

REPORT TO: Climate & Environment Advisory
Committee

07 May 2019

LEAD OFFICER: Director of Health & Environment Services

Home Energy Conservation Act: 2019 Update

Purpose

1. To bring before the Committee the Council's 2019 Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) report.
2. This is not a key decision. It has been brought before the Committee in relation to the Committee's role providing community leadership on climate change and sustainability, facilitating and engaging public sector partners, businesses, community groups and the public.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. As recognised in the HECA 1995 Act, local authorities are able to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their areas and consequently make significant contributions in delivering national plans for carbon reduction and addressing fuel poverty. The HECA report provides an opportunity to consider the range of actions that councils can undertake in this area.

Background

5. The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all 326 local authorities (LAs) in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector and social rented sector. BEIS uses the data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency and to build an on-going picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.
6. Guidance issued by the Government in 2012 required a 'further report' setting out current and planned energy conservation measures to be published by 31 March 2013 and further progress reports to be published at two year intervals. Reports from 2013, 2015 and 2017 are published on the Council's website at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community/energy-saving/home-energy-conservation-act/>.

7. New guidance issued on 17 January 2019 requires that data is submitted online in the format of responses to specific questions (rather than in a format chosen by councils as previously). The 2019 report is required by 31 May 2019.
8. A previous draft of the report was brought before the Committee on 4 February 2019. The Committee recommended that a study into the potential for energy improvements in private housing in the district to inform potential collaboration with installers with access to ECO funding is commissioned. Arrangements are underway to commission this study.

Considerations

9. Appendix 1 contains a list of online questions and responses.

Options

10. It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

Implications

11. There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses

12. The HECA Report has been compiled in collaboration with relevant officers from Housing and Environmental Health

Effect on Strategic Aims

Aim 1 – Affordable Housing

13. Improvements in energy performance of residential accommodation contribute to the aim of Affordable Housing by lowering running costs.

Aim 2 – Climate and Environment

14. Improvements in energy performance of residential accommodation contribute to the aim of tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

Background Papers

Report to Climate & Environment Advisory Committee, 4 February 2019

<http://scams.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g7504/Public%20reports%20pack%20Monday%2004-Feb-2019%2015.00%20Climate%20and%20Environment%20Advisory%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Appendix

HECA Report 2019

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