

## AGENDA ITEM NO 8

**TITLE:** HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT 1995 (HECA) FURTHER REPORT YEAR 1 UPDATE

Committee: Community and Environment

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Author: Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Officer

[N282]

### 1.0 ISSUE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of progress and seek approval from Members of the changes made to the Action Plan within East Cambridgeshire Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Further Report, to reflect upcoming work.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That Members approve the changes to the Action Plan within the HECA Further Report.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 The Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) has been in force since 1996. It requires local authorities with housing responsibilities to periodically report improvements to the energy efficiency of the housing stock in their area.

3.2 Guidance from the Department of Energy and Climate Change on HECA required Energy Conservation Authorities (of which East Cambridgeshire is one) to publish a Further Report by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

3.3 Authorities are also be required to provide Reports on progress made in implementing the measures set out in the Further Report at 2 yearly intervals – the next being due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

3.4 A review against progress after the first year has been completed, and an updated Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1.

3.5 Most notable progress against the plan includes;

- Action on Energy scheme set up across Cambridgeshire,
- Procurement of Climate Energy as our Green Deal and ECO provider partner
- Set up of Cambridgeshire Community Energy Switching Service

3.6 The plan has been updated to include the following targets;

- Using the Green Deal Communities (GDC) Grant of £7.8 million across Cambridgeshire,

- Consulting with Landlords on the measures that would be most appropriate for them to fit to within their properties with GDC funding to improve energy efficiency,
- Smartlife, Cambridge Regional College and Suffolk Local Authorities added as partners.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 All work identified within the Action Plan will take place within existing resources, or with external funding.

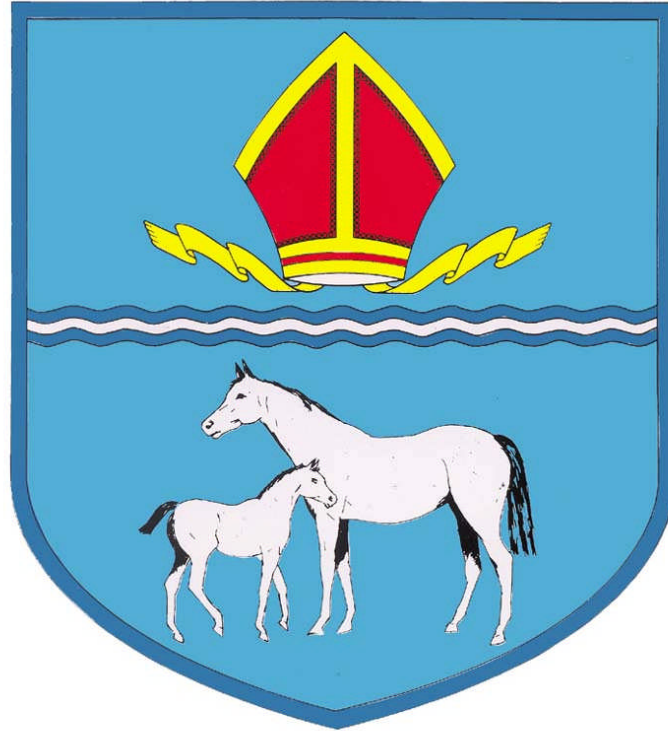
4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required

#### 5.0 APPENDICES

5.1 ECDC HECA Further Report Update

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
	Room SF204 Annex The Grange, Ely	Rachel Doyle Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Officer (01353) 616474 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Rachel.Doyle@eastcambs.gov.uk">Rachel.Doyle@eastcambs.gov.uk</a>



# EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Home Energy Conservation Act 1995**

**Further Report**

**March 2013**

## **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 further reports by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, 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 its area.

This document sets out this information, within the local context, and will be used to update on progress as required by the guidance on a bi-annual basis, from 2015. It is anticipated that East Cambridgeshire's HECA further report will be a live document, and will be updated regularly to 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 almost 65,500 hectares and has a population of approximately 74,600 in over 36,000 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.

