



Solihull Metropolitan
Borough Council
HECA REPORTING 2019

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Introduction

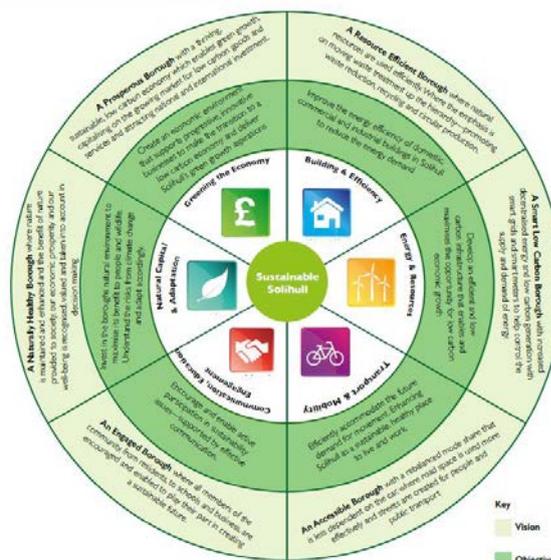
The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change requires local authorities in England to provide an update report every two years setting out the energy conservation measures that the authority considers practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in significant improvement in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the area. This report builds on previous reports setting out how Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council intends to help householders take advantage of financial incentives such as the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), Feed in Tariff (FIT) and any other schemes that became available. In addition it will also provide information on funding sourced and provided by the council.

Our Green Prospectus clearly sets out the councils vision in relation to Sustainability. The Green Prospectus will help articulate Solihull’s low carbon vision, ensuring that -through managed growth -we are at the forefront of the UK’s transition to a low carbon economy. It is informed by a number of current and emerging strategies emanating from the West Midlands Combined Authority and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) - all of which provide the strategic direction for sustainability across the region. We have a number of key themes within our plan and it is the Energy theme that will be the focus for our HECA delivery and ambitions.

Since HECA was first introduced Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council has submitted annual reports to the Secretary of State. Outlining progress made towards the assumed target of a 25% improvement in energy efficiency in domestic property in our borough. With the introduction of additional specific targets under Local Area Agreements we have delivered programmes and works for energy efficiency, fuel poverty and carbon performance.

We are now in our fourth reporting stage for the revitalised HECA and this report details both projects and work we have delivered since the last report in 2017 and our plans for the next two years to address home energy related issues across our borough.

Green Prospectus Themes and Objectives



HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report:		
Job title of official submitting the report: Sustainability Officer Name: Robin Dunlevy Email: rdunlevy@solihull.gov.uk Phone Number: 0121 704 6450		
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: http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/StrategiesPlansPolicies/Housing/EnergyandAffordableWarmthStrategy.pdf The council monitors and sets targets to reduce emissions through Carbon Management. This is a key project of the Green Prospectus, the Council's road map to a 'low carbon borough'. The Council publishes its emissions in a Carbon Report, and is developing an understanding of its future emissions with a few to putting in strategies (and projects) to reduce them.	
3	a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented (or planning to) 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>The council works with partners to deliver and develop a range of projects that support our residents and provide both energy and carbon reduction along wider outcomes for residents of increased incomes, improvements in health along with a improved housing stock and rising EPC's. Since 2017 we have delivered or are delivering the following:</p> <p>The council works closely with its Arms-Length Management Organisation (ALMO) Solihull Community Housing (SCH). During this reporting period the following energy efficiency measures have been installed or are being delivered or planned:</p> <p>Heating upgrades We have continued with our programme to upgrade older less efficient heating systems with 384 new boilers and heating systems installed</p>	

First time central heating (Warm Homes fund)

We have secured funding to deliver first time gas central heating for up to 250 properties. This will be split equally between social housing and private homes. This programme is due to last until June 2020.

High Rise heating proposal

We have received detailed feasibility studies for two heating replacement options. These will be subject to further assessment but the current preferred options are either ground source heat pumps or gas district heating.

External wall insulation

Carried out external wall insulation to 181 solid wall and system built properties, improving their thermal performance for residents.

Window replacements

Installing new energy efficient double glazed windows in around 650 homes.

New build schemes

We have installed solar PV systems to the communal areas of two major new build projects providing care and support services.

