

Respondent

< 162 Anonymous >

51:41
Time to complete

Instructions

Please remember that Microsoft Forms will not save your progress so we would highly recommend that you prepare your answers in advance before copying them over. All questions are optional but, responses to all are highly encouraged.

If a question is marked as required (*) and you do not wish to answer it, please respond with 'N/A' and then move on to the next question that you wish to answer.

Please note that for each of the open answer questions there is a character limit of 4000 (this is approximately 500 words).

Introduction

Please answer the following questions to provide general information about your Local Authority.

1. Please provide the name of your Local Authority. *

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

2. Please provide us with the type of Local Authority. *

- County Council
- District Council
- Unitary Authority
- Metropolitan District
- London Borough

3. Please provide us with the name, job title and email address of the official submitting the report. *

Debbie Firmo, Principal Housing Grants Officer, dfirmo@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

Headline & Overview

A section on the main strategies Local Authorities have to promote carbon reduction and energy efficiency, the stakeholders they work with and the impact these strategies have.

4. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties? *

Yes

No

5. If yes, please provide a link to the strategy.

<https://www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Climate Change Action Plan Final.pdf>

6. What scheme(s) is your Local Authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation properties in the next two years? (4000 character limit) *

This work is carried out by Action Surrey who we have a long standing partnership with (their schemes are detailed later) To support their schemes our Housing Grants Discretionary Policy includes a warm at home grant max £10k per cases) for eligible residents for energy efficiency measures to their home.

7. 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? (4000 character limit) *

The council pay Actions Surrey £3000 annually for their services.

8. What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)? (4000 character limit) *

Action Surrey Social services CAB Age Concern

9. What has been, or will be, the outcome of the scheme(s)? These outcomes could include energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness or societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc. (4000 character limit) *

Action Surrey provide an annual report on uptake and outcomes which naturally have been low this year due to Covid and supply issues.

Communications

Section on how Local Authorities engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

10. Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy? *

Yes

No

11. If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken. (4000 character limit) *

We are part of a long-standing partnership of local authorities in Surrey who use 'Action Surrey' as a dedicated energy advice service available to every resident and local business in the area.

12. How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (4000 character limit) *

Action Surrey advertises its free services to residents and local businesses through social media, print media and council publications. Advice is communicated through its website as well as through a phone/email service.

Local Green Supply Chain

Section on how Local Authorities assess the capacity of local supply chains that support home retrofit and energy saving measures and how Local Authorities are planning to grow this capacity.

13. Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? *

Yes

No

14. If Yes, please summarise the outcomes. (4000 character limit) *

We have completed a review on council owned properties and this is a priority for us in the future on external buildings - this will also be written into the new local plan to promote sustainable development.

15. What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities. (4000 character limit) *

Promotion of training and collaboration with other local authorities within Surrey being considered and review of current schemes completed regularly.

16. What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit? (4000 character limit) *

Households are encouraged to consider energy retrofit through Actions Surrey's regulars communications and promotion of their advice service.

17. If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered. (4000 character limit) *

unknown

18. How effectively is your Local Authority able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers? (4000 character limit) *

We can engage installers with mentioned certifications through Action Surrey, which manages a network of these installers and conducts a thorough due diligence process on these installer. Residents then have access to these installers through the advice service.

19. Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts? (4000 character limit) *

EEBC has agreed to a Climate Change Action Plan which details a number of decarbonisation plans e.g. reviewing local council transport and buildings as well as promoting low carbon homes via the Local Plan and new developments.

Social Housing

Section on measures Local Authorities have taken to improve the energy efficiency of Social Housing.

20. What action, if any, has your Local Authority taken to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures in social housing? Have these been installed to a satisfactory quality? What actions (if any) have your social housing partners taken? (4000 character limit) *

We have begun to contact local housing associations to determine their sustainability policies and consider the scope for further low carbon heat measures.

21. Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings). *

Yes

No

22. If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information? (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

23. Have you experienced any challenges to retrofit, including during any previous government schemes you have taken part in (e.g. supply chain, funding, tenant cooperation, mixed tenure, split incentive, policy clarity, etc)? Please provide some detail. Have social housing partners reported any challenges to retrofit? (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

24. How does your Local Authority currently/how will your Local Authority in future plan to go about identifying suitable housing stock and measures for retrofit? How do social housing partners identify suitable stock? By the same measures or via a different method? (4000 character limit) *

Good working partnership with social housing and continue to consider this in future local plan to establish this within future developments/review of housing.

25. What considerations would make you more or less likely to apply for government funding? If known, what is the opinion of your social housing partners? (4000 character limit) *

Ensuring that the plans were clear and suitable demographics detailed would make the council more likely to sign up as well as highlighting cost commitments up front.

