

HOMES & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

10 JUNE 2019

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

To approve the content of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) draft report for 2019-21 ahead of its submission to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy via the electronic platform 'Survey Monkey' and its subsequent publication on the Council's website.

Appropriate Committee:

Homes & Communities Committee

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

Originally, it was planned to prepare the detailed HECA 2019 report for presentation at the March 2019 Homes & Communities Committee. However, significant changes to the reporting framework required by the Government and subsequent delays in the publication of their guidance/detailed set of questions means the revised reporting deadline (31 May 2019) now falls in between Committee meeting dates.

The Director Communities & Environment has therefore agreed to progress approval of the attached draft HECA 2019 report via the Council's Urgency procedure to facilitate submission and publication of the HECA 2019 report within the deadline of 31 May 2019.

Background

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all 326 local authorities (LA's) in England to submit bi-annual reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LA HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

HECA 2019 Reporting Implications

For 2019, BEIS is piloting the submission of reports via a digital platform. LAs have been asked to populate their HECA 2019 Report and submit materials via a Survey Monkey submission, the deadline for which has been extended to 31 May 2019 due to delayed publication of the final guidance/set of questions. Our proposed responses are attached. No other reporting material or submissions will be required but 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.

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.

Financial Impact

Submission and publication of the HECA report has no financial costs.

Equality Impact

It is not anticipated that the submission and publication of the HECA report will have any impact upon those with protected characteristics. (Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out on the individual projects outlined in the HECA report.)

Recommendation

To approve the content of the draft HECA report for 2019-21 (attached) so that it can be submitted to BEIS/published on the Council’s website ahead of 31 May 2019 deadline.

Members Consulted:

- Councillor David Lloyd**
- Councillor Tim Wendels**
- Councillor Mrs Rhona Holloway**
- Councillor Mrs Kathleen Arnold**

Signed

Date

HECA REPORTING 2019

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all 326 local authorities ('LA's) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

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 March 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 XML 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 LA engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

Green Local Supply Chain

- How LAs engage local businesses 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. 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: 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		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy & Home Support • Environmental Health • Newark & Sherwood Homes • Citizens Advice 		
Headline and Overview Questions		
1	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	(Y/N) Yes
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here: The Council has a 10 year carbon management plan (currently under review) and produces bi-annual HECA reports which are published on its website http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	(Y/N) N/A
4	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><i>Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Warm Homes on Prescription (WHOP) assists fuel poor owner-occupiers/private renters with long term, cold-sensitive health conditions by providing free heating systems, insulation, income maximisation advice, fuel tariff switching and other affordable warmth assistance to eligible households.</p> <p>The Council used ECO LA Flex to pilot a scheme to help owner occupiers insulate/heat their park home.</p> <p>Newark & Sherwood Homes has completed an external wall insulation programme; investing £550K each year replacing heating and £150K/annum on other energy efficiency improvement measures in social housing.</p> <p>We commission a local Debt Advice Service from Citizens Advice. Fuel poverty is one of the top reasons for household debt so they also provide an 'Energy Best Deal' service. In addition, they offer clients support with, e.g. checking eligibility for unclaimed benefit due to low income/disability, and support with claims for Warm Home Discount or Priority Services Register.</p> <p>The Council also subscribes to a public-facing communications service provided by Marches Energy Agency.</p> <p>The Nottinghamshire-wide Healthy Housing Programme offers energy efficiency advice and improvements for people over 60 and families with young children at risk from cold-related illnesses. Schemes completed in non-domestic, council-owned properties include the installation of smart meters, LED lighting and solar PV.</p>		

	<p>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')</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Working in partnership with Cadent, we have identified a suitable estate of private sector dwellings that are currently off the gas grid and without central heating systems. A bid has been submitted to the Warm Homes Fund (WHF) and, if successful, we propose to use a combination of ECO Flex and WHF to install first-time gas central heating systems in up to 89 private-sector homes within a deprived ward. This scheme is targeted at households in/at risk of fuel poverty and also disadvantaged by the fact they do not have access to mains gas and so use expensive electric heating.</p> <p>Newark & Sherwood Homes is planning to undertake more heating/energy efficiency improvement works in social housing stock in non-gas areas with the aim of bringing all of the Council's social housing stock up to EPC band C where practical. Energy efficiency/energy saving tips and advice is also provided to social housing tenants via Tenancy & Estates staff.</p> <p>All of the schemes outlined in 4a (including solar PV with battery storage & LED lighting to older non-domestic Council-owned properties) are expected to continue over the next two years, however, the Park Homes scheme is subject to Ofgem approval.</p>	
6	<p>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>Newark & Sherwood District Council works with a plethora of organisations to develop and deliver the fuel poverty alleviation schemes mentioned above, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • The Coal Industries Social Welfare Organisation • Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service • Local contractors such as Vinshire Plumbing & Heating Ltd. • Local insulation contractors such as Westville Insulation Ltd. • ECO funding providers and energy suppliers • Nottingham Energy Partnership • Marches Energy Agency • Landlords and letting agents • Councillors • Efficiency East Midlands 	
7	<p>What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation, 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</p>

