

# HECA REPORTING 2019

## Introduction

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 LAs area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. BEIS uses data submitted through LAs HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery.

These guidance notes are issued in accordance with the Secretary of State's powers under section 4 of the Act and are to alert LAs of amendments to the HECA reporting framework in advance of May 2019 when the next reports are due. In previous years, reporting rates have been disappointing, with 282 reports submitted in March 2015 out of 326 LAs, and only 151 in March 2017. The refreshed reporting system for 2019 streamlines the process and reduces LA reporting burdens. Newly structured around a series of questions and direct information points, the amended framework aims to support LAs to provide information and updates on the key energy efficiency topics of interest to BEIS Ministers. It will also enable LAs to provide a consistent picture of energy efficiency promotion and delivery across England within a standardized framework. Following the principles of open data, the department may publish the information in an open data format to allow wider access and interpretation of the data, while ensuring that such publication complies with the terms of GDPR.

## HECA 2019 Reporting Requirements

The Report is to be divided by sections to capture information on a range of key themes:

### Headline & Overview

- What main strategy and schemes LAs currently have to promote carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency, stakeholders involved and impact at a societal and economic level.

### Communication

- How LA engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

### Green Local Supply Chain

- How LAs engage local businesses involved in the promotion of energy savings products and the societal benefits alongside any local economic impact this might have.

### Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

- How LAs enforce and promote awareness of the PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

### Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

- Financial programmes used by LAs to promote energy efficiency.

### Fuel Poverty

- How LAs identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

### The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

- How LAs are using the recently introduced EGO 'flexible eligibility' programme to refer certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes, who are vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, to EGO obligated suppliers for support.

### Smart Metering

- How LAs promote awareness and uptake of smart metering.

All questions are optional, but responses highly encouraged. While reporting is focused on energy savings related to homes, you are welcome to provide additional information on energy efficiency improvements in non-domestic properties, but this is fully optional. There will be a final free response section permitting local authorities to discuss any additional activities which they feel are relevant.

## Submission of HECA 2019 Reports

For the 2019 reporting year, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is piloting the submission of reports via a digital platform, and for this year LAs will be asked to populate their HECA Report and submit materials via a SurveyMonkey submission. No other reporting material or submissions will be required. LAs continue to be required to publish their responses, and they can do this in whichever form they wish, so long as the published report contains relevant information submitted via the digital platform. It is not necessary for LAs to publish all the information submitted via the digital platform. Before the online survey is completed, the chief executive or director of the LA should approve the submitted content. If this approach proves effective and supports the engagement and compliance of a greater number of authorities than in recent previous years, BEIS will consider how this approach can be further improved for the 2021 reporting year.

The questions which LAs are asked to report on in the digital 'Survey' are listed below:

## HECA Reporting 2019 Questions

Name of Local Authority: Dartford Borough Council (DBC)		
Type of Local Authority:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District/Borough/City Council</li> </ul>		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report:		
Sandra Woodfall		
<a href="mailto:Sandra.woodfall@dartford.gov.uk">Sandra.woodfall@dartford.gov.uk</a>		
01322 343056		
Job title of official submitting the report:		
Environmental Promotions Officer		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool:		
Private Sector Housing		
Housing Maintenance Manager		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE):		
½ time staff		
Private Sector Housing team have a shared responsibility for energy efficiency in the Private Sector		
<b>Headline and Overview Questions</b>		
1	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	Y
2	<p>Kent and Medway wide strategic initiatives:</p> <p>Kent and Medway have a very strong partnership working ethos and have a number of joint initiatives covering residents, businesses and the wider public sector. The Kent and Medway Environment Strategy set the framework and identifies domestic energy and fuel poverty as a key strand. This is further complimented by the Fuel Poverty Strategy developed and co-ordinated by the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP)</p> <p>Kent and Medway have played an active role in influencing and developing the TRILEP Energy Strategy, covering the South East, Enterprise and M3 and Coast to Capital Local Enterprise partnerships. The energy projects identified ranae from sunnortina residents who are off aas to connect to the network to</p>	