Biomass boilers installations

Commissioned a detailed assessment of the condition of all biomass boiler installations and plant to improve operational efficiency

E, F & G rated properties

Identified those properties that currently have an EPC rating of E, F or G and what improvement measures would help to improve thermal performance and increase the EPC rating.

Void Property Energy Management Scheme

Energy Angels – Void energy management scheme commenced in 2018 in order to provide administrative savings for SCH and support to new tenants. To date 681 tenants have been supported. (further details in answer to Q6).

The council has also delivered or is delivering the follow schemes:

Training for front line staff

The council has provided (via act on Energy and NEA) training for front line staff from internal and external partners in relation to, fuel poverty, energy efficiency, income maximization and smart meters.

Warm Homes Fund – the council have successful bid to deliver a category one programme for first time gas extension in homes across Solihull. (further details in answer to Q6).

Winter Warmth Campaign – Our ongoing campaign operating since 2008 to protect vulnerable residents from the effects of cold. The campaign provides support to all vulnerable residents and directly contacts over 4000 residents on an annual basis. Targeted groups include the elderly, disabled, families with young children in receipt of income related benefits. (further details in answer to Q6).

Specialist Energy Advice Line and Support

The council funds a dedicated and specialist energy helpline for residents to

	<p>receive independent advice and assistance. This is provided by Act on Energy a local charity operating in the area with over 20 years' experience of delivering energy advice and support to residents. Act on Energy provide both energy advice and support the delivery of ECO schemes such as flex and the industry initiative schemes.</p> <p>Your Green Future – Hosted a project to allow school age young people to understand the importance of the wider sustainability agenda including energy. In 2018, 14 schools attended the event with 296 students taking part in a range of business led workshops.</p> <p>Inter-Climate Conference - In partnership with Inter-Climate Network, the council has hosted 2 Inter Climate Conference events inviting local secondary schools to debate solutions to climate change. The young people took part in officer led workshops, one of which focused on energy efficiency.</p> <p>Switch and Save – we have delivered 10 successful switch and schemes dating back to 2015. (further details in answer to Q6).</p>
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4	<p>What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), such as the value of grants and other support made available, plus any other costs incurred (such as administration) as desired? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.</p>														
	<p>The Warm Homes Fund project has a potential value of £961,875. Administration costs for the project are £65,000 which includes the cost of pre and post installation Energy Performance Certificates. The average cost per install is £3,500.</p> <p>Winter Warmth Campaign – annual cost £64,146 Cost of Service at current level per annum :</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Staff (1 x FTE Winter Warmth Manager, 1 x 0.5 FTE Advisor)</td> <td>£45,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temperature Cards (5000 per year)</td> <td>£ 4,246.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Emergency Equipment/Funds/EE measures</td> <td>£ 9,700.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Printing/postage incl proactive letter</td> <td>£ 1,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses – Staff and Volunteers</td> <td>£ 1,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telephones</td> <td>£ 1,200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other – stationery/GOCs</td> <td>£ 1,500.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Act on Energy – cost £15,000 per annum to provide phone line and support for residents to assist access to funding such as ECO, plus switching etc</p>	Staff (1 x FTE Winter Warmth Manager, 1 x 0.5 FTE Advisor)	£45,000.00	Temperature Cards (5000 per year)	£ 4,246.00	Emergency Equipment/Funds/EE measures	£ 9,700.00	Printing/postage incl proactive letter	£ 1,500.00	Expenses – Staff and Volunteers	£ 1,000.00	Telephones	£ 1,200.00	Other – stationery/GOCs	£ 1,500.00
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Other – stationery/GOCs	£ 1,500.00														
5	<p>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</p>														

We work with a number of partners including other statutory sectors such as public health and adult social care to ensure we offer quality support to our residents. We work with the following partners to deliver our programs:
Act on Energy, Age UK Solihull, CAB, Dodds Group, NEA, Solihull Community Housing, Solihull Community Advice Hub, Disability Resource Centre.

6	<p>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.)?</p> <p>This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>
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We provide advice and support in a number of ways and outcomes are often driven by the criteria set through the funded programmes available through external sources e.g. ECO or WHF.

