Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises that local authorities are uniquely placed to assess the needs of their local residents and have the ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation in their areas.

In July 2012, the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) issued guidance to local authorities requesting the production of a further HECA report by the 31st March 2013, which would set out in local context 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 its area.

The HECA report is required to be updated on a Biennial basis from March 2015 to 31 March 2027. It is anticipated that the whole of the East Cambridgeshire HECA report will be one live and evolving document outlining previous activities, achievements and targets going forward which reflect the energy efficiency ambitions and priorities set out by our Members and local communities.

Local Context

East Cambridgeshire is a largely rural district which covers an area of 655km² and has a population of approximately 81,000 people in 36,672 households. The population and services are centred on the 3 market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport.

Property types

Just over a quarter of the homes in the district were built before 1945, and of these homes 91% are of solid wall construction, making them more difficult to insulate.

The energy efficiency of property across the district is consistent across private and social housing, with the Private Sector Housing Stock survey reporting the SAP rating of private stock to be on average 51\(^1\), with the same figure reported by Sanctuary Housing; the largest provider of social housing within the district.

Fuel Poverty

In May 2013 the government adopted a new definition of fuel poverty based on the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) framework\(^2\).

The new definition considers a household to be in fuel poverty if:

- they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)

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\(^1\) http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing

were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

According to statistics provided by DECC\(^3\), 7.2% of households in East Cambridgeshire are in fuel poverty based on the LIHC definition. This equates to 2640 households.

The above chart illustrated the rates of fuel poverty within each district in Cambridgeshire, the county average and the average for England. Approximately 10.4% of all households in England are in fuel poverty\(^4\).

The rural nature of the district and the nature of the housing stock, along with a low income, for some of the households that live in these types of properties, are the main reasons for fuel poverty within the district.

In addition 24% of the households in the district are off the gas network, and so will be using a more expensive fuel type for heating their homes such as oil or electricity, this is significantly more than the national average of 9% of households not connected to the gas network.\(^5\)

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Energy Use and Emissions

Energy used in transport is the greatest source of CO$_2$ emission from the district, which would be expected from a largely rural area, from which residents commute to places such as Cambridge and London for work.

![Sources of CO2 emissions per head in East Cambridgeshire](image)

Emissions from road transport accounts for 3.3 tonnes of CO2 per head each year in East Cambridgeshire. Emissions from the domestic sector and the industrial and commercial sector each come in at 2.4 tonnes per head per year on average$^6$. The majority of emissions within the domestic sector will be from home energy use from space heating, lighting and use of other household appliances.

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The graph above shows emissions per head in East Cambridgeshire between 2005 and 2012\textsuperscript{7}, showing a downward trend until 2010. The fall in emissions between 2008 and 2009 is thought to be in part due to the recession and the rise the subsequent year due to a cold winter early in 2010, resulting in an increase in energy use for space heating.

Local authorities are no longer expected to provide data on CO\textsubscript{2} emissions as part of their progress reports, however the statistics provided by DECC on emissions, are directly linked to the amount of energy used within the district, and a reduction in emissions will show the related reduction in energy use, and a continued downward trend in emissions would be expected if the authorities plans are effective in conserving energy.

This shows how energy use within the district can be influenced by national factors, as well as the work the district council can do on a local level. However, with effective distribution of energy conserving measures (i.e. insulation), the installation of energy efficient appliances (i.e. condensing boilers) and the uptake of renewable technologies (i.e. solar power), energy use and domestic carbon emissions in the district should continue its downward trend over the course of the HECA reporting period to 2027.

\textsuperscript{7} https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates#history
Ambitions

The legal requirements to reduce carbon dioxide emissions are set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Government’s Carbon Plan, published in 2011. The Carbon Plan sets the following targets in relation to housing, and its energy use:

- Reduce CO₂ emissions by 29% by 2017, 35% by 2022 and 50% by 2027 of 2009 levels.
- Insulate all wall cavities and lofts, where practicable by 2020
- By 2030, between 1 and 3.7m additional solid wall homes be insulated
- By 2050 emissions from UK buildings be “close to zero”

In addition, the 2014 Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations is proposing new targets to address fuel poverty. The Regulations will create in law a new fuel poverty target to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of Band C, by 2030.