	<p>the identifications of areas for micro generation.</p> <p><a href="https://www.southeastlep.com/energysouth2east">https://www.southeastlep.com/energysouth2east</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/03/Local-Energy-Strategy-FINAL.pdf">https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/03/Local-Energy-Strategy-FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p>Energy initiatives identified in the TRILEP Strategy have been reflected in the draft Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy going out for consultation in June 2019. The strategy aims to create actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply for Kent and Medway. It makes the link between supply of energy for housing, industry and transport and air quality, recognising that reducing emissions from the former will lead to improvements in the latter.</p> <p>The Draft Energy and Low Emissions Strategy goes further with regards to domestic energy, suggesting a range of strategic actions from collective switching, collective solar and domestic energy efficiency improvements through the Kent Warm Homes framework, website and call centre. The Strategy linking sustainability, housing, environmental health and planning officers is one of the first of its kind and domestic energy is a key element.</p> <p><a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy">https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-Kent/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy</a></p> <p>Kent Energy and Low Emission Strategy currently being prepared for consultation. Kent Wide Policy.</p> <p><a href="https://kccmediahub.net/kent-and-medway-energy-and-low-emissions-strategy?45">https://kccmediahub.net/kent-and-medway-energy-and-low-emissions-strategy?45</a></p> <p>Kent Environment Strategy</p> <p><a href="https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy">https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/environment-waste-and-planning-policies/environmental-policies/kent-environment-strategy</a></p> <p>Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy.</p> <p><a href="https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/environment-and-planning2/energy-efficiency-and-conservation">https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/environment-and-planning2/energy-efficiency-and-conservation</a></p> <p>Dartford Borough Council collates and submits an Annual Greenhouse Gas emissions Report showing carbon emissions resulting from it's estate/functions - <a href="https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/environment-and-planning2/local-authority-carbon-management-programme">https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/environment-and-planning2/local-authority-carbon-management-programme</a></p> <p>It should be noted that DBC is an active member of the Kent Energy Efficiency Partnership (KEEP) who received awards from South East Association of Local Authority Energy Officer for their work (September 2017) along with recognition for their work in taking forward the Kent Environment Strategy (December 2017)</p>	
3	<p>As Dartford Borough Council has adopted/in the process of seeking adoption/support of the above it is felt that at present there is no specific need</p>	

	to write an individual carbon reduction strategy.	
4	a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017? (if you have not implemented any scheme, please enter 'N/A').	
<p><b>Warm Homes Scheme</b> (Kent wide scheme) promotion on Kent County Council webpages, DBC webpages, mailshots, face to face/telephone energy advice, use of social media</p> <p><b>LA Flexible Eligibility</b> - Statement of Intent issued - promotion on DBC webpages/mailshots, use of social media</p> <p><b>SGN first time central heating</b> - DBC is OFGEM approved partner of the Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme and refers fuel poor households/LA Flex eligible households to first time gas connections. This has been promoted at partnership meetings, on mailshots, face to face/telephone advice</p> <p><b>Energy Deal</b> - Collective Energy Switching Scheme - promotion of DBC webpages, mailshots, social media, partnership meetings, attendance at events</p> <p>DBC has a rolling programme planned maintenance and repairs including energy efficiency measures on the Councils housing stock</p> <p><b>Housing Assistance Grants</b> are provided to support installation of energy efficiency measures to address excess cold, improve efficiency ratings in Private Rented Sector and assist households vulnerable to the cold to achieve affordable warmth. Promotion on DBC webpages, workshops, partnership meetings, One You officers, mailshots, events and landlord forums.</p> <p><b>Triple A project</b> - Solar PV and battery storage installed at 3 properties within the Borough. Purpose of the project is to monitor and evaluate the cost/carbon saving benefits of the technologies and promote to households in the Borough that are able to self-fund.</p>		
	b. What scheme(s) is your local authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties in the next two years? (if you are not planning to implement any scheme, please enter 'N/A')	
<p><i>Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>The Kent Warm Homes Framework is currently being reviewed</p> <p>Kent local Authorities are in the process of finalising contract details with Southern Gas Networks who have agreed funding for 210 first time gas connections to properties across Kent (50% of cost of heating up to £2500). DBC will target specific areas in the Borough.</p> <p>Work with SGN Vulnerability team to support households that have been disconnected</p> <p>For the first time in Kent an external wall insulation contract has been finalised through the Warm homes framework. DBC has a number of suitable properties in the Borough</p> <p>Discretionary Assistance Grants are now available via Better Care Fund (DFG) funding</p>		