26. To what extent are social housing tenants willing or unwilling to undergo retrofit, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their participation? If known, is this the same opinion across all social housing tenants or is it different with Housing Association and Arms-Length Management Organisation tenants? (4000 character limit) *

? Concerns over hidden costs may be barriers towards participation

27. Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate? (4000 character limit) *

The approach is the same.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

How Local Authorities enforce and promote awareness of the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

28. Is your authority aware of the Private Rented Sector Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations requiring private rentals in England and Wales to meet a minimum energy performance rating of Energy Performance (EPC)C Band E as of April 2020, unless a valid exemption applies? *

Yes

No

29. Which team within your authority is responsible for, leading on enforcement of the Private Rented Sector minimum standard? Please provide the contact details (Name and email address) of the person leading this team. *

Environmental Health Service, Oliver Nelson, onelson@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

30. What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues? (4000 character limit) *

Council website, Action Surrey's energy advice service stays up to date with MEES regulations and this advice is available to both landlords and tenants.

31. What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)? (4000 character limit) *

Owing to other pressures, including that of Covid-19, the local authority has yet to expand the service to envelop this area of work in a practical way. The local authority is interested in grant funding to initiate a project which might then form part of the everyday work of the relevant team as it is not expected there will be a budget available otherwise.

32. Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? *

Yes

No

33. If no, please explain why. (4000 character limit) *

As described above, this area of work is not being actively progressed at this time meaning landlords have not been targeted.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing)

34. What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable please outline the budget (and % of the budget that is used), where such funding is sourced and where it is targeted. (4000 character limit) *

National funding programmes such as ECO and LAD are accessible through Action Surrey advice service

35. What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for? (4000 character limit) *

None currently

Fuel Poverty

A section on how Local Authorities identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

36. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy? *

Yes

No

37. What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty? (4000 character limit) *

Data protection and staff resources

38. How does fuel poverty interlink with your Local Authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy? (4000 character limit) *

This is part of the Climate Change Action Plan

39. Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area. (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

40. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have. (4000 character limit) *

The promotion of Action Surrey's advice service encourages those in fuel poverty to get in contact and access eligibility for grant funded fuel cost reduction measures such as ECO3 and GH LASD. No cost measures such as tariff switching are also supported through this service. The Council has provided information on their website and via the contact centre of appropriate contacts for those in fuel poverty e.g. Ofgem. Furthermore, The Rotary Club of Ewell are working in partnership with Citizen Advice Epsom & Ewell, who will be overseeing the distribution to local people in fuel poverty and in need of assistance.

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery

Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades. £200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.

41. Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD? *

Yes

No

42. If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project. (4000 character limit) *

Phase 1A and 1B,owner occupier project with a wide range of efficiency and low carbon heating measures available.

43. Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022? *

Yes

No

44. If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area. (4000 character limit) *

This could only be considered as long as we continue our partnership with Action Surrey, This would be subject to funds and staff resources.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

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 ECO "Local Authority flexible eligibility" (LA Flex) programme allows Local Authorities 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.

Local Authorities involved in the LA Flex programme 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 Local Authority has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

45. Has your Local Authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? *

Yes

No

46. How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households? (4000 character limit) *

34

47. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households? (4000 character limit) *

15

48. How many declarations were issued for in-fill? (4000 character limit) *

0

49. What is the highest household income cap published in your Sol? (4000 character limit) *

We do not use a fixed income cap - the income cap follows government guidelines, whereby different limits are in effect for households of different composition and mortgage or rent payments are also taken into consideration.

50. If you have used an household income over £30k gross, what reason have you given? (4000 character limit) *

Please see previous answer

51. Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much? (4000 character limit) *

In almost every case, no. Only installer who are not part of the trusted installer network are charged a nominal fee of £30

Smart Metering

A section on how Local Authorities promote awareness and uptake of smart metering

52. Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits. (4000 character limit) *

Collaboration with external partnerships including Action Surrey to promote uptake of smart meters

53. Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:
Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation. (4000 character limit) *

None

54. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises. (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

55. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake. (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

56. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes. (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

57. Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons. (4000 character limit) *

Unknown

58. Other supporting activities. (4000 character limit) *

None

Future Schemes and Wider Incentives

59. Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your Local Authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation. (4000 character limit) *

The council is committed to the reduction of carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency across the borough and continues to review ways to participate in this change in the future.

End of Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the HECA report questionnaire on behalf of you Local Authority. If you have any further questions on the process please email HECARReport@beis.gov.uk (<mailto:HECARReport@beis.gov.uk>).