	the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.	
	<p><i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>The schemes outlined above help to achieve improved health outcomes, alleviated/reduced fuel poverty and contribute towards both energy and carbon savings. (The non-domestic installations outlined in 4a have resulted in a year-on-year reduction in CO2 emissions of approximately 7%.) 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.</p> <p>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>Local Case Study</p> <p>MR lives independently with support from family members. After being referred for a home visit by the Council, Sherwood & Newark Citizens Advice identified that MR was entitled to a premium which raised her applicable income threshold, making her eligible for the guaranteed element of pension credit with corresponding pass-ported benefits, including core group Warm Home Discount and council tax support. Total income gains: £4,358 annually. Citizens Advice helped to identify competitive energy suppliers with the result that family members were enabled to secure the best tariff by supporting her to manage her account online. Predicted annual energy savings: £378.</p>	
8	What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?	
	<p><i>Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>Every property and household's circumstances are different and this determines whether referrals can be converted into installations, and the speed and cost of the intervention.</p> <p>Households in fuel poverty tend to under-heat their homes. Following the installation of an efficient central heating system/insulation measures, these householders will tend to either buy the same amount of energy as before to achieve more comfort for the same spend (health benefit but no energy and carbon saving) or buy less energy than before to achieve the same levels of comfort for less spend (energy and carbon saving but no health benefits).</p>	
	Local Communications Strategy	
9	Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	(Y/N) Yes
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 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 and health professionals.</p>	
11	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers? (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>The Council is a member of the Nottinghamshire & 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 which includes an informative website http://www.everybodys-talking.org, providing tips on energy efficiency and affordable warmth; tailored support is also given by MEA to community groups which are active in promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon reduction locally.</p> <p>Residents who contact the Council for energy efficiency advice are generally referred to the government-supported Simple Energy Advice website.</p>	
	Local Green Supply Chains	
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/N) Yes

13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> The Council promotes the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers through the various schemes outlined above.		
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?	
<i>Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> Local authorities across the county are using local heating and insulation contractors from a locally procured contractor framework. These contractors install fully funded measures to fuel poor residents through the Warm Homes on Prescription programme (WHOP) operating across Nottinghamshire, as outlined above. In addition, ECO measures (fully-funded and part-funded) are delivered through local supply chains.		
Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards		
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. These requirements will then 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). The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.		
15	Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018? (if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')	(Y/N) Yes
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	
<i>Free text response to question 16</i> Environmental Health		
17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<i>Free text response to question 17</i> Alan Batty (Business Manager, Environmental Health & Licensing). Email: alan.batty@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<i>Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> Newark & Sherwood District Council works with Mansfield and Ashfield District Councils, and the main national landlord associations, to deliver a Landlord Forum to those with property portfolios across the 3 areas. Issues surrounding energy efficiency have been considered, together with on-going changes to statutory obligations placed on the sector (e.g. minimum EPC standards and the relationship with the Housing Health & Safety Rating system, practical ways to improve energy efficiency and the financial assistance available). Tenants have proved more difficult to target, despite a proactive advertising campaign, so help is given on a case-by-case basis and is often complaint-led.		
19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? If yes, how? If no, please explain.	(Y/N) No
<i>Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> N/A NSDC protocol is to request a copy of the EPC in all complaints by tenants against their Landlord. This targeted response complements the proactive work taken by this Authority. NSDC are also exploring opportunities for joint working with Trading Standards as part of a County Wide response.		
Financial Support for Energy Efficiency		