allocation revised to ensure low income/households vulnerable to the cold could provide the necessary top up funding for energy efficiency measures to ensure vulnerable households would not have to contribute towards the cost of heating.

5 What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), including the value of grants and other support, plus any other costs incurred? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.

Warm Homes Scheme provides a call centre facility - 50 calls received from Borough residents 2017/2019. The call centre was originally funded by contributions from all Kent Authorities and is now funded by referral income and Kent County Council

Warm Homes Scheme

**APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018**

	Number of measures	CERO funding	HHCRO funding	LA Flex funding	Council better care funding	Client contribution
<b>Dartford Borough Council Generated Installs</b>						
Cavity Wall Insulation	5	£2,308.14	£856.79	0	0	£742.28
Heating	1			£1,704.32	£2,380.95	
Loft Insulation	11	£1,281.73	£331.24	£516.88		£1,838.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>£3,589.87</b>	<b>£1,188.03</b>	<b>£2,221.20</b>	<b>£2,380.95</b>	<b>£2,580.61</b>
<b>Kent Warm Homes Generated Installs</b>						
Cavity wall insulation	1	£1,431.97				£440.00
Heating	0					
Loft insulation	5	£6,322.40				£2,813.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>£7,754.37</b>				<b>£3,253.96</b>

**APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019**

	Number of Measures	CERO funding	HHCRO funding	LA Flex funding	Council better care funding	Client contribution
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<b>Dartford Borough Council Generated Installs</b>						
Cavity wall insulation	19	£1,729.46	£2,326.59	£18,557.28	0	£1,936.10
Heating	9	0	£2,526.77	£8,325.31	£19,604.89	£1,779.85
Loft Insulation	16	£444.30	£3,036.00	£4,769.73		£1,117.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>£2,173.76</b>	<b>£7,889.36</b>	<b>£31,652.32</b>	<b>£19,604.89</b>	<b>£4,833.25</b>
<b>Kent Warm Homes Generated leads</b>						
Cavity wall insulation	1	£393.84				£518.34
Heating	0					
Loft insulation	2	£750.39				£518.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>£1,144.23</b>				<b>£1,036.68</b>
<b>Council Housing Stock</b>						
				Total		
<b>Boilers</b>	April 2017	March 2018		223		
	April 2018	March 2019		265		
Planned	April 2019	March 2020		378		
<b>Rewires</b>	April 2017	March 2018		295		
	April 2018	March 2019		288		
Planned	April 2019	March 2020		0		
<b>External Wall Insulation</b>	April 2017	March 2018		2		
	April 2018	March 2019		114		
Planned	April 2019	March 2020		112		
<b>Roofs including Top Up loft insulation</b>	April 2017	March 2018		Housing stock 151	Blocks 28	
	April 2018	March 2019		143	7	

Planned	April 2019	March 2020	28	42
<b>Block LED</b>	April 2017	March 2018	0	
	April 2018	March 2019	0	
Planned	April 2019	March 2020	0	

SOLAR PV PRODUCTION REPORT - DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Solar PV figures on Council Housing Stock

195 PV Systems installed

Current annual income from Feed-in tariff £140,828

Total Income To Date

April 2017 to March 2018 £129,443.00

April 2018 to December 2018 £125,372 Still awaiting figures for January to March 2019

Private Sector Housing Assistance figures:

Grant	2017 -2018	2018-2019	Totals
Disabled facilities grants	39	28	67
Discretionary Assistance grant	2	8	10
Safe and Secure Grant	0	8	8
Hospital Discharge Grant	0	2	2

6 What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?

Aran Services - Warm Homes Framework provider of insulation/heating.

