



HART DISTRICT COUNCIL - HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT REPORT

Second Update – 31 March 2017

LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS & PRIORITIES

We are well positioned to help our residents reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and will endeavour to support other local strategic priorities including fuel poverty, health and wellbeing, local economic growth and local regeneration. We will also support broader national targets around carbon emissions. We see our ambitions & priorities as:

- helping to reduce fuel bills for local residents
- helping to make homes warmer and healthier for residents
- reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions within the district
- leveraging the opportunity for physical regeneration (improving the appearance of areas of the district)
- supporting the creation and maintenance of local green business, jobs and skills (helping them to access the growing UK market in sustainability)

LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY TARGETS

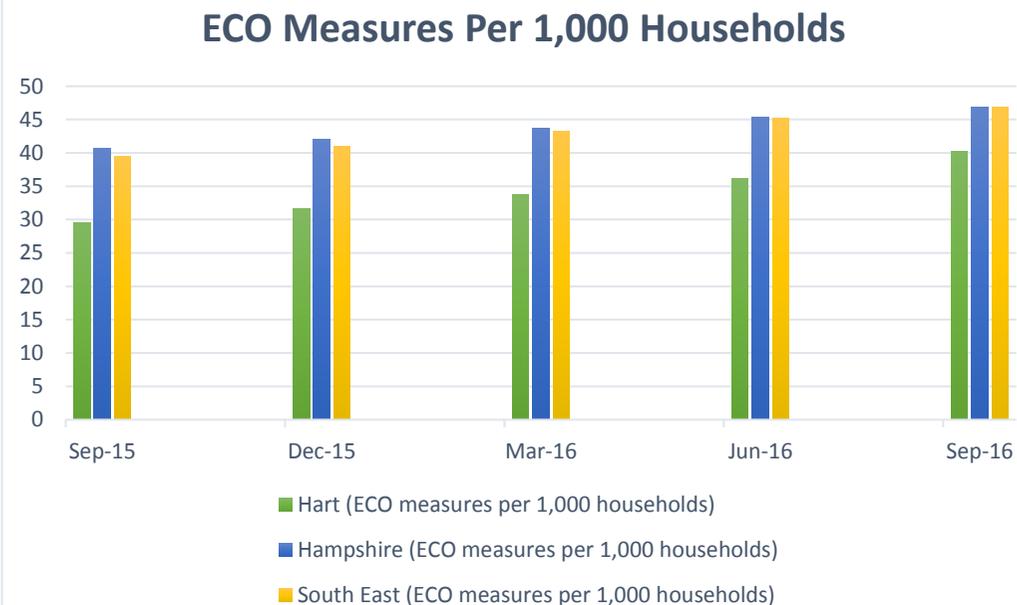
Hart District Council's HECA targets are:

- To reduce residential carbon emissions in the District
- To reduce our residents' energy consumption and energy spend
- To reduce the number of homes that are in fuel poverty
- To actively engage private landlords to update energy efficiency measures and improve the energy efficiency of their properties

The targets set out in the initial report are no longer considered realistic or achievable. We need to continually review what can be achieved given any funding we are able to access in future from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) or from internal budgets. In light of financial constraints and a range of competing priorities, delivering on earlier ambitions is no longer possible.

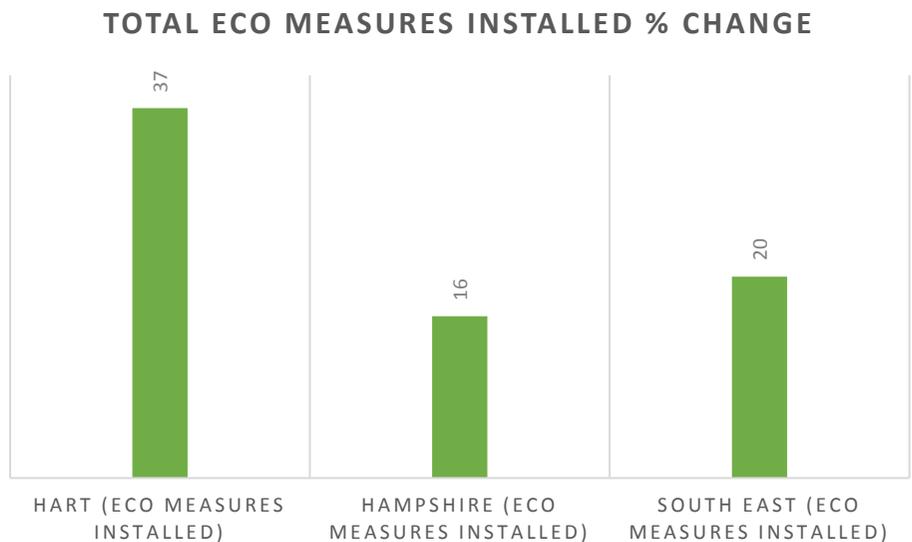
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Despite challenges Hart can demonstrate progress in recent years. The number of ECO measures per 1,000 households in Hart has increased by 10.7 compared with 6.1 for Hampshire and 7.4 for the South East¹:



