

# HECA Reporting 2023

## HECA 2023 Introductory Questions

- Name of Local Authority - Lancaster City Council
- Type of Local Authority – District Authority
- Name, job title and email address of official submitting report – Jo Wilkinson, Chief Officer – Housing and Property, jowilkinson@lancaster.gov.uk

## Headline and Overview

Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

- No

Q2. If yes, please provide a link.

- N/A

Q3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

- Yes, within 1 year.

Q4. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented.

- Lancaster City Council is a member of the Cosy Homes in Lancashire Affordable Warmth Scheme set up by the Lancashire Local Authorities in 2013. Together we bid for funding and have delivered the following schemes in the last 2 years: - LAD1b - £2.85m; LAD2 - £22.8m; HUG1 - £1.63m; HUG2 - £41m (ongoing); SHDF Wave 1 - £1.2m; SHDF Wave 2.1 - £5.6m (ongoing); Affordable Warmth Funding from Lancashire County Council - £1m each year (funding distributed between the 12 District Authorities); Lancaster City Council also has the provision of £300,000pa for energy efficiency works within its budgets for energy efficiency measures within its own Council housing stock.

Q5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply.

- Energy savings,
- Carbon savings,
- Job creation
- Increased business competitiveness
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes
- Other - All of the above plus:
  - Reduced demand on health and social care
  - Improvement in housing standards
  - Social Value

## Consumer Advice and Information

Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

- Yes

Q7. If yes, please select all that apply;

- Local Authority website
- Local advisory service
- ‘Find ways to save energy in your home’ (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website
- ‘*Find ways to save energy in your home*’ gov.uk phonenumber
- Leaflets
- Social media
- Local energy hubs
- Other - All of the above plus:
  - Cosy Homes in Lancashire website
  - Organised bespoke Cosy Homes in Lancashire Events
  - Joining third sector Organisations events
  - Cross referral across services – i.e. Home Improvement agency, Household Support Fund

### **Local Retrofit Supply Chain**

Q8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

- Yes

Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

- Lack of accredited retrofit installers and capacity, specifically outside ECO
- Lack of retrofit training facilities / institutions
- Lack of materials
- Cost of materials
- Prohibitive accreditation procedure, particularly for local, smaller businesses
- Short term nature of funding opportunities

Q10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply:

- Supporting training provision at local training providers
- Supporting FE colleges to improve facilities or train trainers or otherwise enable better delivery of retrofit training.
- Providing installer networking opportunities or other business support for growing companies.
- All of the above plus:
  - Robust on-boarding procedure open to all Lancashire based installers / feedback to support contractors in becoming accredited.
  - Competitive schedule of rates
  - CHiL marketing activities to generate continuous pipeline of work
  - Fair disbursement of work / contractors

- Emphasis on use of Lancashire based installers / manufacturers adding Social Value

Q11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

- Yes

Q12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

- Yes – but rarely.

Q13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

- No

Q14. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

N/A

Q15. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

N/A

### **Social Housing Decarbonisation**

Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- Yes, and successful in securing funding

Q17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.

- Financial support for retrofit
- Technical support for retrofit
- Tenant needs
- Expectations of future energy performance regulations
- Other – please tell us your motivation(s) for applying:

All of the above plus:

- Need for improved housing stock
  - Impacts of living in a cold home has on health
  - Lancashire figures for fuel poverty
  - Cost of living crisis

Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?

N/A

Q19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- Yes

Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- Internal funding

Q21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work?

Please select all that apply.

N/A

Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF? Lancaster City Council applied in our own right as a stock-retained authority. Within Lancashire three housing associations applied that we are aware of (Regenda, Progress Housing and Onward Homes). These SHDF bids cover properties in Blackpool, South Ribble, Lancaster, Hyndburn, Robble Valley, Fylde, Chorley, Wyre and Preston.

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

Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

- Yes

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- Yes

Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

- Yes, and I've used it

Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- 364

Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

322

Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

61

Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

11

### **Green Home Finance**

Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

- Within Lancashire Boiler Upgrade Scheme (signposting)

Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- No

Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- No

### **Fuel Poverty**

Q33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- No

Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

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

All of the above plus:

- Cosy Homes in Lancashire website
- Organised bespoke Cosy Homes in Lancashire Events
- Joining third sector Organisations events
- Cross referral across services – i.e. Home Improvement agency, Household Support Fund

Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.
- Other

All of the above plus:

- Lancashire County Council Affordable Warmth Funding to District Councils
- Shared Prosperity Fund
- Connected for Warmth, CIC, ECO, ECO Flex, GBIS, LEAP
- Cosy Homes in Lancashire Community Interest Company
- Energy Advice
- Home visits / EPC visits
- Little Van of Warm handy person scheme
- Training
- Cross referrals
- NHS social prescribing
- Employ Energy Advice Officer in Lancaster City Council – Council Housing
- Employ Energy Retrofit Technical Officer within Lancaster City Council – Home Improvement Agency.

Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

- No

- If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?
- Yes currently being considered.

### **Local Authority Delivery**

Q37. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- Yes

Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

N/A

### **Home Upgrade Grant**

Q40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

- Yes

Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking.

N/A

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

Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

- Yes

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

Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3? 56

Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

56

Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

0

Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your SoI?

£30,000

Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

N/A

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- No

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

N/A

Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

- Yes

Q52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

N/A

Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)?

- No

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

N/A

Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

- All four routes

### **Smart Metering**

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

Q56a. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

- Yes

Q57b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

N/A

Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- Yes

Q59b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

N/A

Q60a. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

- No

Q61b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

This is not generally done during the void period as there isn't time to get them done on a normal void. We find that most properties have smart meters now. When the in-going tenant registers for the supply OVO will normally arrange an appointment for any meter swaps to take place. There are some properties where smart meters can be installed but you

cannot get remote readings etc from them due to their location and the thickness of the walls around them. There are very few properties with old style meters now. All incoming tenants are supported by a visit from the Councils - Energy Advice Officer as standard.