20	<p>What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.</p> <p>(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')</p>		
<p><i>Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>The county-wide Warm Homes on Prescription programme (WHOP) established in 2016-17 is delivered locally by Newark and Sherwood District Council to its residents. 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 benefit 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) and this has enabled all installations to be fully funded so at no cost to eligible households. In the two year period 2017-19, capital funding for this programme has amounted to circa £200K.</p> <p>The local pilot park homes scheme has resulted in the replacement of 7 old, inefficient boilers and the installation of external wall insulation to the combined ECO LA Flex grant value of £16,560.</p> <p>If the recently-submitted Warm Homes Fund bid is successful, it should result in circa £500K worth of inward investment for new gas connections & first-time gas central heating systems in an ex-coalfield community area that could benefit up to 89 low income households.</p>			
<p>Fuel Poverty</p>			
21	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="180 936 1169 1093"> <p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>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.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1177 936 1445 1093"> <p>(Y/N)</p> <p>Yes</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(Y/N)</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>(Y/N)</p> <p>Yes</p>		
<p><i>Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words</i></p> <p>The Council's priorities, ambitions, achievements and plans are summarised in our bi-annual HECA report (http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/energy/homeenergyconservationact/) 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>Whilst less funding and resources are available to assist the broader fuel poor population, councils' strategies aim to guide and help 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 support this broader group of residents to access available local and national grants to help subsidise the repair or replacement of heating systems, install insulation and undertake energy cost saving actions.</p>			
22	<p>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</p>		
<p><i>Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></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</p>			

network of trusted partner organisations that deliver frontline services such as environmental health officers, health & social care professionals and consumer advice organisations.

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 events.

Park Home residents are at relatively high risk of fuel poverty and have been recently targeted for Warm Homes Discount payments. The Council wrote to residents reminding them that they need to apply for the grant directly to the charity, Charis, as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

23 How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if appropriate)

Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words

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.

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.

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)

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

In 2017-18, the LAEP 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 have subsequently promoted the offer on the council's website.

The WHOP project (via its partnership with Citizens Advice Sherwood & Newark) and the Healthy Housing projects both offer fuel tariff switching advice and support on a bespoke basis to households in fuel poverty.

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)

Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words

N/A

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	Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.	(Y/N) Yes
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[SOI 1](#)
[SOI 2](#)
[SOI 3](#)

26	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.
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Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words
 Since 2018, Newark & Sherwood District Council has signed a total of 13 ECO Flex Declarations (11 for park homes) which have resulted in 9 households being helped (7 were residents living permanently in a park home and 2 were replacement oil boilers linked to the Warm Homes on Prescription project). The total ECO LA Flex grant contribution gained as a result of these declarations was £23,660.87

Smart Metering

27	Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to: 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, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.
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Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.
 In 2016, LAEP councils participated in Smart Energy GB training delivered by National Energy Action.
 In 2017, district and borough councils across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire took the collective decision not to promote smart metering to residents until second generation meters are widely available. This was due to negative feedback from residents and widely publicised reporting of the inability of first generation smart meters to retain their smart functionality following any change in the fuel tariff provider.
 Local councils think that while smart meters may result in reduced energy use due to a change in energy using behaviour, any consequent cost savings are likely to be less than savings resulting from switching to a cheaper energy provider.

28	Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to: 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 Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project or other sources of independent information.
<p><i>Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>As reported in the Council’s last HECA report in 2017, LAEP councils intend to promote the installation of second generation meters once they become widely available. 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>	
29	Please detail any: 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><i>Free text response to question 29 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>	
30	Please detail any: 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><i>Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>Currently Newark & Sherwood Homes, the councils housing management company, do not but are exploring opportunities with SSE around installing smart meters during void periods.</p>	
<p>Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives</p>	
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’).
<p><i>Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words</i></p> <p>LAEP councils, comprising county, city and district/boroughs, are working together to consider a joint bid for funding for the installation of first time gas central heating and gas connections in fuel poor off-gas homes. They are considering whether to work with an energy utility company to bid for funding from the Warm Homes Fund, matched with the utility’s ECO funding but the resources needed to drive and project manage this initiative are of concern, particularly in the current economic climate that councils are facing.</p> <p>Newark & Sherwood Homes plans to continue to invest circa £550K per annum upgrading/replacing heating systems and £150K/year in other energy efficiency improvement measures, targeting the least energy efficient homes within its current social housing stock (particularly those in off-gas/conservation areas) with the aim of achieving a minimum EPC rating of ‘C’ where practical to do so.</p>	