Southern Gas Networks - Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme and VulnerabilityTeam.

British Gas - Vulnerability Team.

IChoosr - Collective Energy Switching Scheme - Energy Deal.

Home Improvement Agencies and Hospital Discharge team - refer residents into Warm homes, LA Flexible Eligibility, Energy Deal and Grants.

Energy Saving Specialist and European Partners - Triple A Solar PV and battery storage project.



Health Partnerships through One Your Officers, CCG MDT multi-disciplinary meetings.

7 What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?

This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.

Total Saving through Energy Deal for Dartford Borough residents for the period May 17 up to and including February 2019 auction is: £49,247.66

From a recent article in Open Access Government (30 April 2019) Dartford is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the best rated areas in England and Wales (based on the energy efficiency of domestic dwellings 18.90% of A and B rated EPC's

Data taken from EPC map by Everest: <https://www.everest.co.uk/energy-performance-certificate-in-depth-guide>

Cost and carbon savings based on semi-detached house (source: Statistics taken from <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/domestic/>

Measure	Savings £/year	Savings kg CO2/year
Cavity wall insulation (26 installed)	£3,770	15,600.00
Loft Insulation (34 installed)	£5,100.00	21,080.00
Loft Insulation Top Up (329 installed)	£4,935.00	21,385.00
External Wall Insulation (116 installed)	£31,320	127,600.00
Heating upgrades (F rated) 488	£124,440.00	395,280.00

8 What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?

The design of energy efficiency schemes has become increasingly complex - in our Borough a lot of the easy win measures have already been installed leaving the more complex cases still to do.

LA Flex has highlighted the issue of problems of a properly procured service to deliver measure, linked with GDPR issues making delivery of projects much harder and slower to get off the ground.

Through a combination of different schemes, initiatives and funding pots Dartford has worked hard to maximise funding and to engage with residents to offer them wider opportunities on funding and services.

The cross promotion of any of the schemes and services available (Energy Deal, LA Flex, Better Care Grants etc.) allows a whole house approach.

We used a mailshot in a small targeted area of the borough promoting a range of schemes followed up by a door knock to generate a lot of interest in schemes.

Key to reaching the very vulnerable people is linking with GP, CCG's, One You Officers and the like. Explaining the links between poor housing and a person's health has proved very difficult.

Not having access to DWP benefit data, priority service register information has made it much harder to reach our vulnerable residents - the Digital Economy Act Fuel Poverty Section should have made this easier, but we have made slow progress on this.

**Local Communications Strategy**

9	Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?	Y
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10	If yes to question 10, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)	
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Warm Homes Call Centre enables Kent residents to be referred to EGO schemes (either through HHCRO or LA Flex) and signposts to Energy Switching scheme and local authority financial assistance.

DBC offers Collective Switching to residents, enables wider energy advice to be offered at registration, including information on Priority Services register.

Promotion of assistance available through Landlord Forum, attendance at events, face to face contact, presentations at meetings, workings with Pharmacies, articles in magazines/pharmaceutical newsletters, posters and leaflets and use of different social media postings.

11	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')	
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DBC energy webpages, social media posts, mailshots and through attendance at events.

