

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council

Home Energy Conservation Report - March 2017

Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities		
Action	Description	Timing
Local priorities	<p>The Council has recently published its Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy 2016-20. Within this Strategy, the need to invest in measures to improve energy efficiency and mitigate against the risks of fuel poverty, features as one of six key priorities;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Efficient use of energy by the Council 2. Increasing energy security in the Borough 3. Tackling Fuel Poverty 4. Supporting Community Energy 5. Creating a strong Energy Sector and supporting a Low Carbon Economy 6. Supporting policy development and project delivery across the Council <p>The latest figures (2014), available from the Department of Business, Environment and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), indicates that 10% of households in Cheshire West are in fuel poverty, equating to 14,461 households. This is slightly below the national average of 10.7% and the North West average of 11.2%, but is an increase on the previous two years.</p>	April 2016-2020
Energy Consumption	<p>Figures taken from the 'sub-national consumption figures' for domestic gas and electricity consumption indicate the following for the Borough;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the past four years mean gas consumption has reduced slightly year on year from 14,076 kilowatt hours (kWh) in 2012 to 12,713 kWh in 2015 - Average electricity consumption has increased very slightly over the same period from 4,101 kWh to 4,660 kWh in 2015. 	

<p>Reducing carbon emissions</p>	<p>The Council has produced a Phase 2 Carbon Management Plan following the achievement of reducing scoped emissions by a target of 30% against the 2014-2015 baseline, as set out in the last 5 Year Carbon Management Plan.</p> <p>The Council has a duty to reduce greenhouse gases, and therefore a continuing focus on our efficiency will be a key driver. Rigorous asset challenges are in progress to reduce our property holdings alongside an investment programme to re-furbish and re-fit other property appropriately for modern service delivery. Utilisation of the right technologies is also paramount to this agenda. Street lighting and schools are a key focus in terms of carbon reduction and savings in budgets, but also as part of the cultural change required in society. Engaging with pupils is fundamental to delivering sustainable and successful change.</p> <p>Our Baseline and Target; In the 2014 -2015 fiscal year Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council were responsible for emitting 45,543 equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂e)</p> <p>The Council is setting an aspirational target to reduce these emissions in absolute terms by 30% by April 2020, emitting no more than 31,880 tonnes of CO₂e.</p> <p>The Council's housing stock is managed externally. The Managing Agency for these homes has very recently changed and it is anticipated that a 5 year programme to address energy efficiency and carbon emissions from these properties will be drawn up.</p>	<p>April 2017-2020</p>
<p>National priorities</p>	<p>Local priorities to address the energy efficiency of domestic homes have been aligned to the National Fuel Poverty Strategy for England. The Council will work to achieve the targets laid out within the Strategy and the Governments' manifesto commitment of insulating one million homes over the life of the current parliament.</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>

Measures that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central government initiatives, to help in significant energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation

Action	Description	Timing
Fuel poverty	<p>The legal framework for tackling the issue of fuel poverty is laid out in the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014. In March 2015 the government published a national Fuel Poverty Strategy 'Cutting the cost of keeping warm- a fuel poverty strategy for England' and set a legally binding target that ensures that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of Band C by 2030. It includes non-legally binding interim targets to achieve Band E by 2020, and Band D by 2025.</p> <p>SAP ratings taken from the Council's Stock Condition Survey 2013 indicate that the majority of homes in Cheshire West fall into Band D – 84.7%. Of the remaining properties, 10.9% were in Band C and 4.4% were in Band E.</p> <p>Whilst local authorities have a social and legal obligation to lead and enable action on fuel poverty, tackling fuel poverty cannot be achieved by local authorities alone. The Council set up the Cheshire West Affordable Warmth Steering Group in 2010; a partnership of public, private and third sector agencies established to ensure a strategic approach was adopted when tackling the complex issues surrounding fuel poverty within the Borough.</p> <p>Using the national Fuel Poverty Strategy as its strategic framework, Cheshire West's Affordable Warmth Steering Group has developed a comprehensive Action Plan to deal with local issues as well as accounting for national priorities. The Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2016-20 sets out the following objectives for activity to ensure that there is a comprehensive, collaborative and consistent approach to tackling fuel poverty in the Borough:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage behavioural change to reduce energy use • Improve the energy efficiency of homes • Reduce temperature related illnesses • Maximise household income • Increase the amount of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources • Support sustainable community energy initiatives 	April 2016-2020

