

HECA REPORT 2019

Durham County Council

Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 ('HECA') requires all 326 local authorities ('LA's) 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 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 ECO '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 ECO 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:

Durham County Council		
Type of Local Authority: County Council Unitary Authority		
Name and contact details of official submitting the report: Cliff Duff		
Job title of official submitting the report: Housing Project Manager		
Names of teams working on policy areas covered by this reporting tool: Housing Solutions Service (Housing Regeneration Team) Housing Solutions Service (Private Sector Initiatives Team) Adult and Health Services (Public Health Team) Environmental Health and Consumer Protection (Trading Standards Team) Clinical Commissioning Group (Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield)		
Total number of staff working in above policy areas (by FTE): 4		
Headline and Overview Questions		
1	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	Y
2	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here: http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/article/8521/Documents	

3	If no, are you planning to develop one?	n/a
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><i>Free text response to question 4a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Warm Homes Campaign (WHC) - County Durham has eighth highest uptake of ECO fuel poverty grants nationally as a direct result of the Council's WHC which maximises awareness and uptake of all energy efficiency/fuel poverty programmes.</p> <p>Energy Company Obligation / Flex – 1,311 new boilers and insulation measures countywide.</p> <p>Low carbon retrofit scheme - externally insulated 220 solid wall homes</p> <p>Warm and Healthy Homes - Council funded / managed programme assisting vulnerable residents with cold related illness. Promoted to patients via GP Surgeries, each surgery writes to their patients with COPD or Asthma to promote WHC service.</p> <p>Area based promotions using countywide fuel poverty database to target areas with low SAP ratings.</p> <p>Managing Money Better - Council service assisted 699 residents with free and impartial advice on saving energy, fuel tariff switching and fuel debt write off.</p> <p>Warm Up North - project installed 875 new heating boilers and insulation measures in low income homes.</p> <p>Warm Homes Fund – grants from Affordable Warmth Solutions to install free central heating systems in 28 households.</p> <p>Central Heating Fund – grants to install 394 new heating systems.</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')	

Free text response to question 4b - please outline in no more than 200 words

Managing Money Better – service was initially a fixed term project and has now been mainstreamed into Council operations. This will continue to provide residents with support with fuel debts, obtaining the most competitive energy tariff and Warm Homes Discount applications.

Warm Homes Fund – bids placed to provide grants for on gas and off gas grid low income households. This funding will provide fuel poor households with new gas central heating or an air source heat pump if they are in an off gas grid area.

Energy Company Obligation and Energy Company Obligation Flexible Eligibility Criteria – continue countywide promotions to maximise uptake and establish a budget to assist with client contribution costs.

Housing stock condition model – exploring opportunities to update the countywide housing stock condition model. This will assist with targeting and promotions of fuel poverty programmes to dwellings with poor energy efficiency.

Joint working with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) – expand joint working with CCG's to maximise the health and wellbeing of residents living in a cold home with high energy bills.

Mail outs via GP surgeries – extend programme countywide to ensure patients with a cold home are aware of the support available from the Warm Homes Campaign.

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.
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Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Cost of salaries £112,387 (incl on costs)

Energy Company Obligation and Flexible Eligibility Criteria grants from energy supply companies - £3.1m to install new boilers and insulation measures.

Low carbon innovation retrofit scheme using ERDF funding – £2.42m funding to insulate solid walls.

Managing Money Better - residents saved £131,800 on energy bills and fuel debt write off.

Warm Up North - £282,000 of ECO funding from British Gas.

Warm Homes Fund grants from Affordable Warmth Solutions - £98,000 to install central heating systems.

Central Heating Fund grants - £1.8m to install new heating systems.

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

Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The County Durham Energy and Fuel Poverty Partnership co-ordinates the delivery of the County Durham Affordable Warmth Strategy. This partnership has membership from a wide range of stakeholders including Housing Regeneration, Revenues and Benefits Service, Private Landlords Team, Public Health, AgeUK, Citizens Advice, East Durham Trust, Durham Fire and Rescue Service, Social Landlords, Energy Companies and installers, Credit Unions, Area Action Partnerships, Clinical Commissioning Groups etc.

The Councils Warm Homes Campaign works with the above stakeholders to co-ordinate area based promotions and outreach events to raise awareness and assist households to apply for fuel poverty intervention projects.

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.

Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words

The following projects were co-ordinated by Housing Solutions to provide warmer healthier homes and lower energy bills.

Energy Company Obligation / Flexible Eligibility – 1,311 households received grants from energy supply companies to install new boilers and insulation measures. These works were carried out by local companies thereby assisting with local employment opportunities.

Low carbon innovation retrofit scheme insulated 220 solid with 132,000 tonnes of carbon savings and £1.375m household life time energy bill savings funded by ERDF.

Warm and Healthy Homes – 250 patients provided with support by Warm Homes campaign with their energy bills and applications for national energy efficiency grant programmes to make their homes warmer. Health outcomes are currently being evaluated by Teesside University as part of the Silverdale GP Practice research pilot.

Managing Money Better - 699 residents provided with free and impartial advice on saving energy and fuel tariffs saving £131,800 for clients which will assist in the local economy.

Warm Up North - project installed 275 new heating boilers and insulation measures funded by British Gas.

Warm Homes Fund – project installed 28 central heating systems using funding from Affordable Warmth Solutions.

Central Heating Fund – project installed 394 new central heating systems funded by DECC.

8	What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?
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Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Fuel poverty action plan is vital to co-ordinate the grant programmes as part of an overarching Fuel Poverty Strategy. This ensures input from partner organisations to maximise referrals to our Warm Homes Campaign.

The Council is central to promotion of assistance to vulnerable residents using large scale mail outs and area based promotions to encourage eligible households to apply for assistance.

A purpose made verification system for ECO Flex assists contractors to make referrals.

Making contact with households in poor health cannot be achieved without partnership working from Clinical Commissioning Groups.

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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Free text response to question 10 - please outline in no more than 100 words

The Council's Managing Money Better service provides independent advice in client's homes on the best energy tariff, fuel debt write off applications and energy advice and applications for Warm Homes Discount payments.

Our Warm Homes Campaign provides advice and support to apply for energy efficiency grants along with advice on saving energy.

Targeted mail outs from GP Surgeries to patients with ill health and mail outs to low income households ensures eligible residents can contact our Warm Homes Campaign for advice and support.

Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) helps SME's save energy and money.

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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Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words

Our Warm Homes Campaign promotes energy saving grants to residents including the following:

E-newsletter to 900 local community groups and council services countywide.

Council's newspaper distributed to all 260,000 residents and press releases.

Council's web site contains general advice on saving energy along with a help line and e-mail enquiry portal.

Outreach events take place alongside targeted door to door promotions.

Large scale countywide targeted mail outs to low income households on and off gas grid areas. Targeted mail outs to households with ill health.

BEEP communicates through its dedicated website <http://www.beep.uk.net/>, through business networks, such as the FSB.

Local Green Supply Chains

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
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13	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.
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Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words

ECO boiler and insulation grants are promoted to low income households via countywide mail outs from the Revenues and Benefits service.

ECO Flex grants and promoted to households with ill health via mail outs from GP surgeries and via the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Warm Homes Campaign promotes a wide range of fuel poverty programmes including fuel tariff advice, fuel debt assistance, discounted appliance scheme and energy saving advice.

The Council has a sustainable Procurement Strategy and has a pledged to eliminate single use plastics as an example.

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?
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Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words

BEEP engages with local business and supply chains on carbon reduction and energy efficiency projects.

Warm Hones Campaign works with ECO contractors to promote grants to eligible households.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

The Minimum Energy Efficiency 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).

The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.

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
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16	Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?
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Free text response to question 16

Joint working between the Environmental Health Consumer protection and the Housing Standards Private Landlords Team has led to these teams sharing intelligence on the PRS and other issues. It is envisaged that close working on this and the new Tenant fees Act 2019 will continue.

17	Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i></p> <p>Craig Hudson, Durham County Council, Trading Standards Manager</p>		
18	What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p><i>The Private Landlord Accreditation Scheme provides updates e-mail, newsletters, forums and training sessions. Other landlords are engaged via a countywide event and press releases.</i></p> <p>Further work is planned with landlords and letting agents regarding EPC / MEES / Tenant Fees Act / Consumer Rights Act. Durham University Newspaper will provide information to students who may be affected. A web page is planned plus communication with partners who have contact with tenants / landlords / letting agents.</p> <p>Periodic compliance audits project will look at education of public and landlords etc / and compliance levels with obligations.</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>	N
<p><i>Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p><i>Our Private Landlord Accreditation scheme advertises empty properties via Choice Based Lettings Scheme. Properties with an EPC rating below E are not advertised but the landlord is engaged to improve their property condition. We offer empty home's loans, rent deposit guarantees and property inspections. In selective licensing areas we ensure properties meet the required rating and landlords are given appropriate advice.</i></p> <p>As part of any complaint investigation the EPC and MEES Exemption Registers available to LA enforcement agencies are available for compliance monitoring projects, as well as open source information e.g. properties advertised for let and energy performance information provided.</p>		
<p>Financial Support for Energy Efficiency</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>	

	(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')	
<i>Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i>		
<p>Our Warm and Healthy Homes project jointly funded by Public Health and Housing Solutions provide grants and loans to repair/replace heating boilers where private sector households have cold related health issue.</p> <p>ECO and ECO Flex programmes are increasingly requiring a client contribution towards the cost of a replacement central heating boiler. The Home Improvement Agency has a budget to provide a grant maxima to assist with these contributions.</p>		
Fuel Poverty		
21	<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>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.</p>	Y
<i>Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words</i>		
<p>http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/1058/Affordable-warmth-action-plan/pdf/AffordableWarmthActionPlan.pdf</p> <p>The County Durham Affordable Warmth Strategy (AWS) and Action Plan co-ordinates countywide promotional and partnership activities to maximise awareness and uptake of energy efficiency and fuel poverty programmes to residents.</p> <p>The AWS has seven key objectives outline below to co-ordinate delivery of the Energy Company Obligation programmes in County Durham to maximise the opportunities for local residents to have warmer healthier homes and lower fuel bills.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Maintain a strategic partnership to co-ordinate delivery. 2: Maintain a countywide housing energy database to target assistance and report on fuel poverty. 3: Maximise the uptake of all current energy efficiency programmes. 4: Maximise awareness of energy efficiency programmes. 5: Signpost vulnerable households to income maximisation and debt management services 		

6: Improve the health and well-being of residents by minimising the negative health impacts of cold homes.

7: Provision of energy efficiency advice services.

The Action Plan is updated to ensure it is responsive to changing policies and programmes both locally and nationally.

Delivery of the Action Plan is monitored by the County Durham Energy and Fuel Poverty Partnership which involved key services and partner organisations to ensure countywide coverage and delivery. The partnership reports to the Durham Housing Forum to ensure strategic linkages are maintained.

The AWS also links into the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to provide interventions to address the impacts of fuel poverty on excess mortality and morbidity, health inequalities, and excess winter deaths.

Low income and vulnerable households receive advice and assistance to apply for energy efficiency grants, energy saving advice and home visits to access cheaper energy tariffs and fuel debt write off.

22	What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)
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Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words

The countywide housing energy and fuel poverty database uses EPC information to highlight communities and localities in County Durham with low SAP rating energy efficiency performance.

The countywide house condition database uses HHSRS data to highlight localities with poor housing conditions, including fuel poverty.

County Durham Housing and Health Matrix combines health and housing condition data at a GP Practice level to show GP surgeries with high levels of COPD and Asthma in areas of poor quality housing.

Countywide mail out with Revenues and Benefits service targets to low income households who may qualify for ECO grants.

Targeted area based door to door promotions and outreach events take place in localities highlighted by the above data.

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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Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words

Fuel poverty is an essential consideration in the County's current climate change strategy. The Sustainability Team are currently developing a new climate emergency response plan and it will again be a central theme.

24 a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)

Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words

Our Managing Money Better Service provides a free and impartial advice in the residents home to help them save money on energy bills and keep warm. This service will find the best energy tariff for the client and if required assist with moving over to a new energy tariff or energy provider.

An experienced energy advisor from the Managing Money Better service carries out a home visit to provide this free service which includes assessing fuel bills and helping to switch suppliers if savings can be made.

In addition advice is provided to ensure clients can understand how to use their heating system and controls efficiently. Energy efficiency advice and arrange practical support if needed.

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)

Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words

The MMB service provide is impartial and does not promote any single energy provider Instead it provides access to the lowest energy tariff currently available along with help and support with energy supplier switching and fuel debt write off.

This service was previously delivered in partnership with the North East Credit Union but is now a core service delivered by the Council.

The Energy Company Obligation

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.durham.gov.uk/article/2876/Housing-energy-efficiency-improvements>

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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Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words

According to BEIS, County Durham has the eighth highest uptake of ECO Flex measures nationally. This is a direct result of the joint working between partner organisations including Housing Solutions, Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

We developed the Housing and Health Targeting Matrix showing the GP surgeries with the highest levels of poor housing and cold related ill health. This resulted in a pilot with a GP Surgery to target patients with COPD or Asthma for assistance from the Warm Homes Campaign.

Consequently a joint working agreement was established between the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group to assist patients living in a cold home and having cold related ill health.

We are now working with 32 GP surgeries countywide where patients with COPD or Asthma receive a letter from their GP Practice advising them to contact the Council’s Warm Homes Team for advice and support to lower their energy bills

and to have a warmer healthier home. This is aimed at increasing the numbers of households assisted by the ECO Flex programmes. .

Our ECO and ECO Flex Verification System makes it easy for contractors to submit ECO Flex applications, currently 26 ECO contractors are using this system.

Smart Metering

27 Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

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.

Free text response to question 27 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

DCC chair the north east ALEO network and Smart Energy GB have attended these regional partnership meetings to promote smart meters alongside training and awareness events for stakeholders.

Our Managing Money Better service provides 1-2-1 advice on energy tariffs and this includes information and advice on smart meters.

28 Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:

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.

Free text response to question 28 – please outline in no more than 150 words.

When residents contact the Council for advice on smart meters our Managing Money Better service provides 1-2-1 advice on energy tariffs and this includes information and advice on smart meters.

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>Our Warm Homes Campaign and joint working with stakeholders ensures that partner organisations refer households to the Council for help and support if their appliance is condemned.</p> <p>If a gas boiler is condemned residents contact the Council for assistance either directly or signposted via a partner organisation e.g. UgeUK. We have several opportunities to provide assistance, dependent upon their circumstances including Warm and Healthy Homes grants, ECO, ECO Flex and Home Improvement Agency grants.</p>	
30	<p>Please detail any:</p> <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>
<p><i>Free text response to question 30 – please outline in no more than 150 words.</i></p> <p>We do not have any properties under our direct control due to a stock transfer exercise of all Council Housing to a Registered Social Landlord (Believe Housing Ltd).</p>	
<p>Future Schemes or Wider Initiatives</p>	
31	<p>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').</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 31 - please outline in no more than 500 words</i></p> <p>We have successfully bid for funding for the following projects:</p> <p>Warm Homes Fund (on grid gas) grants for 200 low income households using solid fuel or electric to heat their home. The WHF grant will to fully cover the cost</p>	

of a new connection to the existing gas grid (within 23m) and the installation of 200 new energy efficient gas boiler and central heating system to the property.

Warm Homes Fund (off gas grid) grants to replace solid fuel and electric heating systems with 100 energy efficient air source heat pump central heating systems

Warm Homes Fund – joint working with Clinical Commissioning Group to target and assist with patients having cold related ill health issues and assist them to have warmer homes and lower energy bills.

Exploring opportunities to develop and Energy Service Company with the North East Purchasing Organisation and other Local Authorities.