DBC signposted businesses to LOCASE funding and Low Carbon Kent. The aim of the network is to help businesses reduce costs by cutting emissions and promote the opportunities of the low carbon market. Network members can access grants and these have been promoted to food businesses via Environmental Health and Environmental promotions officer's

small business links.		
<p>Through the link to Energy Deal, there has been 181 enquiries to the Make It Cheaper energy switching service for SMEs that can compare prices from different suppliers, help the SME choose the right tariff and set up their contract, and supports SMEs through the switching process if they wish to change supplier and 40 of them decided to switch.</p>		
<b>Local Green Supply Chains</b>		
12	Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)? (if you answer no please move onto the next section 'Private Rented Sector').	y
13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<p>DBC webpages provide information on renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency advice to householders.</p> <p>Signpost businesses to Kent Sustainable Business Team and Low Carbon Kent (network of businesses with the aim to reduce costs by cutting emissions and promote the low carbon market).</p>		
14	What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	
<p>Kent wide framework procured South East Contractor.</p> <p>Triple a funded project - SME from Dover won the tender process for installing Solar PV/Battery plus monitoring equipment.</p> <p>Low Carbon Exchange monitors the Council Housing Solar PV panels and manages any repairs required.</p>		
<b>Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards</b>		
<p>The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018, all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS's published guidance documents for the full details on the standard).</p> <p>The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.</p>		
15	Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards, which came into force in April 2018?  (if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency').	y
16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?	

<p>Private Sector Housing Team, Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DR.</p> <p>Training on PRS Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards was arranged by the Association of Local Energy Officers SE region and held on 6 February 2019 at Oxford City Council. Presentations and contact details provided to Officers unable to attend the meeting.</p>		
17	<p>Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.</p>	
<p>Rachel Evans, Senior Private Sector Housing Officer - <a href="mailto:Rachel.evans@dartford.gov.uk">Rachel.evans@dartford.gov.uk</a></p>		
18	<p>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</p>	
<p>The Private Sector Housing Group has produced two generic leaflets giving details of MEES requirements. One leaflet for tenants and one for landlords.</p> <p>Local Landlords are invited to Landlord Forum and updates about regulation, assistance, grants etc., is provided.</p>		
19	<p>Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?</p> <p>If yes, how? If no, please explain.</p>	<p>(Y/N)</p>
<p>It is our intention and wish to target such properties but current resources do not allow proactive action. The funding available through our contractor for energy efficiency measures is not available for F and G rated properties or properties without an EPC.</p>		
<p><b>Financial Support for Energy Efficiency</b></p>		
20	<p>What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.</p> <p>(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty').</p>	
<p>DFG and Discretionary assistances via the Better Care funding.</p> <p>DBC - a Winter Warmth fund is available for residents requiring replacement boilers - eligibility is over 65 with long term health condition. Up to £2500 available and a charge is placed on the property.</p> <p>EGO - HHCRO eligible residents (through Warm Homes) contractor has funding from different utility providers. LA Flexible Eligibility funding available for households in low income and vulnerable to the cold.</p> <p>SGN and FPNES -funding secured for up to 210 first gas connection installations. Up to £2,700 per connection for fuel poor/low income/households vulnerable to the cold</p> <p>3 properties had 2kWp solar array, battery storage and monitoring equipment installed - through European Triple A funded project</p> <p>KEEP bids for Warm Homes fund - 2 unsuccessful submissions for category 1 and 3 x 2 submissions and category 2 x1 submission</p> <p>NEA Warm Homes Campaign fund - £500 funding received for workshons for Pharmacies to</p>		

promote health and housing issues and signpost to services available.

Open Data Institute (ODI) Kent Public health bid - Kent Public Health obtained some ODI funding to look at different ways to link health data with energy efficiency issues with the aim of highlighting areas KEEP officers could target with projects.

#### Fuel Poverty

21	Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?	y
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If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support that is available for low income and vulnerable households to help tackle fuel poverty in your local area. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.

Yes - Kent Fuel Poverty Strategy- Dartford Borough Council approved the Strategy and committed to support the action plan to reduce fuel poverty in Kent in line with national targets in September 2016.