The regulations specify the following interim milestones:

- As many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020
- As many fuel poor homes in England as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025

Along with the national targets East Cambridgeshire has a number of ambitions that it wishes to meet locally that will also help to meet our HECA obligations. These include:

- Maximising the creation of new green infrastructure to combat climate change and deliver social, economic and environmental benefits
- To reduce fuel poverty
- Increase the proportion of private sector housing that is of a decent standard that is occupied by vulnerable households
- Improve Health and Wellbeing and encouraging independence

Outlined in the action plan below, are the measures that the Council is undertaking, as part of its HECA plan.

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8 http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PSH%20jan%202015.pdf
9 http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SD1%20presubmissionordovaclplanpart1.pdf
10
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Date that the action will be met</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Local Energy Efficiency Ambitions and Priorities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fuel Poverty</td>
<td>We will reduce fuel poverty by 10%, (400 households) of 2010 levels by 2016</td>
<td>2016 / ongoing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In 2010, 14% of households in the district were considered to be in fuel poverty (4764 properties). Since the 2013 HECA further report was produced a new definition of fuel poverty has been adopted by central government. The latest fuel poverty statistics using the new definition show that 2640 households are in fuel poverty.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The council will continue to work to reduce fuel poverty throughout the district by:</td>
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<td>• Raising awareness through community talks</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Signposting residents to relevant organisations and informing them of relevant grants and benefits</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Taking into account the affordability of heating systems during HHSRS ‘Excess cold’ assessments and improvement notices (the scoring process for Environmental Health Inspections).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Helping homeowners to identify and cut their energy use by lending out Home Energy Meters from our libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emissions</td>
<td>In 2010 our per capita CO₂ emissions for the domestic sector were 2.2 tCO₂</td>
<td>2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>We will reduce carbon emissions in the domestic sector by 20% on 2010 levels by 2020</td>
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<td>Community Energy</td>
<td>We will create and promote an energy efficiency toolkit available for use by community groups, the voluntary sector and Parish Councils. The kit will include the use and training of a thermal imaging camera to identify heat loss within the home, a checklist for identifying ways to save energy within the home and demonstration energy saving products.</td>
<td>2015 / ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate Local</td>
<td>Our commitment to sign up to Climate Local is still undergoing consideration.</td>
<td>Ongoing / under consideration</td>
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**Carbon management plan**

We will investigate the scope for creating a Carbon Management Plan for the council’s estate. The plan would allow us to lead by example, and include information on the viability of installing renewable technologies.

**2. Measures we are taking to result in significant energy efficiency improvement of our residential accommodation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Green Deal and ECO</strong></th>
<th>We are receiving an increased volume of calls relating to the Green Deal, EPC’s and installing small scale renewable energy technologies. We will continue to provide information for householders in order to help explain the Green Deal and how it works, through one to one advice and via our website. We will continue to promote the release of further Green Deal Home Improvement Funds (GDHIF) and similar grant funding through press releases, newsletters and our social media channels. To date 12 households in the district have claimed GDHIF cash back vouchers and 1,140 Energy Company Obligation measures have been installed. We have developed the Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Brand with partnership authorities, and signed a contract with our Green Deal provider; Climate Energy to deliver Green Deal and ECO funded measures across Cambridgeshire.</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Green Deal Communities Fund</strong></td>
<td>Green Deal Communities Funding of £7.8 million was awarded to the Action on Energy partnership in March 2014. The fund will be used to help subsidise the cost of solid walled insulation in domestic properties across the county (£5.7m), and to subsidise a range of efficiency measures in private rental properties (£2m). Approximately £100k is available for local installer training. Funding will be allocated by Sept 2015 with all installations completed by March 2016.</td>
<td>March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feed In Tariffs (FITs) and Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)</strong></td>
<td>We will continue to signpost householders to advice and guidance relating to installations that are entitled to FITs and RHI payments. We will provide information and links via our website on the most up to date information on FITs and RHI. Energy efficiency planning guidance is now available on our website.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housing Associations</strong></td>
<td>The District council does not hold residential housing stock. We will work with housing associations and social landlords to refer properties in need of insulation measures and energy efficient improvements. We are currently referring suitable properties to our</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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largest housing provider; Sanctuary, for their programme of solid wall insulation which utilises ECO funding.