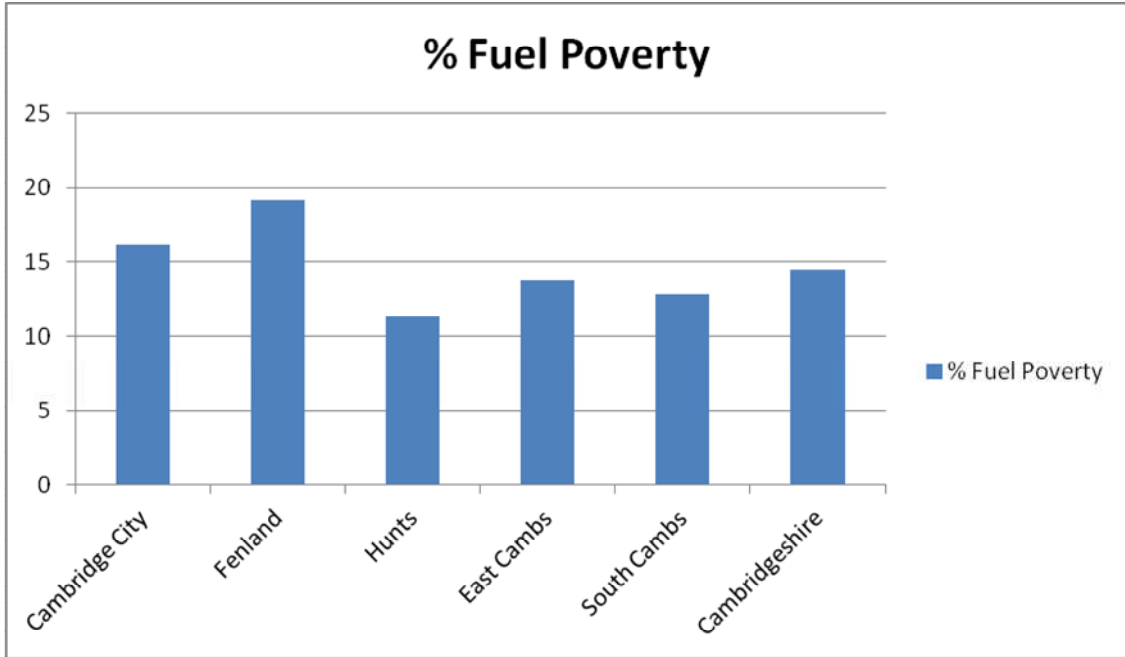
In addition a third (32%) of the households in the district are off the gas network, and so will be using a more expensive fuel type for heating their homes such as oil or electricity.

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, with the same figure reported by Sanctuary Housing, the largest provider of social housing within the district.

### Fuel Poverty

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.

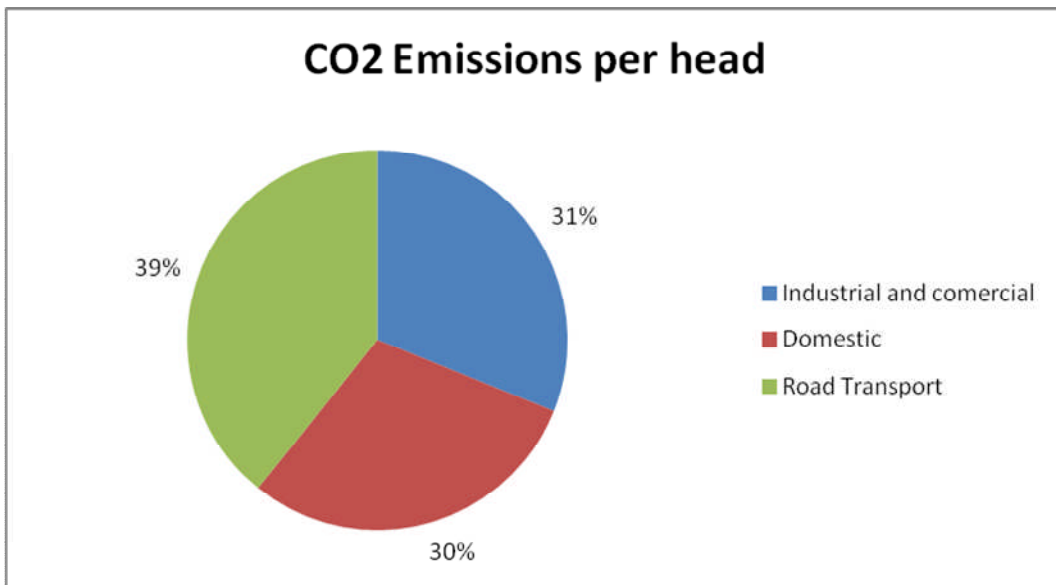
According to statistics provided by DECC, (Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fuel-poverty-2010-sub-regional-data>) 13.7% of households in East Cambs are in Fuel poverty. This equates to 4764 households.



