

# Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 2021

## High Peak Borough Council

### 1. Introductory Questions

***Name of Local Authority***

High Peak Borough Council

***Type of Local Authority***

Borough

***Name, job title and email address of official submitting report***

David Smith, Head of Communities and Climate Change, [david.smith@highpeak.gov.uk](mailto:david.smith@highpeak.gov.uk)

### 2. Headline and Overview

***Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?***

***If yes, please provide a link:*** N/A

***If no, are you planning to develop one?***

Yes; we are looking to formulate a 'Decarbonise Strategy' at the end of 2021.

***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?***

We have submitted a proposal into the Green Homes Grant LAD Phase 2 scheme (May 2021) detailing how we would use the allocated funds. We intend to upgrade approx. 45 of our social housing properties that have an EPC rating of E, F or G and look to install energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation, double and triple glazing, new cavity wall insulation and alternative forms of low carbon heating.

***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?***

HPBC's allocation under phase 2 of the GHG LAD was £445,000 with an additional £40,050 capitalisation allowance. The grant funding allows the Council to focus on its own housing stock, but requires the Council, as landlord, to make a 33% contribution to the capital costs. Assuming the full capital grant is utilised, this would require the Council to contribute £146,850 to the scheme. Additional staff will need to be recruited to ensure the delivery and administration of the scheme. At this stage this would be a temporary or "contractor" post funded from the grant. With the potential

for further schemes in future, consideration should be given to the need for permanent posts to be created to support delivery of this work.

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

We have had support from both the Midlands Energy Hub, the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Authority Energy Partnership and Marches Energy Agency. MEH has produced a “Dynamic Purchasing System” (DPS) which aims to be a central resource for LAs in the area to procure contractors with the current skills base and accreditations. MEA has been contracted to provide the Customer Journey Support element of GHG LAD Phase 2.

***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.***

The main outcomes of the scheme will be the installation of energy efficiency measures that will help reduce energy bills in those properties whilst at the same time helping to reduce carbon emissions and therefore contributing to the Council's 2030 net zero target.

### **3. Communications**

***Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy?***

***If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken:***

HPBC do not directly provide advisory services in regards to energy to our customers. Residents who contact the council for energy efficiency advice are generally referred to the government-supported Simple Energy Advice website or Marches Energy Agency.

***How do you communicate or encourage energy savings amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses:***

We have a section on our website dedicated to Energy Efficiency and Advice. Here, our customers can find information on grants, programmes and advice on how to save energy and switch providers. There are also links to external sources of help and information which include Uswitch, Simple Energy Advice, Marches Energy Agency and Citizens Advice.

#### **Domestic consumers**

The council is a member of the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership (LAEP) which commissions the delivery of an ongoing publicity campaign to raise awareness and encourage action on domestic energy efficiency. The charity, MEA, are currently delivering the 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 at a local level.

### **Local businesses**

In Derbyshire the DE-Carbonise project provides free support for small to medium-sized businesses to help them reduce their carbon emissions, through energy use, how they travel and recycling and material re-use. The team provides site visits, recommendation reports and carbon reduction grants. To date nearly £460,000 of grants have been awarded to Derbyshire businesses. The project is heavily promoted by local business advisors and also through local business networks <https://www.derby.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-change-energy-management/de-carbonise/business/>

The Energy For Business programme, based at Nottingham University, supports small and medium sized enterprises (SME) located in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to become energy innovators or more energy efficient. Delivered by the Energy Innovation and Collaboration team and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, this low-carbon innovation project offers product research and development, business support and capital funding. <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/research-areas/energy-technologies/business-support/index.aspx>

We provide a Business newsletter that contains information on funding for energy saving/carbon reduction and events. There is always a 'clean growth' feature – which includes relevant topics - High Peak - Currently have 1317 registered readers

The Council has a webpage called 'Improving your environmental performance' which details support and available funding. Our business funding pages feature all sources of funding available to businesses which can support conversion to low carbon. Our communications team will often feature business focused grants in social media posts to raise awareness.

The Council has recently applied for funding from the Community Renewal Fund which, if successful, will provide grant funding for low carbon equipment for small businesses and farmers.

## **4. Local Green Supply Chain**

***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.***

No

***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.***

None

**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?**

None

**If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered.**

**How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers?**

**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?**

We are looking to formulate a Decarbonise Strategy towards the end of 2021.

