

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report 2019

Name of Local Authority: City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Type of Local Authority:

- District/Borough/City Council
- County Council
- Unitary Authority
- London Borough
- ✓ Metropolitan Borough

Name and contact details of official submitting the report:

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Job title of official submitting the report: Team Leader, Housing Policy and Energy

Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: Energy and Homeowner Support Team leading with support from the Housing Enforcement and Standards, Housing and Neighbourhood Improvement and the Enterprise and Communication Team.

Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE) broken down by team if possible: Energy and Home Owner Support Team (2.5 FTE), Housing Enforcement and Standards (4 FTE), Housing and Neighbourhood Improvement (6 FTE) and the Enterprise and Communication Team (2 FTE).

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?	Yes (covered in-part in the Wakefield Energy Plan)
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here: http://mg.wakefield.gov.uk/documents/s89905/Energy%20Plan%20Cabinet%20Report%208%20May%2018%20-%20Annex%201.pdf	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	N/A

4a	<p>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>
<p><i>Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Better Homes Wakefield – Leeds City Region (LCR) 'Better Homes Yorkshire' (BHY) Framework Scheme provides Council endorsed insulation/heating improvement services through ENGIE Regeneration.</p> <p>BeWarm Wakefield – using Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Flex funding this scheme supported 112 owner occupied residents to install 123 insulation measures during 2018.</p> <p>Castleford External Wall Insulation Scheme – using £900k Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding, this scheme (delivered during 2017/18) supported 76 private residents to install external wall insulation.</p> <p>Wakefield Warm Homes Fund (WHF) – using £118k WHF funding this scheme nears completion (launched summer 2018) and will support 40 fuel poor private residents to install 'first time' gas central heating systems.</p> <p>WYCA WHF – supported with £102k through a LCR consortium bid, this scheme (launched early 2018) is nearing completion and will support 30 private residents to install 'first time' gas central heating systems.</p> <p>Fuel Poverty Fund (FPF) (two 2018/19 schemes) – one £80k LGF/£20k Council funded; and the other with £100k Better Care Fund 'Winter Pressures' funding - this scheme has supported 62 fuel poor households with new gas boilers/central heating.</p> <p>Energy Savers Loan – Council funded/endorsed interest free loan through the Leeds City Credit Union that supported 62 private properties to install insulation and heating improvements during 2018/19.</p>	
4b	<p>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>

Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words

Better Homes Wakefield (BHY) – this scheme, which provides Council endorsed insulation and heating improvement services will continue to be implemented over the next two years.

ECO Flex Scheme – the Council will deliver an ECO Flex funded free/subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation scheme, which will include Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO) heating measures.

Energy Savers Loan – this Council funded/endorsed interest free loan will continue to support owner occupied/private rented properties with energy efficiency improvements over the next two years.

FPF – an additional £200k of Council funding has been allocated to re-launch this scheme, which will provide fuel poor households with gas boilers/central heating over the next two years. Further additional funding may be identified during 2019-21 to deliver an enhanced scheme and support more residents.

Home Energy Efficiency Hardship Fund (HEEHF) – a new pilot scheme, which will part-fund resident contributions towards able-to-pay/Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded heating and insulation improvements, during 2018/19. Funded with £25k Council funding this scheme may be rolled out in to 2020/21.

Private Rented Sector Package – a bespoke support package targeting the private rented sector including interest free loans for insulation/heating improvements and tenant energy advice will be rolled out in 2018/19.

5

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? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.

Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Better Homes Wakefield – joint ECO/customer contribution funded and administered by WYCA (covered by an installation management fee). Funding values entirely dependent on take-up.

ECO Flex Scheme – scheme delivered via BHY so the position is as above.

Energy Savers Loan – delivery costs are entirely dependent on take-up and administration is covered by an undisclosed grant to Leeds City Credit Union.

FPF and HEEHF – delivered using £200k and £25k Council's funding respectively and coordinated by the Energy and Homeowner Support Team (2.5FTE).

Private Rented Sector Package – delivered by the Energy and Homeowner Support Team (2.5 FTE) and includes the Energy Savers Loan.