Fuel poverty across the whole of Cambridgeshire is relatively low at 14.5% of all households. Rates of fuel poverty within each district in Cambridgeshire are shown in the chart above, with East Cambs being just below the county average.

#### Energy Use and Emissions

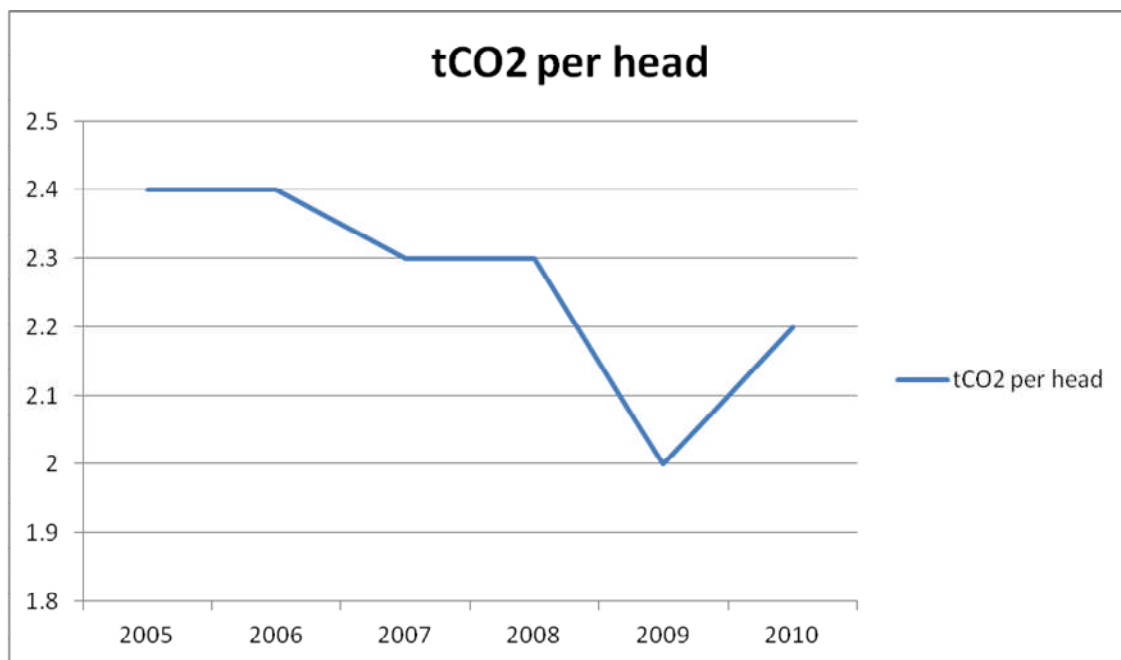
Energy used in transport is the greatest source of CO<sub>2</sub> emission from the district, which would be expected from a largely rural area, from which residents commute to places such as Cambridge and London for work.



(Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates>)

Emissions from the domestic sector and to which this report relates, makes up the smallest emissions sector from the district, at 2.2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> produced per head, however the distribution of emission across each sector, is relatively similar as shown in the graph opposite.

The majority of emissions within the domestic sector, will be from home energy use from space heating, lighting and use of other household appliances.



(Data from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates>)

Local authorities are no longer expected to provide data on CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

The graph above shows emissions per head in East Cambs between 2005 and 2010, showing a downward trend until 2010. The dramatic 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.

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, such as insulation and installation new efficient and renewable technologies, energy use in the district should continue its downward trend over the course of the HECA reporting period to 2027.

## **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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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, there is a target to eradicate fuel poverty in England, as far as is reasonably practicable, by 2016. Households in fuel poverty are currently defined as 'a household that needs to spend more than 10% of their income on heating their home (21 degrees in the main living areas and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms).

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:

- To be a strong partner in the way that the Green Deal is delivered locally, creating a 'win,win' situation for residents improving their homes, local businesses involved in installations, and developing a local supply chain and strengthening the local economy.
- 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 measure that the Council will undertake, as part of its HECA plan.

East Cambridgeshire District Council.