22	What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (	
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Website promoted Warm Homes.

Targeted letters mailshot to a few streets in the borough promoting grants, insulation and energy switching.

Letters regarding energy efficiency and LA Flex circulated with Benefit mailings.

Collective Switching/Energy Deal provides the opportunity to advise residents regarding energy efficiency, energy switching and assistance such as Priority Services Register

Off Gas mapping from SGN - liaising with them to identify work areas.

Have used EPC data to identify possible properties to target - this is made more difficult now EPC data has not been uploaded for several years now.

BRE housing stock condition survey.

Partnership meetings with health agencies including local MDT, CCG meetings, work with Hospital Discharge team through Better Care funding and also Care Navigators. Liaise with Home Improvement Agency who also refer residents

Social media including Facebook, twitter and Instagram used to promote schemes

23	How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)	
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Kent Environment Strategy - Theme Two: making best use of existing resources and minimising negative impacts focuses on minimising the impacts of current activities through reducing resource usage across all sectors

ELES - currently being prepared for Consultation

SELEP - Energy Efficiency in Homes. A programme of home energy efficiency measures enabling improved levels of loft and cavity wall insulation to assist in homes achieving an EPC

<p>rating of C to align with the 2032 Pathway.</p> <p>DBC Corporate Plan</p> <p>ET 1 To reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality in the Borough.</p> <p>ET2 To ensure that development in Dartford is sustainable with high standards of design, layout and energy/water efficiency.</p> <p>HS2 To provide high quality housing services to strive to improve the quality and condition of the Borough's private rented housing sector.</p> <p>HP1 The number of households taking part in home energy efficiency improvement programmes/works.</p>	
24	<p>a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p> <p>Energy Switching. Energy Deal (since 2013) - auctions held 3 times a year - hence ongoing promotions through social media etc.,</p> <p>MDTs/GPs - link to GP multi-disciplinary Group looking at individual patient cases and assessing help and support that can be given on an individual basis for all residents with a view to gaining access to residents requiring adaptation to property or heating issues</p> <p>Met with and built relationship with contacts at SGN and British Gas Vulnerability team to build knowledge to ensure able to impart accurate up to date and advice to residents</p> <p>Promotion of Warm Homes Discount and Priority Services Register via website, face to face, over telephone</p>
	<p>b. If you have taken measures or initiatives to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p> <p>Met with and built relationship with contacts at SGN and British Gas Vulnerability Team to build knowledge to ensure able to impart accurate, up to date and advice to residents.</p> <p>EDF funding secured through Kent Warm Homes Scheme.</p> <p>Liaise with Aran Services to ensure measures for qualifying fuel poor/low income/vulnerable to the cold households receive fully funded energy efficiency measures to alleviate the adverse impacts of living in a cold home. Aran Services have access to utility ECO funding to support projects</p> <p>Meetings with EON regarding ECO funding, however, could not proceed due to conditions in contract.</p>
<p><b>The Energy Company Obligation</b></p>	

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 recently introduced ECO" flexible eligibility (ECO Flex) programme allows LAs 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. LAs involved 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 LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

25	<p>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?</p> <p>If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</p>	y
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*Link to Sol:*

<https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/environment-and-planning2/energy-efficiency-and-conservation/warm-homes-scheme>.

Published June 2018. Replaced Version 1 from June 2017

26	<p>Please use the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand ECO Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.</p>
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Complexity of scheme and sending in referrals that may not receive any or little funding to carbon saving scoring - a process that most LAs do not understand.

A number of the properties referred do not result in measures - the loft is full of stored items, no loft hatch, narrow loft hatch, failed cavity wall insulation, rat trap bond type properties making it hard to install CWI to the whole property. No funding for failed cavity wall insulation or removal of incorrect insulation in flood area etc.

External Wall Insulation even with ECO funding is too expensive for fuel poor residents and many of our residents live in solid wall properties.