	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council has set a target of reducing the percentage of fuel poor households by 10%, by 2020, based on 2014 statistics.</p> <p>To ensure this target is met, the Group will continue to work collaboratively, investigating all funding opportunities which present themselves in order to continue to tackle inefficient homes in areas at risk or currently experiencing high levels of fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Group is currently drafting its Statement of Intent and Local Authority Declaration in anticipation of utilising its Flexible Eligibility during the ECO Transition period.</p> <p>The Council has allocated capital funding over the next three years to help tackle the issues. Opportunities for match funding will be sought to ensure maximum benefit.</p> <p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of activities will be gleaned from future Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) statistics and internal reporting on the Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2016-20.</p>	
Cosy Loans	<p>The Cosy Loan scheme provides interest free loans to homeowners and private landlords to make homes more energy efficient. Loans can be used to install one or more of the following energy efficiency measures; loft insulation/cavity wall insulation, a central heating boiler, draught proofing doors and windows or solar water heating. Loans of between £200 up to £2,000 are available and must be repaid in full within 36 months.</p>	
Collective Switching	<p>The Council offers a collective switching scheme to residents – ‘Ready to Switch?’ Benefits of the scheme are promoted online, via the press and also with local community groups and at local events.</p> <p>Residents with prepayment meters are a specific target group for this initiative.</p>	
Heat networks	<p>As part of the Government’s decarbonisation strategy, a Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) was created in 2013 within the Department of Energy & Climate Change to provide support and funding to Local Authorities to develop heat networks.</p>	

	<p>Funding was made available in a series of bidding rounds for any stage of heat network development. CWAC applied for and secured funding in 2014 under Round 3 for Energy Masterplanning in three separate locations across the borough.</p> <p>In Round 3, CWAC also applied for funding to undertake a feasibility study for shallow geothermal (up to 1km) opportunities across the borough. This piece of work will be commissioned in early 2017.</p> <p>CWAC have applied for and have been successful in securing funding in Round 6 to move identified options forward to the Feasibility Stage.</p> <p>The Feasibility Study will validate the Energy Master planning work and start to look at the technical design and building the commercial case for the heat network(s) in this area.</p>	
Solar Photo Voltaics (PV)	<p>Social Housing: The Council does not directly manage any housing stock although there is a requirement within the recently appointed Housing Management Agent to consider solar photovoltaics on suitable properties.</p> <p>Private Housing: current feed-in-tariff rates are such that in most cases solar PV will benefit householders who have the capital outlay, where a matched baseload and/or storage can be incorporated. The Council encourages and can provide information and support where these conditions are met.</p>	
Smart meters	<p>The Council, via the Affordable Warmth Steering Group, is supportive of the roll out of smart meters by 2020. Activity is focused on raising awareness of the roll-out programme by energy suppliers and promotion of energy behaviour change to help maximise the benefits of smart meters to our residents.</p> <p>This work will take place Borough-wide, with particular focus on areas of low income and high fuel poverty levels, and areas identified as having high levels of prepayment meters.</p>	
Private rented sector	<p>The Energy Act 2011 contains powers such that from April 2018, all private rented dwellings should be brought up to a minimum energy efficiency standard rating, likely to be set at an energy performance rating E.</p>	

	<p>We have worked with landlords to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlight the benefits of energy efficiency measures• Provide small match-funded grants to Landlords for energy efficiency work.• Promote Landlord's Energy Savings Allowance (LESA), a tax relief on certain energy efficiency improvements funded by the landlord via newsletters and forums. <p>Housing Standards in the Borough are monitored and enforced by the Regulatory Services Team. Monitoring of minimum energy efficiency standards will be integrated into the current work programme of the Team under the Housing Health and Safety Ratings System inspection regime. Enforcement will be undertaken in conjunction with the Council's Enforcement Protocol.</p>	
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Measures which the authority has developed to implement energy efficiency improvements cost-effectively in residential accommodation by using area based/street roll out involving local communities and partnerships.

