

HECA Reporting 2019

Name of Local Authority: Bury Council		
Type of Local Authority: District/Borough/City Council		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report: Michelle Stott m.d.stott@bury.gov.uk 0161 253 6367		
Job title of official submitting the report: Housing Development & Policy Officer - Energy		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: Bury Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Renewal • Environment Team, • Strategic Planning and Economic Development Six Town Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability and Investment Team 		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE): 1		
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
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here: The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on behalf of the 10 districts, published in March 2019 a 5 Year Environment Plan. This sets out our approach to reducing carbon emissions over the next 5 years, including those from buildings: https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1986/5-year-plan-branded_3.pdf . To support this, the GMCA plans on publishing during the summer a supporting report on the retrofitting of domestic and non-domestic properties to improve energy efficiency.	
3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	N/A

4	<p>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>
<p>GMCA, with the 10 districts, implements a Warm Homes Fund scheme across Greater Manchester. The scheme helps people in or at risk of falling into fuel poverty and is targeted at households that do not currently have a central heating system and instead have, for example, old storage heaters or gas fires that are expensive to run. The scheme runs from autumn 2019 to the end of August 2019.</p> <p>The Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) scheme offers an outreach service to low income and vulnerable households of all tenures. It provides home energy advice visits, income maximisation advice, some simple energy efficiency measures (e.g. draught excluders, LED light bulbs) plus onwards referral for larger energy efficiency measures via ECO. Many households only attract sufficient ECO to part-fund the costs of measures, In Bury the householder is required to fund the gap.</p> <p>The ECHO scheme provides ECO-eligible homeowners whose gas boiler have broken down with a fully-funded emergency repair or replacement.</p> <p>Both LEAP and ECHO are delivered by AgilityEco using funding provided by energy suppliers through the Warm Home Discount Industry Initiative scheme.</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>GMCA is, with the 10 districts, considering a possible expansion of its Warm Homes Fund scheme. The LEAP and ECHO schemes have funding in place until at least April 2021.</p> <p>The Council will also be looking to enforce the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.</p>	
5	<p>What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), including the value of grants and other support, plus any other costs incurred? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.</p>
<p>For the Warm Homes Fund, the cost of installing measures is expected to be around £1.5m. This will be matched by ECO funding and contributions from landlords, totalling around £500,000.</p> <p>For LEAP and ECHO there are no costs incurred to local authorities, other than staff time for making referrals to the programme. The costs of the scheme are borne by energy suppliers</p> <p>The value of visits in this scheme year up to the end of 2018/19 is approximately £325,000.</p>	

6	What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?	
In delivering LEAP, ECHO and the Warm Homes Fund, GMCA and districts work with AgilityEco, who coordinate and project manage these programmes. On the ground, LEAP is delivered by Groundwork and Citizens Advice Manchester, and the Warm Homes Fund measures are installed by Engie.		
7	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.)? This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.	
As of the end of April, the Warm Homes Fund has delivered first time central heating in 350 Greater Manchester households, with a total of 500 planned by the end of August 2019. The scheme is leading to an average improvement of 2 EPC bands in the fuel poor households it is supporting, and corresponding savings and/or increase in thermal comfort. Over the 9 months from June 2018 to April 2019, over 1175 households have been visited through the LEAP programme, with total lifetime bill savings of over £1.2 million achieved.		
8	What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?	
Experience across GMCA and the ten districts continues to demonstrate the importance and opportunity of partnership working at an appropriate scale, with the Greater Manchester city-region footprint providing the means to do this. New methods of engaging with potential beneficiaries of our schemes, such as the use of social media, has proved successful in increasing the reach of our programmes.		
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 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)	
Bespoke energy leaflets for social tenants, referral systems in place to direct to energy advisor. Citizens Advice surgeries within Housing reception. Information on Council website and Energy Officer makes referrals to the LEAP scheme. The Energy Officer and Environmental Health Officers also provide advice on Landlord obligations around gas/electricity safety and the minimum energy efficiency standards and advise tenants on how to best control their heating systems, the health impacts of not heating their home properly and how to reduce damp and condensation. Free energy advice visits, through the LEAP programme, are available to fuel poor households. Households can be referred to the scheme (e.g. through GP or other LA services) or self-refer. They are then visited by a Home Energy Advisor who provides advice on energy efficiency, bill savings and wider income maximisation.		

The STEP-IN project, funded by EU Horizon 2020, adopts a 'living lab' methodology and aims to maximise the efficacy of advice provision to households in fuel poverty. It will evaluate the effectiveness of advice provision, utilise the evaluations and adapt the design and operation of the methodology accordingly. There will also be a total of 6 'energy café's. A target of 150 homes across GM visited and will be revisited to gain a better understanding of how people react to advice and how willing people are to adopt energy saving techniques in their own homes.

To further enhance the work that LEAP are undertaking funding has been sought by Groundwork from Energy Saving Trust and NatWest, to ensure a more holistic service particularly to the most vulnerable, including an urgent support triage and support with other vulnerability factors such as financial capabilities.

Citizens Advice Bureau provided funding to Groundwork to deliver energy advice and awareness and training to frontline workers as part of the Big Energy Saving Network.

The GM Business Growth Hub delivers support for both businesses looking to become more environmentally friendly and for businesses operating in the environmental services sector. The service is called Green Growth and they act on behalf of all GM local authorities.