We have delivered through our schemes the following for residents:

WHF – this scheme is still being delivered but we have provided 27 installs with another 30 due to be installed in the next few months. All of the properties were using electric storage heating prior to the installation of gas wet central heating. The new central heating provides estimated bill savings of around £300 pa with an increased SAP score of around 10 points.

Winter Warmth Campaign – outcomes for the campaign in 2017/19 were:

	2017/18	2018/19
Grants	19	30
Cold Homes and Energy Surveys	204	159
Condensation and Damp Interventions	15	10
Electric Blankets	88	88
Emergency Funding	14 = £1,242.34	6 = £103.71
Energy Efficiency Measure	52	35
Energy Supplier Dispute	52	47
Fuel Debt	18	41
Heaters	46	54
Heater Collection	58	25
Heating Breakdown	50	52
Information and Advice	1897	1551
Insulation	47	17
New Boiler	20	19
Carbon Monoxide Detectors	0	22
Reprogramming/Instruction – Boilers	31	27
Switches	254 – 83 recorded as taken up = £21,256	225-95 recorded as taken up = £7,623.02
Warm Home Discount	227 = £31,780	214 = £34,240
Proactive Letters	3000	4000

Energy Angels – SCH project

Year to date 722 voids. Of the reported voids Energy Angels have switched 681. That is a conversion rate of 94% against an anticipated 85%.

Savings to SCH can be calculated as £11,990.84 worked hour saving (calculated at a rate of £15.59 per hour) and £6,737.24 for standing charge based on the 681 properties switched.

Tenant savings are estimated to equal £51,141.43 for the year to date.

Overall therefore, total savings equal £69,869.51

Solihull Switch and Save – In partnership with iChoosr, the council has managed a number of successful Collective Energy Switching Schemes called Solihull Switch ‘n’ Save with the aim of helping residents find a better/cheaper deal on home gas and electricity bills. This scheme will mean residents won’t need to negotiate the often confusing world of energy suppliers and tariffs.

We ran the scheme in October 2015, May 2016, October 2016, May 2017, October 2017, May 2018 and October 2018 and the results were:

Date	Registrations	Average Savings	Number of Switchers	% of switchers	Total Bill Savings
Oct 2015	749	£ 295.87	272	36%	£ 80,477
May 2016	1,120	£ 358.78	442	39%	£158,579
Oct 2016	814	£ 130.63	156	19%	£20,378
May 2017	2,429	£ 284.18	583	24%	£165,107
Oct 2017	1,161	£245.20	228	20%	£55,660
May 2018	3,199	£239.72	580	18%	£139,039
Oct 2018	1,195	£143.22	233	19%	£33,228
Totals	10,667	£ 257.47	2,494	23%	£652,470

Energy Advice Service

Our local energy advice service provides independent and impartial advice to residents via trained and experienced staff. In addition to financial support and energy saving the support also includes:

	No of Events/measures	Clients receiving 1-2-1 advice	Energy Saving Kwh	Monetary Savings
Events (saving based on 33% take up of advice includes switching)	41	423		£36,820
Presentations (saving based on 33% take up of advice includes switching)	10	311		£27,089
Front line staff training	4	48		£12,624
HVs	41	41		£10,783
Heating Measures	66	ECO/flex & WHF	243,342	£11,220
Loft insulation	16	ECO/flex	19,776	£896
Cavity wall insulation	72	ECO/flex	187,632	£11,160
Telephone Line (saving based on 33% take up of advice includes switching)	358	358		£31,297

In addition, the schemes supported by Act on Energy have improved health and wellbeing