HECA Further Report, Action Plan

Action	Detail	Timing	Progress
<b>1. Local Energy Efficiency Ambitions and Priorities</b>			
<b>Fuel Poverty</b>	In 2010, 14% of households in East Cambs were considered to be in fuel poverty. (Data from <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fuel-poverty-2010-sub-regional-data">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fuel-poverty-2010-sub-regional-data</a> )  We will reduce fuel poverty by 10%, (400 households) of 2010 levels by 2016	2016	Fuel poverty stats will be reviewed and reported prior to bi-annual update to DECC in 2015.
<b>Emissions</b>	In 2010 our per capita CO <sub>2</sub> emissions for the domestic sector were 2.2 tCO <sub>2</sub> (Data from <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-emissions-estimates</a> )  We will reduce carbon emissions in the domestic sector by 20% on 2010 levels by 2020	2020	Progress against emissions targets will be reviewed prior to bi-annual update to DECC in 2015
<b>Climate Local</b>	We will consult on updating our commitment to tackling Climate Change, through Climate Local.	2015	To be completed during 2014
<b>2. Measures we are taking to result in significant energy efficiency improvement of our residential accommodation</b>			
<b>Green Deal and ECO</b>	We will 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 work with the other Cambridgeshire authorities to secure a partnership with a GDP or GDAS under a Cambridgeshire Green Deal brand. We will use data from the Pioneer Places project to inform us of how to best target ECO funding within the district.	Ongoing  Ongoing  From May 2013	Developed the Action on Energy Cambridgeshire Brand, and signed a contract with Climate Energy to deliver Green Deal and ECO funded measures across Cambridgeshire.
<b>Feed In Tarriffs</b>	We will continue to signpost householders to local businesses to receive advice and guidance relating to installations that are entitled to FIT payments. We will provide information and links via our website on the most up	Ongoing  Ongoing	Ongoing. Advice is available on East Cambs website, via the



	to date information on FITs.		Energy Efficiency Officer or Action on Energy
<b>Renewable Heat Incentives</b>	We will provide information to householders in order to help explain the scheme. We will signpost private householders to local businesses for advice on specific installations. We will provide information and links via our website on the most up to date information on RHI.	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	RHI officially launched for householder in April 2014. Advice will be available to anyone contacting Action on Energy.
<b>Zero Carbon Homes</b>	We will monitor legislation (Code for Sustainable Homes) and develop appropriate policy within our local plan with relation to community energy funds, and allowable solutions.	Dec 2013	Ongoing
<b>EPCs</b>	We will use publicly accessible EPC data to target suitable energy efficiency improvements and campaigns across the district.	Oct 2013	EPC data is being used to assist in suggesting suitable measures for residents reporting issues with cold, damp and mould. This work is ongoing
<b>Private Rental Sector</b>	We will work with private landlords to encourage use of the Green Deal and ECO to improve the energy efficiency of their accommodation, where there issues with excess cold have been identified.  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.	Oct 2013  May 2014	Referrals via environmental health and Care and Repair allow us to direct tenants and landlords via Action on Energy to access funding where it is available in the first instance.
<b>3. Measures we propose to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation involving local communities and partnerships</b>			
<b>Warm Homes</b>	We will work with the referral network set up during the last 2 years of	Dec 2013	Department of

<b>Healthy People</b>	funding, to improve energy efficiency in the homes of our most vulnerable residents by seeking to gain support again from the Department of Health.		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.
<b>Cambridgeshire Green Deal</b>	We will work with the other Cambridgeshire authorities to secure a partnership with a GDP or GDAS under a Cambridgeshire Green Deal brand. We will work with community groups to identify where promotion of the Cambridgeshire Green Deal can be targeted to have the most impact.	May 2013	European level procurement has taken place, and contracts signed with Climate Energy to provide Green Deal and ECO under the Action on Energy brand.
<b>Communal Switching</b>	We will work with the County Council to set up a local communal switching scheme, to help residents get a better deal on their energy bills, thus reducing incidents of fuel poverty.	Sept 2013	Communal switching service has been procured and first switch took place in February 2014. We will be involved in the promotion of the next switch in May 2014.
<b>Green Deal Communities Fund</b>	We will utilise the Green Deal Communities Funding of £7.8 million across Cambridgeshire to target insulation at solid wall, and other hard to treat properties.	By end of 2015	Scheme to officially launch May 2014.

4. National and local partners			
<b>Partners</b>	Fenland District Council Cambridge City Council Cambridgeshire County Council South Cambs Council Huntingdonshire District Council Sanctuary Housing East Cambridgeshire Care and Repair HECA East Home Energy Liasion Group (HELG) Smartlife Centre Cambridge Regional College Suffolk Local Authorities	Ongoing	Continue to work with partners listed with the additions of Smartlife, Cambridge Regional College and the Suffolk Local Authorities.

Signed	
Name	
Position	

Prepared by:

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Updated April 2014.