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>All of the Council's home energy efficiency improvement schemes are delivered via the BHY Framework Scheme, which is managed by WYCA and delivered by ENGIE Regeneration through its sub-contractors, who also have their own separate relationships with ECO funding utility partners.</p> <p>Schemes are delivered in partnership with the Council's 'Wakefield Affordable Warmth Partnership' (WAWP), which includes Groundwork, Public Health, NOVA (third sector membership organisation), Age UK, WDH (Wakefield and District housing), CCG and West Yorkshire Fire Service. The Council works with these partners to promote its schemes through referral pathway networks.</p>	
7	<p>What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, 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 the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>In 2018 the Council developed a detailed system of outcome indicators to measure the qualitative impact of its home energy efficiency and fuel poverty improvement schemes. This system focusses on four key indicators, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel poverty reduction • Fuel costs reduction • Income increase • Energy efficiency improvement <p>The outcome indicators also includes the use of a pre and post Health Impact Assessment (developed with the Council's Public Health Team) in order to monitor impact on resident health and wellbeing.</p> <p>This system is currently being implemented and involves systematic 12months follow up data collection therefore a full suite of data is not available as yet but will be later in 2019 for the first scheme delivery period.</p> <p>Early data that can be reported through modelling includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency - 9.2 SAP increase achieved through the Castleford External Wall Insulation Scheme; • Energy efficiency – 67 residents benefitting from an increase in EPC band as a result of scheme improvements. 	

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The more expensive/intrusive energy efficiency improvement schemes, e.g. external wall insulation, it is essential to provide detailed installation advice at the outset to minimise customer issues/complaints. • There is significant demand for gas boiler upgrades but vulnerable residents often do not have the means to fund or arrange this work. • There remains much potential for basic measures but they are hard to find and must be both simple to access and subsidised to deliver any volume in the 'able-to-pay' market. • Door-to-door promotion or an 'area based approach' continues to be the most effective and efficient strategy to deliver energy efficiency measures. 		
Local Communications Strategy		
9	Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	Yes
10	If yes to question 9, 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's Energy and Homeowner Support Team has a telephone hotline that provides energy advice and leaflets. Local residents can access energy advice information and web links on the Council's website. Face-to-face energy advice is also provided at community events and presentations.</p> <p>The Council's Enterprise and Communications Team refer businesses to the WYCA Resource Efficiency Fund (REF) and since November 2016, 63 businesses in the Wakefield district have been engaged through the REF.</p> <p>The Energy and Homeowner Support Team is currently exploring setting up a new service to provide local businesses with advice and support to save energy.</p>		
11	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')	

Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The Energy and Homeowner Support Team delivers a resident focussed communications plan, which includes community events and presentations, social media posts, press releases and direct marketing. Residents are also encouraged to save energy through a range of schemes that reduce the cost and hassle of making insulation and heating improvements.

The Enterprise and Communications Team promotes the REF to local businesses, which provides energy advice, surveys and capital grants. Since November 2016, 20 surveys and 10 capital grants (£61,927) have been provided to Wakefield district businesses through the REF resulting in 186k tCO2 and 730k kWh direct grant savings.

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')	Yes
13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	

Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Through the energy advice channels and communications plan outlined above the Energy and Homeowner Support Team encourage the use of energy efficient appliances and lighting to save energy and money. The schemes the Council operates promotes the use of energy efficient condensing boilers and insulation measures.

The Enterprise and Communications Team's work to promote the WYCA Resource Efficiency Fund involves promoting and supporting businesses to install energy efficient equipment and technology.

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?
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Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The Council engages with ENGIE Regeneration and its subcontractor supply chain through the delivery of home energy efficiency insulation and heating improvement schemes. The delivery specifications set through BHY and other schemes promote the delivery of energy efficient models and carbon saving materials.

As outlined above, the Council, via its Enterprise and Communications Team's key account work, promotes the WYCA Resource Efficiency Fund which supports the installation of energy efficiency improvements.

