

Medway Council – Home Energy Conservation Act 2023

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| Introductory Questions |
| Name of Local Authority: Medway Council Type of Local Authority: Unitary Authority Name, job title and email address of official submitting report. Tracy Chambers Head of Housing Needs tracy.chambers@medway.gov.uk |
| Headline and Overview |
| Q1. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties? Yes |
| Q2. If yes, please provide a link. https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200620/emission_reduction_pathways_to_2050 |
| Q3. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe? N/A |
| Q4. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented. Total estimated spend by Medway Council (does not include funds provided by Government for retrofit work): £129000 |
| Q5. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy savings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carbon savings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job creation <input type="checkbox"/> Increased business competitiveness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alleviation of fuel poverty <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improved health outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please specify. |
| Consumer Advice and Information |
| Q6. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy? Yes |
| Q7. If yes, please select all that apply; |

Local Authority website

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200348/climate_change/1494/energy_and_water_advice

Local advisory service

'Find ways to save energy in your home' (formerly Simple Energy Advice) gov.uk website

'Find ways to save energy in your home' gov.uk phonenumber

Leaflets

Social media

Local energy hubs

Other- please specify

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

Q8. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

No

Q9. If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published). N/A

Q10. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply

Supporting training provision at local training providers

Supporting FE colleges to improve facilities or train trainers or otherwise enable better delivery of retrofit training.

Providing installer networking opportunities or other business support for growing companies.

Careers advice or similar involving local businesses doing schools outreach to encourage young people into the sector.

None of the above

Other (please state)

Q11. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

No

Q12. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

Yes – there has been action taken on a regular basis

Yes – but rarely

No – resourcing constraints have curtailed potential activity

No – we are not aware of any issues

Q13. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

Yes

Q14. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

- Installers of insulation
- Installers of windows/doors
- Installers of heat pumps
- Retrofit assessors
- Retrofit coordinators
- All of the above
- Other (please state)

Q15. If you answered yes to question 13 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

- Marketing to drive supply chain interest
- Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses
- Supporting training and upskilling more generally
- Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff)
- Delivering in-house e.g. by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams, directly employing retrofit coordinators etc
- Other (please state)

Social Housing Decarbonisation

Q16. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- Yes, and successful in securing funding
- Yes, and not successful in securing funding
- No
- Don't know

Q17. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.

- Financial support for retrofit
- Technical support for retrofit
- Tenant needs
- Expectations of future energy performance regulations
- Other – please tell us your motivation(s) for applying

Q18. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?
N/A

Q19. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- Yes
- No

Don't know

Q20. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded? N/A

Q21. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work?
Please select all that apply.

- Lack of funding
- Lack of internal resource
- Lack of capacity
- Lack of technical support
- Retrofit work is not a priority
- Other – Received SHDF Funding
- Don't know

Q22. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF? None that we're aware of.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

Q23. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?
Yes

Q24. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?
Yes

Q25. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

- Yes, and I've used it
- Yes, but I haven't used it
- No

Q26. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

Maximum of three enquiries, none of which necessitated enforcement action.

Q27. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

None

Q28. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them? Not applicable – none found.

Q29. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

None

Green Home Finance

Q30. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials. <https://www.medway.gov.uk/helptoheat> Great British Insulation Scheme to be included on the website and Statement of Intent.

Q31. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- Yes
- No, but we have plans to do this in the future
- No

Q32. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- Yes
- No, but we have plans to do this in the future
- No

Fuel Poverty

Q33. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- Yes - Cost of living Plan, which includes Fuel Poverty

Q34 How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing
- Used local data sets on household income
- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out
- Other - Option to provide additional information

Q35. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.
- Other - Option to provide additional information: Energy Company obligation (ECO4), Household support fund, help with fuel/energy cards, essentials to help with energy cost, boiler replacements, MEES Regulations.

Q36. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?
Yes

If yes, please can you explain how it does this? Cooperation with Climate Response Team.
If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable households.
- Other - Option to provide additional information

Local Authority Delivery

Q37. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

Q38. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

Yes

Q39. If no, please specify what is lacking.

N/A

Home Upgrade Grant

Q40. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

N/A

Q41. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

Yes

Q42. If no, please specify what is lacking.

N/A

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Q43. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

Yes

Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

Q44. How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

No activity in 2022.

Q45. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

No activity in 2022.

Q46. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

No activity in 2022.

Q47. What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

£30,150

Q48. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

Low income will be assessed by: If the household does not receive an income related benefit and has an income of £30,150 (after paying for rent/mortgage), then the household will be identified as 'low income'.

Q49. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

No

Q 50. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.

N/A

Q51. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

Yes

Q52. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

N/A

Q53a. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex (or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)?

Yes

54b. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

ECO4 is a supplier led scheme, HUG2 is a consortia scheme, led by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and managed by the Greater Southeast Net Zero Hub.

Q55. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply.

All four routes available

Route 1

Route 2

Route 3

Route 4

Smart Metering

The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

Q56a. Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

Yes, our website refers to Energy Saving Trust and Government advice page on smart meters.

https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200348/climate_change/1494/energy_and_water_advice

Q57b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

N/A

Q58a. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

No

Q59b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

We do not encourage landlords in the take up of smart meters, as it is the tenants choice as the tenant can choose the electric and gas supplier.

Q60a. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

Yes

Q61b. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

N/A