Action	Description	Timing
Park Homes	<p>The benefits of projects delivered on an area based roll-out approach, is well appreciated. In our experience not only does it prove cost-effective and maximise available budget, it also helps ensure a good uptake of funding opportunities by residents.</p> <p>Over the past year we have worked to deliver a park homes insulation project; from initial data gathering to site selection, resident sign-up and installation. In total 52 homes at the site received; loft, underfloor and external wall insulation. In addition, 15 of those homes received heat recovery units. The funding for this project was obtained via National Energy Action from the Ofgem Redress programme, matched with Council capital funding; giving a total budget of £531,000</p> <p>Evaluation and monitoring of this scheme is currently being undertaken by National Energy Action in terms of bill savings and health and well-being. The results of this should be available in the forthcoming months. In the short term we can report that SAP ratings improved from a rating of F (33) pre-installation, to a rating of D (53) post-installation.</p> <p>To maximise upon future funding projects, area-based schemes will be considered from the outset.</p>	October 2015 – May 2016
Warm Zones Fund and Healthy Homes Fund	<p>Over the past 18 months the Council has managed to secure two separate funding opportunities, matched with Council capital funding, to offer replacement boilers for low income households living in Carbon Saving Communities Obligation (CSCO) areas in the Borough.</p> <p>In total 80 properties have received a replacement boiler or central heating system from a total budget of £275,000.</p>	January 2016- March 2017
Energy Company Obligation	<p>The Affordable Warmth Steering Group is currently drafting its Statement of Intent and Local Authority Declaration in anticipation of utilising its Flexible Eligibility during the ECO Transition period.</p>	

	<p>Taking into account current local statistics available from BEIS together with our own Stock Condition Surveys, local priorities for ECO funding include the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural off-gas • hard-to-treat, specifically Park Homes • private rented stock • Homes occupied by those with cold-related illness <p>Our local statistics indicate that people living in these areas are at risk of, or are currently facing higher levels of fuel poverty.</p>	
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<p>Timeframe for delivery and national and local partners</p>		
<p>Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)</p>	<p>The Cheshire and Warrington European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Partnership has developed its ESIF strategy for the 2014-2020 Programme and some Action Plans for the Thematic Objectives / Priorities contained within the ESIF.</p> <p>The Partnership has developed a local evidence base for the ESIF calls to ensure that European Rural Development Fund (ERDF) activities outlined in ‘Priority Axis 4 (P4) – Supporting the Shift towards a Low Carbon Economy’ - are supported by ERDF to support small and medium sized enterprise (SME) growth and jobs.</p> <p>Cheshire and Warrington recognise the importance of “joining up” of the needs of the 3 local authority areas in the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area and the growing demand for development in the low carbon sector.</p> <p>We have designed relevant actions and activities to realise our growth ambitions for our economy in this sector, further develop SMEs in the sector and those wanting to diversify into the sector, and those SMEs that can benefit from work in this area.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

	The ESIF is being used as one of the delivery mechanisms for the Strategic Economic Plan for Cheshire and Warrington (SEP). It provides the overarching context for interventions in the local economy and the economic framework for the ESIF Strategy.	
Affordable Warmth Steering Group	<p>Cheshire West and Chester Council has an active Affordable Warmth Steering Group with representation from a full range of multi-agency stakeholders including; council and other Public services, social housing providers, health colleagues, third sector and local communities.</p> <p>Regular meetings enable the group to appreciate, compliment and support the work of partner organisations in delivering their plans and funded projects.</p>	ongoing
National Energy Action and Association of Local Energy Officers	The Council links to local and national organisations to network, share knowledge and best practice.	ongoing

Signed off by: Georgina Patel

Position: Senior Manager Energy & Carbon Reduction

Date: Friday 31 March 2017