Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation. Promoting the take-up smart meters and ensuring residents understand the benefits smart metering can bring is integrated into all home energy efficiency projects and initiatives supported by the Council.</b></p> <p><b>b. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises? No</b></p> <p><b>c. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake? No programme at present</b></p> <p><b>d. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes N/A</b></p>
<p>As reported in the Council's last HECA report in 2019, LAEP councils intend to promote the installation of second generation meters once they become widely available.</p> <p>Where appropriate for the householder, these will be offered as part of the Council's energy efficiency interventions, including clients assisted through the Warm Homes on Prescription programme and other wider fuel poor project offered to residents.</p>	
<p><b>11.0 Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives</b></p>	
11.1	<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>Nottinghamshire-based councils (county, city and district/boroughs) are working in partnership with a large energy supplier to deliver a joint initiative for the installation of first time gas central heating and gas connections in fuel poor off-gas homes.</p> <p>Newark &amp; Sherwood District Council has just completed a Warm Homes Fund scheme which fully funded first time gas connections and replaced expensive-to-run LPG/solid fuel heating systems and cooking appliances in 42 park homes within a deprived, ex coalfield area of the district. This follows an earlier successful Warm Homes Fund bid that enabled gas connections and first time central heating to replace old, expensive electric heating in 89 low income homes, half of which were owner occupied and half privately rented.</p> <p>We are currently considering whether it is feasible to develop a multi-council GHG LAD Phase 2 bid, buying-in expertise from Nottingham City Council's Energy Team to provide the additional human resource needed by smaller district/boroughs to help procure and project manage this short-term initiative.</p>	