¹ BEIS statistics – Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics, Headline Release

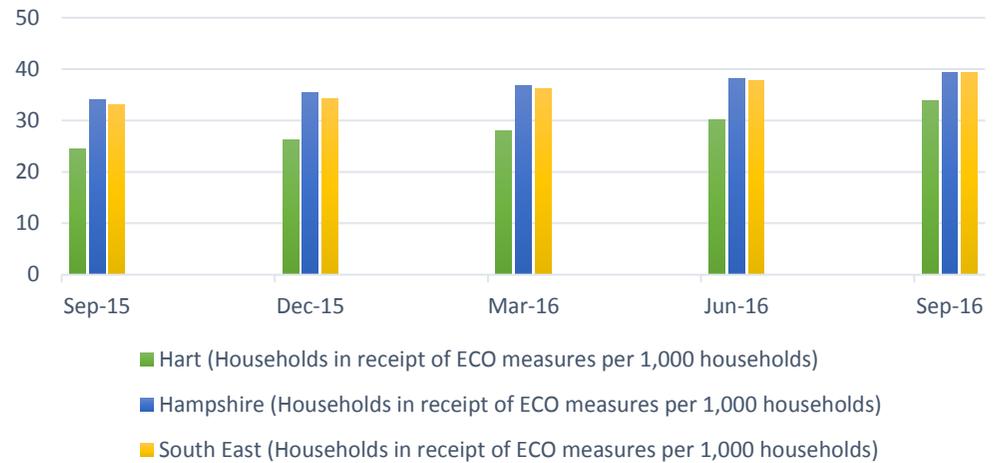
The total number of ECO measures being installed has clearly been increasing across the period between September 2015 and the same time in 2016, with Hart demonstrating a 37% increase over that time compared to 16% for Hampshire and 20% for the South East²:



² BEIS statistics – Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics, Headline Release

In terms of Households in receipt of ECO measures per 1,000 households, this has been increasing too. In Hart, there was a 39% increase, compared with 17% for Hampshire and 20% for the South East³:

Households in Receipt of ECO Measures Per 1,000 Households

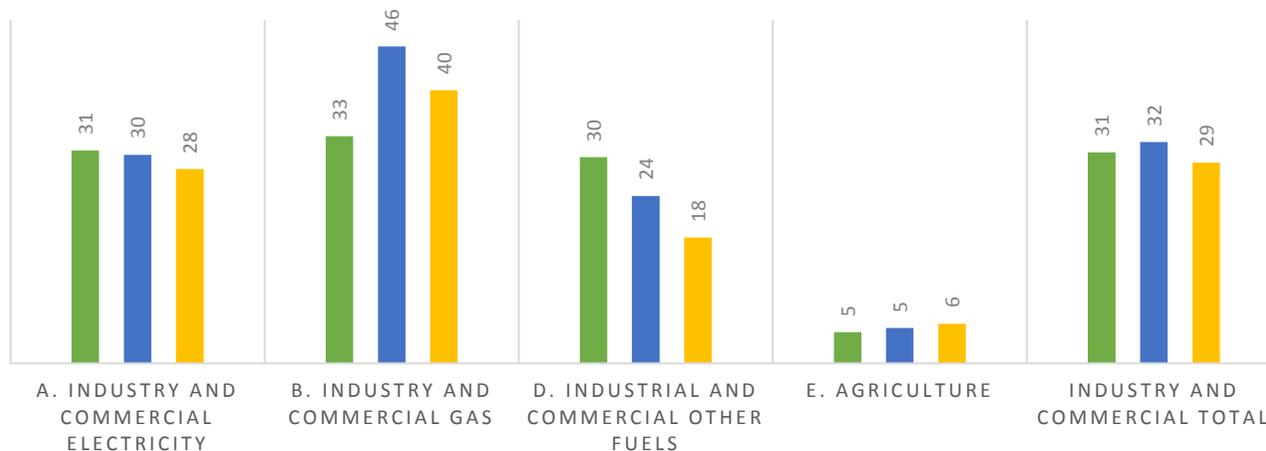


³ BEIS statistics – Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics, Headline Release

Furthermore, a range of CO2 emissions indicators demonstrate decreasing emissions in the local area, although not always keeping pace with changes reflecting Hampshire and the South East – the following 3 tables demonstrate this⁴:

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCIAL CO2 EMISSIONS

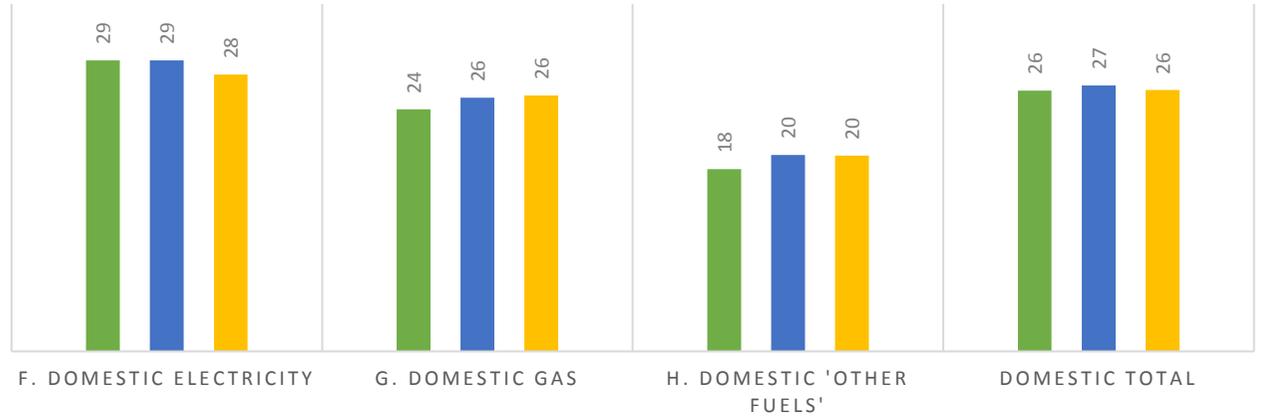
■ Hart % Change between 2005 and 2014
 ■ Hampshire % Change between 2005 and 2014
■ South East % Change between 2005 and 2014



⁴ BEIS – UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics

DOMESTIC CO2 EMISSIONS

■ Hart % Change between 2005 and 2014 ■ Hampshire % Change between 2005 and 2014
■ South East % Change between 2005 and 2014



ROAD & TRANSPORT CO2 EMISSIONS

■ Hart % Change between 2005 and 2014
 ■ Hampshire % Change between 2005 and 2014
■ South East % Change between 2005 and 2014

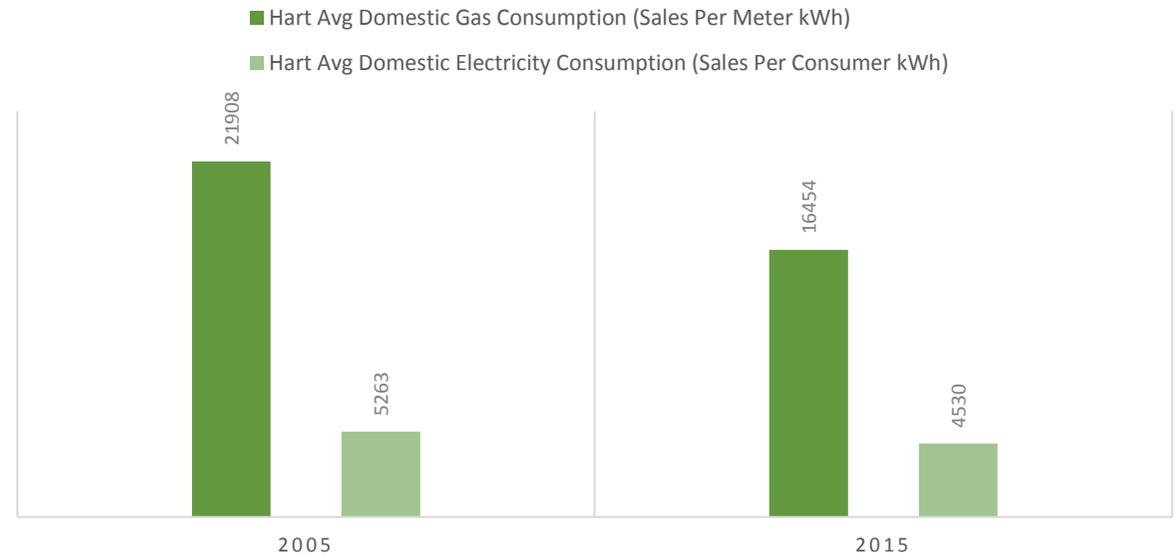


The total change in CO2 emissions in Hart was a 23% reduction. This is a very positive change and broadly reflects the level of change in Hampshire (24%) and the South East (23%)⁵.

⁵ BEIS – UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics

We can also see that domestic gas and electricity consumption has been decreasing with the average gas consumption indicators falling by 25% the average electricity consumption indicators falling by 14%:

AVG DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY

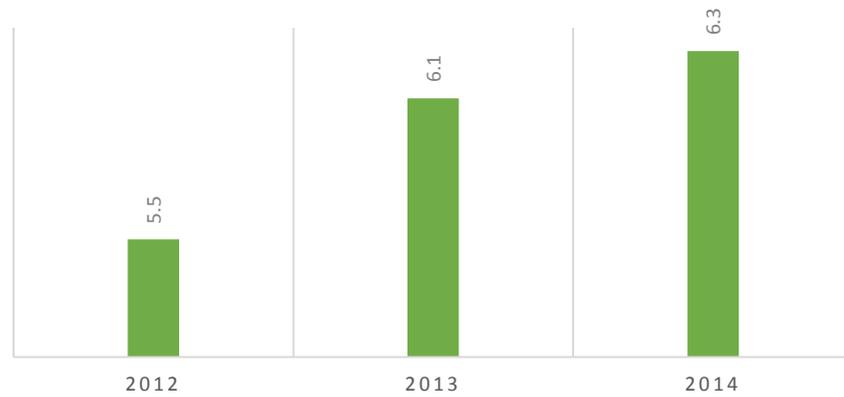


Although we are able to demonstrate a positive direction of travel in the district, which – in the main - compares favourably with Countywide and Regional comparators, we remain concerned about fuel poverty and the impacts this may have on our residents. Whilst proportions of those who are in the “low income high cost” category are relatively low and compare well with other Hampshire districts, we can nevertheless identify that the proportion of affected households has been marginally increasing over the past 3 years⁷:

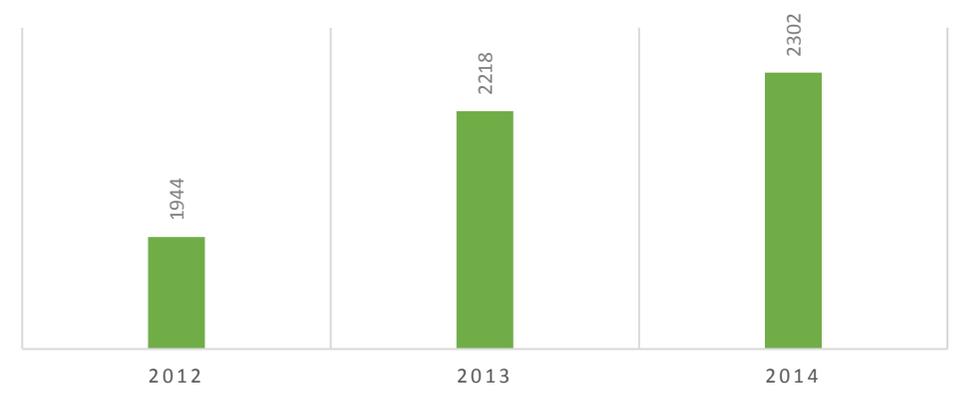
⁶ BEIS – Sub-national gas consumption data & sub-national electricity consumption data

⁷ BEIS – Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics

PROPORTION OF HART HOUSEHOLDS FUEL POOR



ESTIMATED NUMBER OF FUEL POOR HART HOUSEHOLDS



This updated report and action plan (below) will focus on sustaining local performance and identifying ways in which we may be able to contribute to reducing the number of “fuel poor” households in Hart as one of a number of key priority areas.



Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Action Plan

March 2017 Update

Introduction

In 2013, the government published revised statutory guidance on the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995. The guidance requested that all English local authorities with housing responsibilities prepared a report setting out the local energy conservation measures that the authority (or group of authorities) considered to be practical, cost effective, and likely to significantly improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the local area. Hart complied with the guidance and set out a plan in 2013, reflecting our intention to access available government initiatives at that time and on an ongoing basis during the life of the plan.

The Council's first HECA plan contained ambitious targets in relation to improving energy efficiency within the district and was framed in the context of the Council working in partnership to access ECO, Green Deal and Green Deal Home Improvement Fund resources. Due to a raft of changes to these funding streams, and ultimately, the removal of several of these initiatives over time (in July 2015 the government withdrew Green Deal finance, the Green Deal Home Improvement Fund and significantly limited the availability of ECO funding), the action plan was updated in January 2016. The revised action plan reflected anticipated delivery with reference to limited opportunities available to support home energy conservation.

In this new updated March 2017 report and action plan, we can see some positive trends locally. We continue to offer small grants for some energy efficiency works, support a loan scheme through Parity Trust, and proactively signpost people to other funding streams. We provide advice and educate local landlords with a view to supporting them to offer more energy efficient residential homes. With a challenging Local Government Settlement, the Council must target its resources carefully as it plans service delivery in a sustainable way, and with due regard to ensuring capacity to deliver against statutory functions.

We will continue to seek to identify new opportunities and await announcements from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy regarding any future replacement funding schemes and/or any future ECO funding. This action plan will remain a "live" document so that it reflects current opportunities as and when they may arise.

This updated report takes into account the January 2017 Guidance to English Conservation Authorities Issued Pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN 2015-2017 – Update on progress & planned future activity

PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	TIMING
ECO and other funding sources	Signpost residents and local business (e.g. to the Environment Centre (tEC); Energy Savings Trust; Energy Savings Advice Service) for advice on any ECO or other funding sources available to them.	Ongoing
	Investigate the viability of setting up a local Energy Efficiency scheme to offer residents an additional funding source to that available from Central Government. Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to the announcement in July 2015 that Green Deal Finance and GDHIF was no longer available, a decision was made to look at an alternative scheme to assist residents with energy efficiency measures. Any local scheme will work alongside any future funding streams from Central Government. The authority recognises the requirement in the guidance to assess the cost of any measures they deliver under a scheme and the associated reduction in CO² emissions. However until we secure funding for a scheme either internally or from Central Government we are not currently in a position to provide this information. 	Remains on hold due to current budget constraints.
	Help local private rented sector landlords understand how they can improve the energy efficiency of their homes via Landlord Forums and newsletters. Progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Green Deal Assessor from the Environment Centre attended the Landlord Forum in September 2015 and gave a presentation on 'Improving the energy efficiency of your private rented property – current requirements, schemes and incentives'. Future activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure any future Landlord Forums include an update for Landlords regarding any current forms of assistance available to them in terms of energy efficiency and any changes in legislation which may affect them. To work with the Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership (HEEP) on the possibility of agreeing county wide ECO flexibility criteria for Hampshire. 	March 2017 & March 2018

	<p>Mobile Homes HDC considers mobile homes within the district to be a high priority as they house vulnerable residents and are hard to heat. We will seek to assist residents of mobile homes to access funding sources either from Central Government or from any local scheme which may be set up or become available.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We worked with a Green Deal Provider who accessed GDHIF funding for external insulation for mobile homes. We assisted 6 residents with their contributions via Minor Works Grants in 2015/16. GDHIF funding was withdrawn in July 2015.</i> <p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>We are looking for alternative sources of funding in order to assist residents of mobile homes, including setting up a local scheme.</i> 	Local scheme remains on hold due to current budget constraints.
<p>Planning and Planning Policy</p>	Hart aligns with national policy guidance around sustainability in development.	
	The Local Plan is going out to consultation in April 2017 and it is hoped to be adopted late 2018. Future plans around sustainability are being considered as part of the Local Plan development process.	2018
	<p>HDC Housing Team and Planning Development Control will work closely together to ensure consistent and easily understandable information for residents around the installation of energy saving measures such as solid wall insulation. Housing Services will also ensure that Planning are aware of the timescales of any area based approach that could increase incoming queries.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No area based programmes undertaken or planned but we would fully engage with Planning DC if we do so in future.</i> <i>Work is underway as part of a Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer to develop “predictive indices” that may include households in fuel poverty. The trailblazer will deliver place based work with local communities and will include advice around energy efficiency.</i> 	

<p>Reducing energy bills</p>	<p>The Hampshire wide collective energy buying programme ‘Switch Hampshire’ closed in 2014 and residents are being directed to ‘Big Community Switch’.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We continue to promote ‘Big Community Switch’ and also refer residents to tEC who offer advice and assistance on how to reduce energy bills and how to switch suppliers.</i> <p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We will raise awareness regarding the roll out of smart meters and the benefits to our residents of being in control of their energy use and how this can help reduce energy bills. We will provide information on our website and utilise resources from Smart Energy GB to distribute at events.</i> • <i>We will provide information and awareness raising at local events and with our partner agencies and organisations concerning the benefits of smart metering and will investigate other ways of engaging and supporting our residents to promote the take up of smart metering and achieve the associated benefits.</i> 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>From April 2017</p>
<p>Fuel Poverty</p>	<p>6.3% of Hart households are considered “fuel poor”. The areas of very high concentrations of fuel poor are Eversley West, Crondall East and Long Sutton. It is largely evenly spread across the district after that.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We refer residents to ‘Hitting the Cold Spots’ who provide alternative heating measures; grant support for winter fuel emergencies; practical support and advice with debt, money and benefits; assistance to switch energy provider or tariff to help give them savings on their fuel bill and assessment for funding for a gas mains to be laid to their property and a central heating system to be installed. In 2015-2017 35 households received advice and/or home visit support. In 2016/17 3 households were assisted with heating and hot water repairs/replacements.</i> • <i>In 2016 tEC were successful in a bid for Central Heating Fund monies. Using EPC data they are mailing out to Hart residents in E, F & G rated properties with either no central heating, old storage heaters or gas fires who are in receipt of certain benefits. Through this targeted scheme they aimed to assist eligible fuel poor residents by installing energy efficient central heating systems. In 2016/17 one household was assisted with first time central heating.</i> 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our local Home Improvement Agency (HIA) Caseworkers offer residents advice on energy efficiency and fuel debt. The Caseworkers offer support to low income and vulnerable households to access funding for measures which will bring them out of fuel poverty, e.g. grants and charitable funding. These caseworkers will be brought in house from April 2017 to ensure the service continues in light of Hampshire County Council ceasing to support the HIA. • Hart DC took part in the NEAs Fuel Poverty Awareness Day Thunderclap on fuel poverty via Twitter in February 2017. • We refer residents enquiring about Solar PV to tEC who can offer advice on the latest grants/assistance available to install domestic solar PV. <p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will raise awareness regarding the roll out of smart meters and the benefits to our residents of being in control of their energy use and how this can help reduce energy bills. We will provide information on our website and utilise resources from Smart Energy GB to distribute at events. 	June 2017
<p>Awareness raising</p>	<p>The distribution of an advice leaflet that has been created in partnership with all local authorities across Hampshire. The leaflet covers behavioural changes to save money as well as measures that will increase SAP points of a household.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to distribute the 'Green Ideas' leaflet at events to raise awareness for our residents. We advertised the CAB campaign 'Big Energy Savings Week' on the website in October 2015 which was a national campaign to help people cut their fuel bills and get all the financial support they are entitled to • We took part in the NEA's 'Fuel poverty Awareness Day Thunderclap' on Twitter to raise awareness of fuel poverty and cold homes. <p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure at any events we attend we utilise the 'Green Ideas' leaflet and are raising awareness of any assistance /schemes available to our residents and also raise awareness of the rolling out of smart meters. 	Ongoing
	<p>Provide up to date advice on Council website and on the television screens in reception.</p>	

	<p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information available on the website and TV screens and is updated regularly. 	Ongoing
Private Rented Sector	Update landlords on any funding schemes via Forums and newsletters, member of Private Sector Housing Team	Ongoing
	Advice and information to Estate Agents and Managing Agents on any funding including ECO and the requirement for private rented sector properties to meet minimum energy efficiency standards from April 2018.	
	<p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information for landlords on the requirement on them to ensure private rented sector properties meet the minimum EPC rating by April 2018. 	September 2017
	Advice and information to tenants on saving energy e.g. via advice leaflet.	
	<p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An information pack has been developed as part of the Private Sector Landlord 'offer'. 	
	We will ensure the Private Rented Sector is providing homes that are up to standard by dealing with complaints from tenants, inspecting Houses in Multiple Occupation as part of the inspection programme, taking action using the Housing Health & Safety Rating System HHSRS e.g. to deal with hazards such as excess cold.	Ongoing
<p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint work with Housing Options to undertake EPC checks of all rented properties where tenancies may be created through temporary accommodation provision or the Council's end of duty homelessness or homelessness prevention offers. This approach will also be reflected in all HMOs and private rented sector properties that are inspected. We will investigate the available subsidies to support local landlords to bring properties up to standard before April 2018. When we receive guidance from Central Government we will have a clearer idea of how we are going to tackle enforcement of the minimum standards in the private rented sector. 	Commencing June 2017	
Partnership working	Sentinel Housing Association are the largest social housing provider within Hart. Where applicable, programmes will be communicated to Sentinel residents alongside private sector residents.	

	<p>Engage with relevant Agencies to raise awareness of any schemes available to residents to assist with energy efficiency measures and bring them out of fuel poverty.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work with Parish Councils and the HVA to raise awareness of any energy efficiency schemes and have established links between them and Hart DC. • We inform Village Agents about energy efficiency schemes and have established links between them and Hart DC. <p>Future activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consider working with Sentinel on any future schemes which are developed but this would be subject to funding from Central Government. • We will continue to attend the quarterly Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership (HEEP) meetings and set up joint initiatives where possible. The group are considering county wide ECO flexibility criteria for Hampshire. • We will continue to attend ALEO SE meetings to keep abreast of national energy efficiency issues and those in the South East in particular. 	Quarterly
<p>Financial Assistance</p>	<p>The Council offers Minor Works Grants and low cost loans to eligible residents for energy efficiency works such as replacement boilers; replacement windows and insulation. We ensure that contractors who install boilers via grants and loans are registered with Gas Safe to ensure compliance with Building Control regulations.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £28K was spent on grants and £6K on loans for energy efficiency works in 2015-17. • The HIA access the following funding streams for eligible residents:- Charis (British Gas Energy Trust) They will look at repairing/replacing boilers for those who meet their eligibility criteria. This will be individual circumstances, financial and/ or disability and the condition of their boiler. They can also provide replacement energy efficient white goods. 	Ongoing

	<p>British Gas in partnership with Foundations Independent Living Trust (FILT). Funding for small works, for example servicing a boiler, providing heating control, draught strips, chimney balloons, usual cost under £100.</p> <p>SSE in partnership with FILT. Funding for energy efficiency measures up to £250 per eligible client. Eligibility is flexible but the measures do need to be energy efficiency related. Works include flooring, window replacements, fitting a new energy efficient cooker and a new heating control. Some of this funding has been for topping up the Minor Works Grants if they have been for energy efficiency works.</p> <p>HIA Hardship Fund. Funding for energy efficiency measures if appropriate, possible top up if no funding from elsewhere. From 2015-17 the HIA Caseworkers accessed £15K worth of charitable funding for Hart residents, mainly for boiler replacements.</p> <p>Future action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the closure of Green Deal Finance and GDHIF funding in July 2015 and the uncertainty over the future availability of ECO, HDC will consider setting up a local energy efficiency grants/loans scheme to offer residents a finance package for the installation of energy efficiency measures. 	<p>On hold due to current budget constraints.</p>
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