<https://www.green-growth.org.uk/>

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')
----	---

Social media, internet, direct face to face communication roadshows on estates and at events throughout the Borough for both social and private sector housing.

GMCA, in partnership with local stakeholders, has partnered with the Big Clean Switch to offer an exclusive green energy deal backed by renewable electricity generated in the North West of England. This ran until 17 April and the tariff could save a typical GM home £272 a year.

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.
----	---

Electric cars and ebikes promoted during Clean Air Day in June 2018 and also held an Electric Car demonstration event, at one of our main shopping centres, in March 2019. The Council promotes the LEAP scheme which installs small scale energy efficiency measures. Also provides information on renewables and insulation at events throughout the year.

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?	
<p>Bury Council promote Clean Air and Active Travel via their Bury Means Business Offer to Employers and their Workplace Health programme. Messages are communicated via the business e-newsletter and on the burymeansbusiness.bury.gov.uk website as requested. Referrals are made to Transport For Greater Manchester for businesses who requires more information in relation to active travel or electric cars. Active travel is promoted when employers are recruiting unemployed residents to reduce the need for car drivers. Bury Council have recently hosted a health, employment and skills event for employers and general public which included the LEAP offer.</p>		
<p>Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards</p>		
<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?</p> <p>(if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')</p>	Yes
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	
Urban Renewal		
17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i></p> <p>Ashleigh Williams</p> <p>a.williams@bury.gov.uk 0161 253 5512</p>		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<p>Environmental Health Officers contact landlords to deal with tenant housing complaints via telephone, email and or letter. At the same time will inform landlords of their obligations.</p>		

There is also a planned press release and targeted proactive work by the Housing Development and Policy Officer – Energy, to tackle F & G EPC rated properties on an area by area basis by writing to landlords and taking enforcement action where necessary.

19	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? If yes, how? If no, please explain.	Yes
----	--	-----

Utilising EPC data from Landmark, the Housing Development and Policy Officer – Energy will be writing to landlords of F & G rated properties informing them of their obligations and taking enforcement action where necessary on an area by area basis.

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')	
----	--	--

See above for Warm Homes Fund and the LEAP and ECHO schemes.

Fuel Poverty

21	Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy? 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.	No
----	--	----

We do not have a fuel poverty strategy however we do have an Action Plan that is updated quarterly. We also have a Poverty Strategy that includes a Fuel Poverty element.

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

GMCA, on behalf of the 10 districts, publishes a Statement of Intent to demonstrate how it identifies residents in fuel poverty. In addition, it has also undertaken mapping work which indicates in which areas of the city region fuel poverty is most prevalent. Identifying eligible households is done via the GM Statement of Intent, see link below for further details.
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1282/energy-company-obligation-flexible-eligibility-statement-of-intent-2017-19.pdf>
 GM Authorities plan to update the Statement of Intent shortly to bring it in line with ECO3 Guidance

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

Improving the energy efficiency of buildings is identified as a key challenge in Greater Manchester's 5 Year Environment Plan. Within that, helping those in fuel poverty to

improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy bills is a key priority, alongside action to increase the uptake of deeper, whole-house retrofit in able-to-pay households in the city-region.

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)
----	---

Community events and comparisons undertaken for tenants on home visits.
See references to LEAP.

	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)
--	---

See references to LEAP.

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.	Yes
----	---	-----

Link to Sol:
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/1282/energy-company-obligation-flexible-eligibility-statement-of-intent-2017-19.pdf>

GM Authorities plan to update the Statement of Intent shortly to bring it in line with ECO3 Guidance

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.
----	--

Smart Metering	
27	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>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>
<p>Staff dealing with vulnerable tenants and tenant energy champions undertook city and guilds fuel debt advice in the community training and exam. Then provided energy advice in the community hubs and at centres linking in with food banks and breakfast clubs for financially vulnerable.</p> <p>Energy training provided at sheltered accommodation and trained tenants in energy and energy comparisons with a focus on digital.</p> <p>Trained front facing staff in NEA energy training to enable to provide advice when visiting homes. With 8 staff up to level 3 city and guilds energy awareness.</p> <p>Smart Energy GB in communities offered a small grant for activities that had direct engagement with an individual on the subject of smart meters. Using this grant Groundwork has provided advice to individuals and at events and training. Indirect activities were also undertaken such as emails, advertising, newsletter, websites and social media.</p> <p>The Energy Officer has also received training from Smart Energy GB.</p>	
28	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>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>
29	<p>Please detail any:</p> <p>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>

30	<p>Please detail any:</p> <p>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>
<p>Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives</p>	
31	<p>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>
<p>At a city region scale, initiatives are currently being considered that would deliver on the priorities set out in our 5 Year Environment Plan. These include: supporting the upscaling renewable electricity generation and storage at people's homes and on the public estate; supporting the upscaling of whole house deep retrofit to realise the significant CO2 reductions required to achieve our climate change aims; increasing the uptake of low carbon heating systems (e.g. heat pumps), particularly in homes owned by social landlords.</p>	

Bury Council is committed to the continued delivery of energy conservation measures in residential accommodation in Bury.

GP Little.

Geoff Little
Chief Executive of Bury Council