The Council's Energy Plan sets carbon saving targets for the authority and includes wider district-wide carbon reduction activity, which demonstrates commitment and promotes this agenda to local businesses.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards		
<p>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. This requirement 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).</p> <p>The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.</p>		
15	<p>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')</p>	Yes
16	<p>Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?</p>	Housing Enforcement and Standards Team
<p><i>Free text response to question 16</i></p> <p>A team of Enforcement Officers based within the Housing Enforcement and Standards Team, Strategic Housing and Regeneration, are responsible for enforcing a range of PRS standards, which includes Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES).</p>		
17	<p>Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i></p> <p>David Fowles Team Leader, Growth and Delivery Strategic Housing and Regeneration Wakefield Council Wakefield One Burton Street Wakefield WF1 2EB 01924 3056665 dfowles@wakefield.gov.uk</p>		
18	<p>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</p>	

Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The Council's Housing Enforcement and Standards Team, through their reactive activity when responding to PRS complaints, communicate MEES standards to landlords and tenants. The Council is also carrying out area based PRS targeted work, which includes fuel poverty alleviation and improving energy efficiency standards.

The Council's 'Wakefield Responsible Landlord Scheme' (WRLS) encourages improved PRS standards and has minimum EPC membership standards (band E). WRLS sends out a regular newsletter to its members, which is also used to raise awareness of MEES.

WRLS and the Energy and Homeowner Support Team send out email bulletins to communicate with all landlords regarding MEES.

19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? If yes, how? If no, please explain.	No
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Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The Council's strategy is to encourage and drive-up PRS standards on the whole, including MEES, and this is achieved by promoting WRLS and increasing its membership. The Council has assessed where best to target its limited resources and its strategy is focussed on delivering a comprehensive programme of reactive and proactive landlord enforcement, responding to complaints, as well as rolling out HMO licensing.

Properties with poor energy efficiency standards and cold hazards are identified and targeted with enforcement action through the area based PRS targeted work the Housing Enforcement and Standards Team are delivering.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

20	What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, 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')
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Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Information outlined already at question 4b and 5.

Better Homes Wakefield – district-wide promoted Council endorsed insulation and heating improvement services jointly funded via ECO/customer contributions.

ECO Flex Scheme – ECO Flex/customer contribution funded loft/cavity wall insulation scheme, including HHCRO heating measures, that is targeted at deprived areas in order to fit with the Council's Statement of Intent.

Energy Savers Loan – this was pump primed several years ago with £750k of Council funding, which covers the interest and loans are recycled. It is promoted in deprived areas and alongside BHY and other schemes where customer contributions are required towards measures.

FPF – £200k of Council funding has been allocated to operate this scheme for two years (2019-21) and it will be targeted at the vulnerable/fuel poor and promoted via our partner referral networks.

HEEHF – £25k of Council funding has been allocated to pilot this new scheme during 2019/20. It will be promoted through our BHY contractor delivery partnerships and targeted at deprived/fuel poor areas due to the link with ECO Flex delivery.

Private Rented Sector Package – this new support package targeted at PRS landlords will include interest free loans and the funding is covered as part of the Energy Savers Loan above.

Fuel Poverty

21	<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>	Yes
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Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words

The Council has in place its 'Wakefield Affordable Warmth Charter', launched in October 2016. This strategic document follows on from the 'Wakefield Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-10' and the 'Wakefield Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2011-16'. These strategies have been developed, delivered and overseen by the WAWP, which is a multiagency group of fuel poverty stakeholders established 2001.

The Charter is an innovative new approach to tackling fuel poverty – it outlines the Council's five key strategic objectives to eradicate fuel poverty in the Wakefield district and encourages key partners and stakeholders to sign-up and make a pledge to deliver action through their service delivery to work towards eradicating fuel poverty.

The Charter can be accessed here: <http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/community-housing/housing/affordable-warmth/affordable-warmth-charter.pdf>

The Charter covers all domestic properties in the Wakefield district and it is focussed on the following priorities:

1. Energy efficient homes – improving home energy efficiency to reduce fuel bills and cold homes;
2. Awareness and education – raising awareness of how to save energy and what schemes are available;
3. Affordable energy – supporting households to switch energy suppliers and access cheaper tariffs;
4. Partnership working - building links with stakeholders to target and reach those most in need and maximise resources;
5. Influencing the affordable warmth agenda – shape the agenda and raise the profile of fuel poverty on a local and national level.

