



Cambridge City Council

Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA)

Progress Report 2017

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1.0 Introduction

All local authorities have a legal requirement to improve home energy efficiency in their area and to report on progress. This is Cambridge City Council's Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) progress report for 2017 to 2019 which provides an overview of activity undertaken in the last report from April 2015 to March 2017, and details our objectives in the form of an action plan for the next two years.

Cambridge City Council continues to be committed to improving the energy efficiency of properties across all the housing stock and it remains one of the main priorities of the Council. We recognise the benefits of reducing carbon emissions, enabling affordable warmth, alleviating fuel poverty, and improving the condition of the housing stock.

The housing stock in Cambridge is distinctly different to the rest of Cambridgeshire. Cambridge demonstrates an older property market with large proportions of terraced properties, with properties being primarily on-gas with virtually no oil heating. In addition there is a higher private rented sector than the national average with strong demand for private rented properties.

In terms of progress we have dedicated resource to target fuel poverty, and figures demonstrate a rate of reduction of fuel poverty in Cambridge greater than the national average. Gas and electricity consumption figures are generally coming down, and we have recently completed a county wide project that developed the solid wall market locally.

However the challenges still remain of identifying residents in fuel poverty and providing the tailored support required to address the variable issues. The construction of properties also means financial support is required to support energy efficiency investment. The energy policy environment nationally has undergone significant changes in the last few years, and we have demonstrated we are able to react to the changes and deliver effective projects that meet our local priorities. We aim to continue this work in the next few years, maximising all possibilities for securing funding and working in partnership to drive improvements in Cambridge.

1.1 Home Energy Conservation Act

The Secretary of State requires all English Local Authorities to publish a report on their plans to improve the energy efficiency of the residential accommodation in their area. Cambridge City Council's first report was published on 31st March 2015, with subsequent progress reports required every two years.

New guidance was published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in January 2017. Government recognises Local Authorities are uniquely placed to assess the needs of their areas and local residents, and to act as catalysts for change. The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises local authorities ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) in their areas.

Local Authorities are particularly well placed to champion the changes required, stimulate activity to meet specific local needs and support their wider strategic priorities.

In particular Local Authorities:

- Have unique knowledge of their local area's needs and circumstances;
- Are able to link wider strategic priorities and funding streams e.g. through health, education and regeneration agendas; are able to draw on established local networks, partnerships, services and delivery partners;
- Can draw on existing links with business and social enterprises and provide gateways through local advice agencies and services; and,
- Are directly accountable to their local residents.

Previous Cambridge City Council HECA reports can be found online at:
www.cambridge.gov.uk

2.0 Cambridge Projects & Delivery

Since the last HECA progress report the main priorities for Cambridge City Council have been to act as lead authority for the Green Deal Communities scheme, and to provide specific assistance to those residents in fuel poverty as identified through the Anti-poverty strategy.

These activities have provided two contrasting pieces of work. Green Deal Communities was the result of partnership work between the Cambridgeshire authorities to stimulate the solid wall insulation industry locally. Working closely with SME's the scheme provided the opportunity for private residents to invest in the energy efficiency of their own property. Funding was also available specifically for private landlords and targeted activity was rolled out across the whole of Cambridgeshire.

Our fuel poverty activity has focussed on predominantly assisting residents in low income areas to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and to maximise their income by reducing their energy and water bills. This activity requires a one to one approach with repeated marketing to target areas to identify residents who could benefit while also utilising referrals from other organisations and agencies. While we have been able to provide some funded improvements to homes, the majority of support is assisting residents to switch energy supplier, reduce their heating demand through behavioural change, and to consider switching to water meters in low occupancy properties.

2.1 Action on Energy Cambridgeshire

The Action on Energy partnership was created as a response to the introduction of the Green Deal. The Action on Energy brand allows local authorities to promote a single trusted energy efficiency route to residents and businesses through which residents and businesses can access advice, assessments, finance options and high quality installations.

In 2013, the Cambridgeshire authorities procured the services of a private contractor to market the Action on Energy brand, provide a local advice centre and install home energy measures through their fully accredited installer network. The initial focus of delivery was providing Green Deal related installations and securing local access to Energy Company Obligation funding (ECO).