BEIS need to ensure that LAs who are active in bidding for funding for their Boroughs receive positive outcomes or feedback on their funding bids. Currently many organisations that are not local government levy funding but cannot deliver without LA involvement Historically energy grants worked well in Kent when delivered through LAs.

GDPR restrictions and procurement hamper identification of and sharing of vulnerable residents details, hence limit ability to target, reach and assist those that most need assistance. How should Digital Economy Act regarding Fuel Poverty and GDPR work?

The fire and rescue service automatically receive details of the residents in our county to visit when they reach a specific age, however, are not able to share that data with others. In some parts of the Country the fire and rescue service works well with the LA's but this is not the same throughout the whole Country

Smart Metering	
27	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>Engage and support your residents (including those in vulnerable circumstances or with pre-payment metering) to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits (e.g. ability to control energy use, identify best value tariffs)? Please detail any work undertaken or planned with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.</p>
<p>A DBC officer attended a training session <i>offered</i> through Smart Energy with a view to promoting smart meters, however found it difficult to promote to residents as utility companies were at different stages of implementation in the area. Officers would provide information on Smart Metering if requested during energy tariff/advice sessions.</p> <p>The training has been disseminated through lots of partners at differing times, which means many people have already been 'reached' with the smart metering message</p> <p>There was a lack of clarity about the ease of switching smart meters when switching suppliers and compatibility of different meters etc., There appears to be different variable smart meter tariffs available, which has caused some confusion with residents too.</p>	
28	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>Integrate your approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation with the opportunities presented by the installation of smart meters, drawing upon materials from the Smart Meter Energy Efficiency Materials Project or other sources of independent information.</p>
<p>Information provided on Council website and responses given to individual enquiries from residents</p>	
29	<p>Please detail any:</p> <p>Resources/ support (e.g. services, funding) available to residents who have had an appliance(s) condemned for safety reasons and cannot afford to replace it (e.g. during visual safety checks conducted during their smart meter installation or otherwise).</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 29 - please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>Early discussions underway with SGN vulnerability team to offer support/resources to residents who have had an appliance (s) disconnected for safety reasons.</p> <p>Unfortunately no referrals received from Kent Fire and Rescue who undertake Safe and Well visits</p> <p>DBC officer met with Charis Grants to review services available.</p> <p>No referrals received from Smart Energy GB on properties in our area.</p>	
30	<p>Existing relationships with energy suppliers to help ensure that the opportunities presented by vacant properties under your control are effectively utilised (i.e. gaining access to install a smart meter).</p>



Council Housing Management Team meeting with company in the near future to ensure Energy Companies are advised where provisions are required of voids properties.

**Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives**

31	Please outline any future schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation or businesses in your area, for example, within your Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Energy Strategy (if you do not plan any future schemes currently, please enter 'N/A').
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SGN Off Gas - FPNES - 1<sup>st</sup> time Central heating focus on some of the newer estates in the Borough who would benefit

Continue to try and make links with our Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Energy Strategy and Local Energy Hub. It has been difficult to develop a dialogue with them, although Kent LAs did attend the workshop sessions when developing the SELEP Strategy to ensure domestic energy efficiency was part of the plans

Lower Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) is a grant/advice scheme aimed at helping business become more efficient and reduce carbon footprint - awaiting new funding announcement in July 2019

Collective Solar PV purchasing scheme being considered County wide

Stronger links between Kent Fire and Rescue and health partners so a joined up approach to ensure homes are warm and safe for vulnerable residents to live in.

Attended SELEP Energy Strategy Workshop and hope to build on existing relationship through County partnership working

The Kent and Medway Sustainable Energy Partnership is currently being reviewed and looking to next steps

Working with SGN to look at assistance for Off gas properties through their mapping tool, and work with their Vulnerability team on promotion of Energy Efficiency schemes and gas safety (including awareness of carbon monoxide and locking cooker valves)

Initial meetings held with SSE looking at new ways of working

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