The Charter, via WAWP, brings together key stakeholders who are able to support the promotion of Council and other fuel poverty schemes and the targeting of low income and vulnerable residents. These schemes include the FPF, HEEHF, ECO Flex Scheme and the Energy Savers Loan that the Council provides but also other externally provided hardship funds, grants and schemes.

22

**What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty?
(enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)**

Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words

As fuel poverty is a key part of the eligibility criteria for the majority of Council schemes fuel poverty status is assessed as part of resident applications. The Council employs a standard proxy definition, adopted by all WYCA BHY local authorities, to determine fuel poverty, which is used for all schemes.

The Council's 2016 Private Sector Condition Survey provides detailed information down to Lower Super Output level on SAP ratings, low income, cold homes and fuel poverty and elderly households. This data indicates that there is a strong correlation between fuel poverty and low income households, deprivation and poor energy efficiency standards. This data is used to identify and target residents in fuel poverty and in most need of Council schemes.

The Council has a database (UNO) populated with EPCs, WDH stock and scheme installation data, which is used to identify residents at risk of fuel poverty and other energy efficiency and property characteristics to target schemes.

Through WAWP stakeholders that deliver frontline services identify vulnerable residents at risk of fuel poverty through their day-to-day work and refer them for support to the Energy and Homeowner Support Team.

23

How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

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

Work to alleviate fuel poverty is included in the Council's Energy Plan, approved in May 2018, as part of the wider district strategic energy strategy work. This Plan focusses on reducing the organisation's energy consumption and carbon emissions and includes a long term carbon reduction target. The current fuel poverty related actions in the Plan are to 'deliver an ongoing programme of home energy efficiency improvement schemes' and to 'develop and deliver a Council endorsed competitive domestic energy tariff for local residents'. This activity is primarily focused on reducing the risk of fuel poverty, however, the contribution towards carbon reduction is recognised, which is why it features in the Plan.

24a

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

The Council is piloting a scheme called 'Money Smart', launched September 2018, for 12 months. 'Money Smart' resulted from a review (late 2017) of how the Council addresses fuel poverty. This highlighted that, as low incomes are a major fuel poverty driver in the District, a more effective approach would be to deliver a holistic package of support including income maximisation and money saving alongside more traditional energy advice and efficiency measures. 'Money Smart' provides a market comparison and fuel switching support as well as energy efficiency improvements, money and debt advice, benefit checks and job skills and training.

The Council has previously delivered a collective switching project using DECC 'Cheaper Energy Together' funding with over 1,000 local residents signing-up. During 2019/20, the Council will be setting up an endorsed competitive energy tariff by signing-up to the Leeds City Council 'White Rose Energy' 'white label' offer (rebrand Robin Hood Energy).

The Energy and Homeowner Support Team deliver fuel cost advice via its energy advice line and face-to-face at community events. Vulnerable residents are also referred to the Council's Financial Welfare Team, who as part of the Council's 'Welfare Provision' provide emergency electricity prepayment meter credit for those in desperate need.

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

The 'Money Smart' scheme described above has been promoted and publicised to local residents through local businesses via the Council's Economic Growth Team's promotional channels.

The setting-up of the Council endorsed domestic energy tariff later this year will involve signing-up to the Leeds City Council 'White Rose Energy' 'white label' provided by Robin Hood Energy and provided by Nottingham City Council.