<p>outcomes for residents whilst also supporting the West Midlands economy by using the local supply chain where possible.</p> <p>Also, it is estimated that the energy efficiency measures in the table above have produced Carbon savings of around 130 tonnes.</p>			
7	<p>What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?</p> <p>Although levels of fuel poverty in the borough are lower than other LA's in the West Midlands we do still have areas of significant fuel poverty. Consequently, demand for support is high and we are only able to offer support to households working within considerable funding constraints and therefore can only focus on those most in need. It is evident that a whole house approach to energy efficiency is required together with support in relation to income maximisation and debt management. Schemes need to incorporate this support as well as capital funding. Fuel poverty will not be eradicated by providing capital funding for low cost measures. There needs to be more emphasis on 1-2-1 support for the most vulnerable pre and post intervention to encourage take up and provide ongoing support. Schemes take a long time to generate interest from vulnerable residents.</p>		
<p>Local Communications Strategy</p>			
8	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	Yes
Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	Yes		
9	<p>If yes to question 8, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)</p> <p>The council provides a specialist energy advice line through local charity Act on Energy who have over 20 years' experience of providing impartial energy efficiency advice. The support for residents includes advice on all aspects of energy and with accessing funding support through ECO/ECO Flex, Industry Initiative Schemes or our own schemes. We also provide information on our own website and through tenant newsletters to promote energy saving switching etc.</p> <p>The council work with AgeUK Solihull to deliver our annual winter warmth campaign and provided a dedicated freephone number for residents to deliver that service.</p>		
10	<p>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')</p> <p>Information is available through a variety of sources including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council website - http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/housing/Improving-your-home/energyefficiency • Act on Energy Website - http://www.actonenergy.org.uk/ • Leaflets across the borough to promote our schemes • Leaflets on specific issues such as heating, damp, switching • Newsletters • Local charities • Social media • Letters to residents to promote schemes e.g. WHF • Promotion at Walk-in Centres • Information at flu clinics • Articles for Patient Participation Groups linked to NHS Surgeries 		

- Provision of energy advice at the local Job Centre and Libraries
- Provision of training for internal and external frontline staff

Local Green Supply Chains		
11	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
12	If yes to question 11, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
Promotion through our energy advice partner Act on Energy and wider through our LEP and WMCA work where energy is a key priority.		
13	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>The Council publishes a monthly e-newsletter for businesses offering a range of support services and advice sharing for businesses specializing or have an interest in carbon reduction or energy efficiency.</p> <p>Business support is available via social media and the Solihull For Success website.</p> <p>The council hosts the Sustainability Visioning Group, consisting of attendees from a range of local businesses including Birmingham Airport, Jaguar Land Rover and the NEC. This group has delivered a number of events supporting businesses in improving their sustainability and energy efficiency. Future plans include energy efficiency workshops managed by the Carbon Trust.</p>		
Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards		
<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>		
14	Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018? (if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')	Yes
15	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard? Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	

Trading standards will be responsible for the enforcement of PRS minimum standards		
16	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<p>The Council communicates with landlords through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Website • Landlords Forum 		
17	Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties? If yes, how? If no, please explain.	N
18	<p>The current service is reactive only and we do not currently have resources to offer an alternative option that would include the enforcement of MEES.</p> <p>Support and advice for landlords and private tenants is available from Act on Energy to access any external funding and the use of trusted installers.</p>	
Financial Support for Energy Efficiency		
19	<p>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.</p> <p>(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')</p>	
<p>We have funding for the following physical intervention programmes:</p> <p>Warm Homes Fund – Category 1 bid to provide first time central heating to residents. The bid was for just over £900,000 and is for delivering heating measures to 250 homes across the borough with 50/50 social/owner occupier split.</p> <p>ECO – we also offer support though ECO but levels of funding are not fixed and are dependent on supplier/installer offers.</p> <p>Winter Warmth Campaign – £64,000 funded through public health and the council.</p> <p>Energy advice and Support – funding of £15,000 provided by the council to support the delivery of ECO and schemes such as WHF along with energy advice support to residents.</p>		

Fuel Poverty		
20	<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>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.</p>	Yes
<p>The council has a Home Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy (HEEAWS) that was published in autumn 2015.</p> <p>The purpose of the strategy is to guide the council and partner agencies in committing resources to four linked objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the energy efficiency of domestic dwellings in Solihull and promote the use of appropriate low and zero carbon technologies that help to reduce carbon emissions. 2. To work towards a reduction in fuel poverty throughout the Borough. 3. To provide a range of support for residents and in particular vulnerable households and those on low income. 4. To support the emerging 'green economy' through investment in energy efficiency measures in new and existing housing and low and zero carbon technologies. <p>The HEEAWS also supports a number of Council strategies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Prospectus • Housing Strategy • Local Plan • Solihull Community Housing - Climate Change Strategy <p>The council provides quarterly briefing notes to provide partners with an update on progress and note future challenges/ opportunities. The last update was in February 2019 and the link is:</p> <p>http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/StrategiesPlansPolicies/Home-Energy-Efficiency-update-February-2019.pdf</p>		
21	<p>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>	
<p>Residents that are more likely to be in fuel poverty have been identified through a number of different approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government's annual fuel poverty statistics have been used to identify areas in the borough with the highest levels to be targeted with letters offering assistance for WHF. • EPC data • Use of off gas data from Cadent to target potential homes along with data from Solihull Community Housing 		