## **5. Social Housing**

**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?**

We have recently submitted a proposal into the GHG LAD Phase 2 scheme to install energy efficiency measures in some of our worst EPC rated properties (rated E, F, G). We are hoping to install measures such as Loft Insulation, Double and Triple Glazing windows and doors, new or replacement/upgrade of Cavity Wall Insulation.

**Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings)**

Yes – we have a Housing Asset Management Database (Keystone)

**If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information?**

N/A

**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?**

***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?***

***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?***

***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?***

***Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate?***

## **6. Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards**

***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?***

Yes

***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.***

Environmental Health

Mike Towers - Senior Officer (Housing, Public Health & Licensing)

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***What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?***

Website information; inclusion of information in all correspondence with landlords; information through the landlord accreditation scheme

**What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)?**

**Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? If yes, how? If no, please explain:**

We respond reactively to issues relating to properties with F and G ratings when we visit as a result of tenant complaints, and where such ratings occur we engage with landlords to encourage improvements.

We offer a grant through the landlord accreditation scheme for members to improve thermal efficiency in their properties.

Going forward we will be using an analysis of EPC data undertaken by the LAEP to help identify and target private rented properties which fall below Band E

**Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing).**

**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.**

None

**What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for?**

If successful with proposal into the GHG LAD Phase 2 scheme we hope to install energy efficiency measures into some of our social housing properties; those with EPC ratings of E, F and G and hope to upgrade these properties with energy efficiency measures such as loft insulation, double and triple glazing and doors, upgrade or new cavity wall insulation and low carbon heating. High Peak Borough Council will make an investment of £146,850.00 (33% landlord contribution) in addition to the allocated funds of £485,050.00 if the proposal is successful.

## **7. Fuel Poverty**

**Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?**

No

**What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty?**

The Derbyshire Healthy Home programme identifies, targets and assists the most vulnerable fuel poor residents, as outlined above. Clients are referred into the programme by a network of trusted partner organisations which deliver frontline services including social workers, district housing officers, environmental health officers, welfare rights officers, home improvement agencies, NHS staff and community safety officers.

Park Home residents are at relative high risk of fuel poverty and have been recently targeted for Warm Homes Discount (WHD) payments. The council updated their website to highlight the need for Park Home residents to apply through Charis Grants for a WHD payment.

***How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?***

Currently, High Peak Community Housing do not have a fuel poverty strategy or a Carbon Reduction Strategy

***Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area.***

***What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have.***

Through the Derbyshire Healthy Homes programme we ensure that those in vulnerable households can access ECO or ECO flex, via various energy suppliers (eligibility dependant).

In addition we also have a dedicated section on our website, Energy Efficiency and Advice, where customers can find links to possible sources of support including MEA and Simple Energy Advice.. Here they can request support for helping to switch providers, energy debt advice and advice on cutting energy costs within the home.

## **8. Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery**

*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.*

***Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD? If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project.***

High Peak Borough Council submitted a proposal into Phase 2 of the GHG LAD scheme.

***If no, please indicate what barriers prevented you from participation in the scheme:***

N/A

***Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022?***

***If yes, please indicate the anticipated number of homes that could be upgraded per year:***

***If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area:***

## **9. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

*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 ECO “Local Authority flexible eligibility” (LA 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 in the LA Flex programme are required to issue a Statement of Intent (SOI) 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.*

***Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SOI) for ECO flexibility eligibility?***

No. The statement of intent used within the High Peak borough, for flex declarations, is produced by the Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme on behalf of Derbyshire County Council and in partnership with 8 Derbyshire district councils - published 21st August 2017.

It can be viewed online at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/social-health/health-and-wellbeing/your-health/flexible-eligibility-statement-of-intent.pdf>

*Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail:*

***How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households?***

Five



***How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households?***

Two

***How many declarations were issued for in-fill?***

None

***What is the highest income cap published in your SOI?***

£26,000 net household income after tax/NI and housing costs (mortgage/rent) for two adults or more

***If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason have you given?***

Households may have a gross income of over £30k but fuel poverty is affected by an ability to pay for fuel and this is affected by disposable household income i.e. net income. Removing tax and mortgage/rent provides a more accurate reflection of income available to pay for fuel.

***Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much:***

N/A

## **10. Smart Metering**

*Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits:*

*Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:*

- *Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation.*
- *Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises.*
- *Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake.*
- *Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes.*
- *Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons.*
- *Other supporting activities.*

## **11. Future Schemes and Wider Incentives**

*Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation:*