Working in partnership provides greater opportunities for the local authorities in Cambridgeshire in terms of attracting funding and support, while it also allows each district to tailor the support to meet the specific demands of their individual district. It was through this partnership we were able to secure Green Deal Communities funding and in turn demonstrate what can be achieved through effective partnership work across different sectors, and the key role local authorities can play in increasing uptake of home energy measures.

Key Outcomes:

- A strong county wide local authority partnership that continues to look for opportunities within the energy market.
- An established local authority brand for energy efficiency.

- The successful delivery of a county wide, million pound scheme working in partnership with a range of sectors.

2.2 Green Deal Communities

In March 2014, Cambridge City Council led on a joint bid on behalf of the Action on Energy Partnership to the Government's Green Deal Communities programme. We were successfully awarded £7,857,400 to part fund energy efficiency installations and to offer a variety of incentives for householders. Cambridge City Council was also the lead authority for the project delivery.

The primary focus of the Cambridgeshire bid was to support private sector householders to insulate solid wall properties. £5.6million was allocated in total to provide a range of subsidies and incentives to encourage the uptake of solid wall insulation. The secondary focus of the bid included an additional £2million for the private rented sector (PRS) to provide additional incentives, and fund measures beyond solid wall insulation.

In January 2016 the partnership were given the opportunity to refocus some of the funding to provide fully funded installations for residents experiencing fuel poverty.

Finally, £99,000 was available to provide training to local SMEs and micro installer organisations to support companies through the Green Deal installer certification process with the aim of increasing the capacity of local businesses to install solid wall insulation.

Key outcomes:

- The project demonstrates our ability to successfully deliver a countywide project working in partnership with a range of private companies. We provided leadership and accountability that helped to develop trust with local residents.
- The project established a local solid wall industry and developed local knowledge, especially within the planning process, to make solid wall insulation less challenging.

Table 1: Green Deal Communities end of scheme figures

Item	Outcomes	
	Overall	Cambridge City
Total number of homes helped	1200	433
Total number of individual measures installed	1292	472
Number of solid wall installations	1093	422
Number of private rented properties helped	205	75
Number of fuel poor households helped	51	17
Value of Green Deal Communities funding spent (all costs)	£6,209,846.66	£2,051,499.66
Value of household contribution	£3,362,796.41	£1,235,517.25

2.3 Energy Company Obligation

Originally Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding was to be the main funding stream to support Action on Energy and we were having some success developing new engagement routes, for example by working with Addenbrookes hospital to target promotion to residents with acute health needs. However after securing Green Deal Communities, and the changes in national policy, the amount of ECO available has

reduced significantly. Cambridge City Council and Action on Energy have continued to promote ECO funding to residents and have utilised the funding where possible in Green Deal Communities to increase value for money.

Key outcomes

- ECO continues to provide financial support for energy efficiency improvements and we have promoted funding to residents who would be eligible in Cambridge.
- Green Deal Communities helped to secure just under £81,000 of ECO funding to assist residents install energy efficiency improvements.
- A full breakdown of the allocation of ECO funding in Cambridge is provided in section 3.1, page 8

2.4 Fuel Poverty

In April 2015 Cambridge City Council introduced the Fuel and Water Poverty Action Plan that was developed to support the wider Anti-Poverty Strategy. The action plan focused on the effects of increasing energy and water costs on lower income residents that contribute to poverty in the district. To support the action plan, Cambridge City Council has also committed internal funding for a specific staff member to deliver the actions and to directly assist residents who are struggling to pay their energy bills; or cannot keep their home at a sufficient internal temperature. By providing tailored advice and home visits residents are provided direct assistance to make their homes warmer, maximise their income, and improve their quality of life.