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	<p>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</p>	Yes
<p><i>Link to Sol:</i> http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/housing/energy/heca-further-report</p> <p>It is important to note that the Council is in the process of updating its Sol to take account of ECO3 and other changes. The updated version will replace the one currently available via the link above.</p>		
26	<p>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.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>The delivery of ECO Flex in the Wakefield district, via the current Sol, issued in July 2017, has proved to be very effective with just over 100 declarations issued to date. The ability to set local criteria in line with local priorities, as well as the declaration process, although bureaucratic, has worked well. For example, ECO Flex funding has enabled the delivery of 123 cavity/loft insulation measures through the Council's 'BeWarm Wakefield' scheme during 2018, with all but one household benefitting from fully funded measures.</p> <p>ECO Flex and ECO in general, however, could be made more effective and straight forward to deliver if the qualifying criteria was adapted and changed to be more flexible, which would in turn support more fuel poor households with measures. For example, HHCRO is restricted to funding replacement boilers that are beyond economical repair, whereas it would be more effective if it were able to support a broader range of cases with boiler/heating improvements as this would support a more streamlined scheme delivery process and benefit more fuel poor residents.</p>		
<p>Smart Metering</p>		
27	<p>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, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.</p>	

Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

As outlined in question 24a, the Council engages with local residents to provide fuel tariff and switching advice and support through 'Money Smart'.

The energy advice that the Energy and Homeowner Support Team provide, via their telephone hotline, on the Council website and face-to-face at community events, covers no-cost and behaviour change measures that residents can employ to control the energy they use in their homes. This energy advice also includes information on smart meters and the benefits to their installation.

Smart meters will be standard service provision and offered to all local residents signing-up to 'White Rose Energy' tariff, that the Council is signing-up to later in 2019.

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| 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. |
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Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

As outlined in question 27, the Council plans to join 'White Rose Energy' later in 2019 and this will include offering smart meters to residents that sign-up to the tariff. Promotion of 'White Rose Energy' will be integrated in to all Energy and Homeowner Support Team's services and schemes as cross-promotion. For example, residents that apply for FPF heating grants will also receive information on 'White Rose Energy' and therefore the ability to have smart meters installed.

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| 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). |
|-----------|---|

Free text response to question 29 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

As outlined in questions 4a and 4b, the Council has in place or has planned schemes that will support vulnerable and low income residents with heating repairs and improvements where appliances have been condemned:

- The FPF is specifically designed to support low income fuel poor residents with essential/emergency heating improvements, which may include where gas central heating boilers have been condemned;
- BHY and the 'Energy Savers' interest free loan supports residents to arrange and fund heating repair/improvement work easily through trusted contractors, which may be accessed where a heating system has been condemned;
- The HEEHF, which will launch in 2019, will also provide residents with support to subsidise their contribution towards HHCRO heating measures, which may be accessed where a heating system has been condemned.

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).

Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

N/A as the Council does not control any domestic properties. Council housing stock was transferred to WDH in 2005.

Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives

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').

Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words

The Council, on 23 May 2019, approved a 'Climate Emergency' motion with a target to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. This motion includes a commitment to work with partners, including local businesses, to support them to reduce carbon emissions and achieve the same target.

The Council is currently exploring a number of opportunities with its partners to bid for external funding to deliver additional home energy efficiency and fuel poverty schemes. These opportunities include external wall insulation, fuel switching and innovative approaches to energy efficiency.

The Council will be launching its new 'Wakefield Housing Plan 2019-22' in Summer 2019 and the delivery of home energy efficiency and fuel poverty activity and schemes are priorities within this key corporate strategic document.

It is a priority to develop new partnerships and projects as part of the health and housing agenda, which includes activity to reduce tackle cold homes and tackle fuel poverty.

The Council, in early 2019, conducted a scoping study working with Hull University, which explored the potential to develop and implement a business focussed energy efficiency support service. The findings of this study are currently being assessed with a view to developing proposals and implementing a service later in 2019/20.

The Council has in recent years explored the potential for district heat networks at four locations in the district by performing energy masterplans with BEIS support. Two of these opportunities, at Castleford and Wakefield city centre, have progressed to detailed feasibility study stage, which are now completed. These opportunities may be explored further and if developed would present energy efficiency opportunities for local residents and businesses.

Senior Officer Sign-off

I confirm that I have seen and agreed this report of the progress made by this authority to implement its energy efficiency report as required under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

Signature:

Name:

Title:

Authority:

Date: