



## HART DISTRICT COUNCIL - HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT REPORT 2013-2018 First Update – 31 March 2015

### LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS & PRIORITIES

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

- help to reduce fuel bills for local residents
- help to make homes warmer and healthier for residents
- reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions within the district
- leverage the opportunity for physical regeneration (improving the appearance of areas of the district)
- support 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

*As outlined below the targets set out in the initial report are no longer considered realistic or achievable and we need to review what can be achieved given any funding we are able to access in future from DECC or from internal budgets.*

### LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION PLAN 2013-2015 – Update on progress & planned future activity

PROGRAMME	ACTIVITY	TIMING
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<b>Green Deal &amp; ECO</b>	Sign post residents and local business (for example to the Environment Centre; Energy Savings Trust; Energy Savings Advice Service) for advice on Green Deal Finance and ECO funding.	Ongoing
	<p>To identify a Green Deal delivery partner that will ensure HDC residents can access the maximum available ECO funding and have independent energy assessments on their properties. It is HDC's intention to align with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, to build upon existing strong partnership working in North Hampshire.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>In January 2014 we engaged the services of a Green Deal provider and set up a scheme called 'Energy Action North Hampshire' in partnership with Basingstoke &amp; Deane Borough Council. The scheme was launched in January 2014 with the intention of accessing ECO funding to undertake area based programmes of improvements, as identified in the report submitted in 2013. With the introduction of GDHIF funding we also intended to use this to target areas with improvements. Unfortunately the provider failed to deliver and access any ECO or GDHIF funding and we terminated the partnership with them in October 2014.</i></li> <li><i>Since submitting the further report we have realised that the targets we initially set were very ambitious. The constant changes to the eligibility criteria and availability of ECO, Green Deal and GDHIF funding have resulted in a far lower level of activity than planned. As such we have removed these targets and they are being reviewed.</i></li> </ul>	
	Help local private landlords understand how they can improve the energy efficiency of their homes via the Green Deal. For example, via Landlord forums and newsletters.	Ongoing
	<p>It is HDC's intention to form a North Hampshire Partnership with other local authorities to create larger programmes and attract higher levels of ECO funding.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>See above, no current plans to form another North Hampshire Partnership.</i></li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Mobile Homes</b></p> <p>Although not covered within the Parity report HDC consider mobile homes within the district to be a high priority as they house vulnerable residents and are hard to heat. HDC are seeking to attract ECO funding to continue HDC's subsidised programme to insulate mobile homes. ECO does not currently cover this type of domestic dwelling, however, HDC has been assured it will in the future. It is unclear at this time the amount of funding we are able to attract and as such we cannot be more specific with a target.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>We are working with a Green Deal Provider who has accessed GDHIF funding for external insulation for mobile homes. We are assisting residents with their contributions via Minor Works Grants. To date we have assisted 3 residents with their insulation, we have a further 7 residents waiting for vouchers. We are awaiting the next round of GDHIF funding and hope to assist further residents in the district, subject to accessing GDHIF funding.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Planning and</b>	Hart aligns with national policy guidance around sustainability in development.	Ongoing

<b>Planning Policy</b>	<p>The Council continues to work towards an agreed Local Plan for the area. Future plans around sustainability are being considered as part of the Local Plan development process.</p> <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 will also ensure that Planning are aware of the timescales of any area based approach that could increase incoming queries.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No area based programmes undertaken but we will fully engage with Planning DC if we do so in future.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<b>Reducing energy bills</b>	<p>Hart are participating in the Hampshire wide collective energy buying programme ‘Switch Hampshire’ and will continue to do so for the full four year duration. The first auction was in June 2013 with a further auction expected in Autumn 2013. In the first auction 64% of registrants had not switched in the previous two years, and the average savings in Hart for residents on all electric tariffs was £172 and those on dual fuel £97.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>We actively promoted the ‘Switch Hampshire’ scheme and the latest auction resulted in an average saving of £253 per year on fuel bills for those who switched. The scheme closed in 2014 and we are now directing people to the ‘Big Community Switch’.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Programme closed 2014.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	<p>4% of HDC 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. We will be focusing activity on those areas with higher levels with programmes such as Hitting the Cold Spots. The Energy Caseworker will assist people who are in fuel poverty and sign post them to relevant assistance.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The area-based programmes planned under ‘Energy Action North Hampshire’ scheme did not go ahead so those areas with high concentrations of fuel poverty have not been targeted directly.</i></li> <li><i>However we continue to 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.</i></li> <li><i>Our local Home Improvement Agency (HIA) Caseworkers have received training on the ‘Warmer Homes Initiative’ which offers residents small grants towards insulation, heating, energy efficient white goods and assistance with fuel debt.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<b>Awareness raising</b>	<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><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>We have distributed the ‘Green Ideas’ leaflet in reception and at events, including at the Environment &amp; Faith Festival in a local shopping centre and will continue to disseminate the leaflet widely.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Provide advice on Council website and on the television screens in reception.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information available on the website and TV screens and is updated regularly.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
	<p>Green Deal and ECO Roadshows will be held across the district with our selected Green Deal partner. The schedule of these to be confirmed once a partner has been identified.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial road shows were held, however, these have not been progressed as our scheme 'Energy Action North Hampshire' closed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Private Rented Sector</b>	<p>Update landlords on Green Deal &amp; ECO schemes via Forums and newsletters.</p>	Ongoing
	<p>Advice and information to Estate Agents and Managing Agents on Green Deal and ECO.</p> <p><b>Future activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Information pack to be developed once there is clarity concerning future funding.</li> </ul>	2015-2017
	<p>Advice and information to tenants on saving energy e.g. via advice leaflet.</p> <p><b>Future activity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An information pack to be developed as part of the Private Sector Landlord 'offer'.</li> </ul>	2015-2017
	<p>We will ensure the Private Rented Sector are up to standard by dealing with complaints from tenants, taking action using the Housing Health &amp; Rating System HHSRS e.g. to deal with hazards such as Excess Cold.</p>	Ongoing
<b>Partnership working</b>	<p>Sentinel Housing Association are the largest social housing provider within Hart. Where applicable, programmes will be communicated to Sentinel residents along side private sector residents.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was hoped that the 'Energy Action North Hampshire' area based programme could link in with Sentinel Housing and a joint programme targeting areas of mixed RP and owner-occupied properties would be delivered. We will consider working with Sentinel on any future schemes which are developed.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and Hart are working together on Green Deal and ECO to (a) maximise ECO potential (b) help give continuity in messaging and (c) to help local economy benefit from the Green Deal.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We worked in partnership with BDBC to set up the 'Energy Action North Hampshire' scheme but the scheme closed in October 2014.</li> </ul>	
	<p>Greening Hart Partnership is a group led by Hart District Council to reduce carbon emissions within the District. This group includes local business, residents, local Parish councils and local Churches. This group will be leading on some of the communications programmes and included in all of them.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This partnership no longer meets although virtual communications are ongoing between key partners as and when necessary.</li> </ul>	

	<p>Hampshire Sustainable Business Network is a network run by Hampshire Chamber of Commerce to help businesses address all issues around sustainability. HDC are active within this and sit on the steering committee. Communications of programmes will be circulated to this group.</p> <p><b>Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Due to resource constraints Hart are not currently supporting this Network.</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Financial Assistance</b>	<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 top ups for external insulation. £30K was spent on grants and loans for energy efficiency works between 2013 and 2015.</p> <p><b>Future action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In light of the difficulty in accessing ECO and GDHIF funding, we are considering setting up a local energy efficiency grants/ loans scheme to offer residents a finance package for the installation of energy efficiency measures.</i></li> </ul>	<b>Ongoing</b>

Signed off by – 

Patricia Hughes – Joint Chief Executive