The advice the staff provide is tailored to the specific needs of the resident. This can include:

- Identifying inefficiencies in the construction of the property and providing advice on the improvements that could be undertaken,
- In depth review of energy usage including reviewing the current tariff with the aim to reduce the cost of their energy bills,
- Ensuring where possible water efficiency measures are installed in properties,
- Encouraging the switch to metered water for low occupancy properties which has been demonstrated can save a resident 50-60% of unmetered rates.
- Ensuring qualifying residents have access to additional support such as Warm Homes Discount, Social Tariffs and the Priority Services Register.
- Providing a review of benefits which can lead to qualifying for further assistance.
- Working with other partners to ensure residents benefit for all the assistance available to them by signposting residents to assistance provided by local partners.

While a lot of these services are accessible to residents, in our experience many residents need one to one support to make these improvements, and the Council is well placed to provide a trusted service that can help residents.

Key Outcomes

- 165 home visits carried out in 2 years. Residents on average save £200 on their energy bills per year as a result of our engagement. In some cases savings can be much, for example in one case we worked with partners to arrange for £1,160 to be written off as energy debt with the customer saving a further £200 per year through reducing their energy bill.
- Nearly 17,000 residents provided tailored advice through events, enquiries and targeted promotions

- Working with partner organisations to establish an effective referral network to provide support to residents.

2.5 Sharing Prosperity Fund

In March 2016 Cambridge City Council agreed to provide £20,000 from the internal Sharing Prosperity Fund to provide fully funded insulation and energy improvements for homes of low income households where the resident is on qualifying benefits, or experiencing fuel poverty. This funding was introduced to continue the support that was being provided by the Green Deal Communities scheme. Due to extensions to Green Deal Communities, the Sharing Prosperity Funding was not utilised until late into 2016/17. Therefore this funding has been carried into the next financial year to provide support until the new ECO funding becomes available.

2.6 Collective Energy Switch

Since 2013/14 we have supported Cambridgeshire County Council to promote a collective energy switch scheme to residents to help resident secure more competitive energy bills. The scheme has recently been extended and continues to offer access to cheaper energy deals.

Key Outcomes

- Over 400 residents are estimated to have switched their energy supplier in Cambridge since the scheme was introduced.
- Residents have saved an estimated average of £200 per household, per year through switching.
- A Council supported scheme has provided assistance and opportunity to switch energy supplier for residents who are not confident with the switching process or online access.

2.7 Water Meters

A trial on the financial benefits of switching from rateable charges to a water meter has identified there is a high potential to save money for residents who live in 1 bed properties. Our trials show that these households could save up to 50-60% off the cost of their water bills by switching. Based on these findings we are therefore implementing a policy to install water meters in all 1 bed council properties when they become void and working with Cambridge Water to get all other 1 bed Council properties without a meter to switch. This action has the potential to lead to water meters being installed in over 200 homes.

The results of the water meter trial are also being disseminated to all other Cambridge residents with particular focus on low income areas. We are working with Cambridge Water to increase the uptake of water meters where there is financial benefit to the resident.

Key Outcomes

- Significant savings have been identified for residents by switching to water meters.
- We have identified over 200 potential Council homes, with more in the private sector that could benefit financially from switching.

2.8 Stay Warm and Well Partnership

The Stay Warm and Well partnership is led by Cambridgeshire County Council and was introduced to ensure that there is a focus upon the risks to health and well-being for those in vulnerable groups during the winter months.

The partnership initially focused upon the Department of Health funding from the Warm Homes Healthy People fund originally available in 2011/12 and 2012/13, but has continued to provide a co-ordinated approach to winter health messaging, distribution of health packs, access to grant funding and to facilitating partnership working to ensure that actions are undertaken to mitigate risks.

Cambridge City Council is part of this group to maintain strong working relationships with County wide partners and to maximise opportunities through working as a County wide group.

Key Outcomes

- Support for winter health information packs distributed through local GP surgeries and health centres
- Closer working relationships with public health groups

2.9 Local Authority Housing Accommodation

Cambridge City Council continues to be a housing and sheltered housing provider. We invest in heating and insulation improvements to our own housing stock and regularly trial new and innovative measures. In 2015/16 the Council spent approximately £760,000 on upgrading the heating and hot water provision at Kingsway, Princess Court and Hanover Court flats where both services were starting to fail after many years of operation and were in need of replacement. Rather than just replace like for like systems the Council decided to take the opportunity to upgrade both the hot water and heating installations.