- Through partnership arrangements with frontline services such as GP practices, home care providers, AgeUK, hospital discharge services, social workers and children's centre staff, as they are in a position to identify clients as being fuel poor.

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

Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Carbon reduction sits within the wider Sustainability activity as detailed in the Green Prospectus under the Buildings and Efficiencies Theme. The Home Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy (HEEAWS) builds on existing policies, practices and partnerships to maximise the potential for energy efficiency, low and zero carbon energy and provision of affordable warmth to residents in Solihull.

The aim of Solihull's Green Prospectus is to articulate Solihull's low carbon vision, ensuring that - through managed growth - we are at the forefront of the UK's transition to a low carbon economy. <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/Solihull-Green-Prospectus-2018-19-Refresh.pdf>

23 a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? And if so what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate) (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words

The council utilise our energy advice partners Act on Energy who are able to access both energy suppliers and local contractors to deliver our energy efficiency works and support vulnerable residents in our communities.

We also work with our partner, iChoosr, to deliver Switch and Save campaigns every year. (see answer to question 6)

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.

24	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
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Link to Sol: <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/StrategiesPlansPolicies/Housing/Local-Authority-Flexible-Eligibility-Statement-of-Intent.pdf>

25	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.	
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We deliver ECO Flex with our trusted and impartial partner Act on Energy who assesses each case individually to consider the needs and eligibility of the resident. Referrals for the scheme come through our promotional work and through trusted partners. During 2018/19 we have installed 75 cavity wall insulation and 16 loft installations through flex and 5 boiler replacements. In addition, Flex has enabled us to help residents access Industry Initiative Schemes and Warm Home Fund.

Smart Metering

26	Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to: 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	
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	<p>with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.</p>
<p>Through our partners Act on Energy we have been able to access support and training for both residents and frontline staff.</p> <p>Act on Energy have attended events and worked with key partners such as Solihull Community Housing to help residents understand the benefits of Smart Metering. This has been linked to their work in 2017 delivering BESN on behalf of BEIS. Unfortunately, Act on Energy was unable to access the funding for 2018 and relied on Smart Energy GB to promote smart meters.</p>	
27	<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>
<p>Our partners use a joined up approach to energy efficiency so will look at the whole house and householder to maximise the support that is provided. They utilise material produced by themselves and through others such as Smart GB portal for leaflets and information this is then circulated throughout the borough in a variety of ways including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants newsletters • SCH website • Council website 	
28	<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>
<p>Emergency assistance via the provision of temporary heating is available to all residents regardless of vulnerability or financial situation.</p> <p>Where a resident's gas boiler has been condemned, they could potentially be helped through the council's Winter Warmth project if they meet the eligibility criteria and funding is available. In addition our partners, Act On Energy are due to start a reactive response programme with NEA and Cadent to repair/replace condemned heating appliances in 2019/20.</p>	
29	<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>

This is delivered in our own stock through the Energy Angels Void Management Project which also looks at fuel switching. (For more details see answer to Q6)

Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives

30	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').
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The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) is convening a consortium of national, regional and local partners who will design, develop and pilot a new, more efficient, cost-effective and holistic approach to addressing fuel poverty in the UK while also meeting industrial strategy, social inclusion and environmental policy objectives.

The Council's Sustainability Officer has been involved in early discussions and if supported, the council would look to support a pilot scheme to develop new approaches to insulation and heating improvements, to run during the current ECO 3 obligation period which ends in 2022.

This is an exciting and once-in-a-generation opportunity to redesign the way we approach fuel poverty in the UK. The vision is a practitioner-led project with clear accountability and scale, delivering at least [£50M] of improvements for some of the worst housing and most deprived communities in the country. This will create a template for delivery of a significant part of the UK's Clean Growth and Industrial Strategy for at least the next decade.