**Home Energy Conservation Act 1995**

**Ashfield District Council submission – 2023**

**Headline and Overview**

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

**Yes, we include this as part of our overall climate change strategy.**

Q2. If yes, please provide a link.

[**https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/your-council/strategies-plans-policies/climate-change-strategy/**](https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/your-council/strategies-plans-policies/climate-change-strategy/)

Q3. 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.

**Approximately £6,000,000 (£4,100,000 from schemes delivered internally, £1,900,000 from schemes delivered by external organisations)**

Q4. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services?.

**• Energy savings,**

**• Carbon savings,**

**• Job creation**

**• Alleviation of fuel poverty**

**• Improved health outcomes**

**Consumer Advice and Information**

Q5. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

**Yes**

**• Local Authority website**

**• Local advisory service**

• **Leaflets – we give advice to retrofit schemes customers, and we give advice to privately renting tenants as part of the MEES.**

**• Social media**

**• Local energy hubs**

• **Other- we buy into advice services through MNZH, and hold workshops on solar panels installation as part of the GHG 2 through NEP.**

**Local Retrofit Supply Chain**

Q6. 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**

Q7. If you answered yes, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

**We have Insufficient capacity to deliver retrofit measures due to lack of training and skills in installing a range of technologies. This is due to a surge in demand, changes in construction standards (e.g., PAS2035), and incredibly short time frames for delivery.**

Q8. 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?

**No**

Q9. 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?

**No**

Q10. 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?

**Yes**

Q11. If you answered yes please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected?

**• Installers of insulation**

**• Retrofit assessors**

**• Retrofit coordinators**

Q12. If you answered yes please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers?

• **Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses**

**• Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff)**

**• Delivering in-house e.g. by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams, directly employing retrofit coordinators etc**

**• Other – We work collaboratively with external organisations to deliver the schemes, who have established delivery models and robust access to supply chains.**

**Social Housing Decarbonisation**

Q13. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

**Yes.**

Q14. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1?

**• Financial support for retrofit**

**• Technical support for retrofit**

**• Tenant needs**

**• Expectations of future energy performance regulations**

Q15, Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

**Yes**

Q15. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

**Internal funding**

**Funding from other Government schemes**

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

Q16. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

**Yes**

Q17. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

**Yes**

Q18. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

**Yes**

Q19. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with

in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

E**stimated amount.** **650**

Q20. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be

non-compliant?

**20**

Q21. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC

Band E after you have engaged with them?

**12**

Q22. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of

the PRS MEES Regulations?

**20**

**Green Home Finance**

Q23. 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.

**No**

Q24. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

**No**

Q25. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

**No**

**Fuel Poverty**

Q26. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

**No, but the council is currently developing a carbon reduction strategy which will incorporate fuel poverty.**

Q27. How do you identify fuel poor households?.

**• Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing**

**• Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out**

Q28. 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.**

Q29. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority’s overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

**No**

**Local Authority Delivery**

Q30. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

**Yes**

**Home Upgrade Grant**

Q31. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

**Yes**

**The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

Q32. 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:

Q33. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

**2**

Q34. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

**6**

Q35. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

**0**

Q36. What was the highest income cap published in your SoI?

**£51,909 2 adults, 4 children**

Q37. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

**The income thresholds were broadly consistent with those used under the Low Income High Costs indicator (2014) increased in line with inflation (BEIS).**

Q38. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

**No**

Q39. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (SoI) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

**Yes**

Q40. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex(or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?

**No**

Q41. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

**All four routes available**

**Smart Metering**

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

Q42. 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?

**No**

Q43. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

**We haven’t had a great need for it, and we are still in the process of learning more ourselves about smart meters and their merits.**

Q44. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

**We discuss it but don’t encourage it.**

Q45. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

**Most landlords implement them anyway, and we can ensure that all guidance involves that it would be best practice to use them.**

Q46. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

• **Yes (if there is no meter present in the property on a relet and in newbuilds)**