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<tr>
<th>Housing strategy</th>
<th>We will investigate the addition of carbon and/or energy efficiency targets in our East Cambridgeshire District Council Housing Statement which is currently being updated.</th>
<th>2017</th>
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| Zero Carbon Homes | Our Local Plan (which manages growth and development in the District over the next 20 years) is due to be ratified in April 2015. Within the plan there are key policies relating to energy efficiency:  
- The Council expects all non-domestic developments over 1000m2 to achieve BREEAM Very Good, or equivalent though an alternative environmental rating scheme. This will demonstrate good levels of energy efficiency and sustainable design.  
- All proposals for new development should aim for reduced or zero carbon development in accordance with the zero carbon hierarchy: first maximising energy efficiency and then incorporating renewable or low carbon energy sources on-site as far as practicable.  
- The Council will work with property owners to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings through initiatives that may be developed centrally or locally.  
The council will continue to monitor further legislation in the Code for Sustainable Homes and develop appropriate policy as and when changes occur. | April 2015 |
| EPCs | We will continue to use publicly accessible EPC data to target suitable energy efficiency improvements and campaigns across the district. EPC data is being used to assist in suggesting suitable measures for residents reporting issues with cold, damp and mould and in assessing HHSRS cases. We will continue to ensure that landlords, letting agents and those selling their property are aware of the legal obligations to provide an EPC. | Ongoing |
| Private Rental Sector | We will work with private landlords to encourage use of the Green Deal Finance, Green Deal Communities Funding and ECO to improve the energy efficiency of their accommodation, where there issues with excess cold have been identified. To date referrals are being passed from the Environmental Health Teams and the Care and Repair Team to the Energy Officer to facilitate the instalment of energy efficiency | Ongoing |
measures.

We will raise awareness of changes to the Energy Act which from 2018 requires all rented properties to have a minimum EPC rating of ‘E’. To date we have met with a number of letting agents through pre-arranged meetings and landlord forums to outline funding options available to landlords to improve their properties.

We will consult with Landlords over the best use of incentives for energy efficiency measures for their properties, with a view to reducing fuel poverty in the private rental sector. The council renewed the Private Rental Sector Housing Policy in Jan 2015, within the policy there are key objectives to Increase the proportion of private sector housing that is of a decent standard that is occupied by vulnerable households, this includes increasing the thermal comfort of homes and reducing the category 1 hazards under HHSRS of which ‘Excess Cold’ is one of the highest scoring and most prevalent hazards.

3. Measures we propose to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation involving local communities and partnerships

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<tr>
<th>措施</th>
<th>详情</th>
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<tr>
<td>Warm Homes Healthy People Fund</td>
<td>Department of Health Funding has now been given directly to the County Council. However we will continue to work in partnership with them on relevant projects, and submit bids for funding where money is made available although no joint projects are currently taking place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridgeshire Green Deal</td>
<td>A European level procurement has taken place, and contracts signed with 6 Cambridgeshire local authorities and our Green Deal provider; Climate Energy to provide Green Deal and ECO under the Action on Energy brand for 3 years, there is an option to further extend the contract until 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal Switching</td>
<td>We will continue to work with the County Council to promote local communal switching auctions, to help residents get a better deal on their energy bills, thus reducing incidents of fuel poverty. To date 53 residents have switched providers over three auctions. The average fuel saving for each customer by switching is £185 per year.</td>
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4. National and local partners

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<th>合作伙伴</th>
<th>详情</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>Fenland District Council Cambridge City Council</td>
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</table>
Cambridgeshire County Council
South Cambs Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
Sanctuary Housing
East Cambridgeshire Care and Repair
HECA East
Home Energy Liaison Group (HELG)

Prepared by:
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Updated March 2015.