We also have a rolling programme of insulation works to our own housing stock with investment in both insulation and heating over the last few years.

Key Outcomes

- Improvements to Kingsway, Princess Court and Hanover Court flats generated annual energy bill savings of up to £200 per resident, with carbon dioxide emissions reduced by more than 200 tonnes per year.
- 31 external wall insulation installations, 203 loft insulations and 184 heating installations have been carried out in the last two years.

3.0 Statistical Progress

This section provides a statistical overview of the performance of Cambridge City in terms of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Installations, energy use, CO₂ emissions and fuel poverty.

3.1 ECO Installations

The table below shows the ECO support secured in Cambridge, up until December 2016. Figures for other districts, and nationally are shown for reference.

Table 2: Number of Households in receipt of ECO Measures

Area names	Households in receipt of ECO measures	Percentage of households in receipt of ECO measures	Households with at least one usual resident	Households in receipt of ECO measures per 1,000 households
<i>Great Britain</i>	1,628,222	100	26,750,806	60.9
<i>England</i>	1,343,156	82.5	22,984,491	58.4
<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	9,734	0.6	264,111	36.9
Cambridge	1,388	0.1	49,208	28.2
East Cambridgeshire	1,082	0.1	36,307	29.8
Fenland	2,232	0.1	42,422	52.6
Huntingdonshire	2,816	0.2	72,880	38.6
South Cambridgeshire	2,216	0.1	63,294	35.0

Table 3: Number of ECO measures

Area names	ECO measures installed	Percentage of ECO measures installed	Households with at least one usual resident	ECO measures per 1,000 households
<i>Great Britain</i>	2,041,909	100	26,750,806	76.3
<i>England</i>	1,694,881	83.0	22,984,491	73.7
<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	11,625	0.6	264,111	44.0
Cambridge	1,563	0.1	49,208	31.8
East Cambridgeshire	1,280	0.1	36,307	35.3
Fenland	2,750	0.1	42,422	64.8
Huntingdonshire	3,484	0.2	72,880	47.8
South Cambridgeshire	2,548	0.1	63,294	40.3

Source: BEIS, Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics¹

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics-headline-release-march-2017>

ECO funding is available for a range of measures and circumstances. From support for vulnerable households and those in fuel poverty, to funding where there are significant carbon benefits, for example external wall insulation. Cambridge City Councils utilises this funding for all projects where possible by working with installers who have access to the funding. We also signpost residents to ECO funding that is available through these companies should they benefit from financial assistance for their self-financed improvements.

When Cambridge is compared with the other districts in Cambridgeshire we receive less assistance on average, however Cambridge is nearly all on gas which makes it more challenging to utilise ECO funding to the extent of the other districts when off gas properties have the scope to benefit more. ECO funding will continue to be the main national source of funding and we will continue to work with our County partners to secure as much of this assistance for Cambridge, and Cambridgeshire, as possible.

3.2 Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions

Table 4: Carbon dioxide emissions (kt CO₂) for Cambridge across different sectors between 2005 and 2014.

Year	Sector				Total
	Industry and Commercial Total	Domestic Total	Transport Total	Other	
2005	424.3	243.8	116.5	0.4	784.9
2006	442.6	245.8	116.4	0.3	805.1
2007	428.7	238.4	119.2	0.3	786.5
2008	443.3	239.4	113.8	0.2	796.8
2009	393.0	216.4	110.4	0.2	720.0
2010	415.0	232.9	109.7	0.2	757.8
2011	387.0	203.9	107.2	0.1	698.3
2012	431.5	221.8	104.6	0.1	758.0
2013	412.0	217.7	104.7	0.1	734.5
2014	326.1	181.6	106.5	0.0	614.2

Source: BEIS, UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics ²

In 2014, domestic energy consumption was the second largest source of CO₂ emissions in Cambridge City at 30%. From 2005 to 2014 there has been a 26% reduction in domestic CO₂ emissions, compared to an overall reduction of 22%. (Industry and commercial 23%, Transport 9%) Therefore the carbon dioxide emissions for the domestic sector are reducing at a greater rate than any other sector in this period. (Excluding other sources).

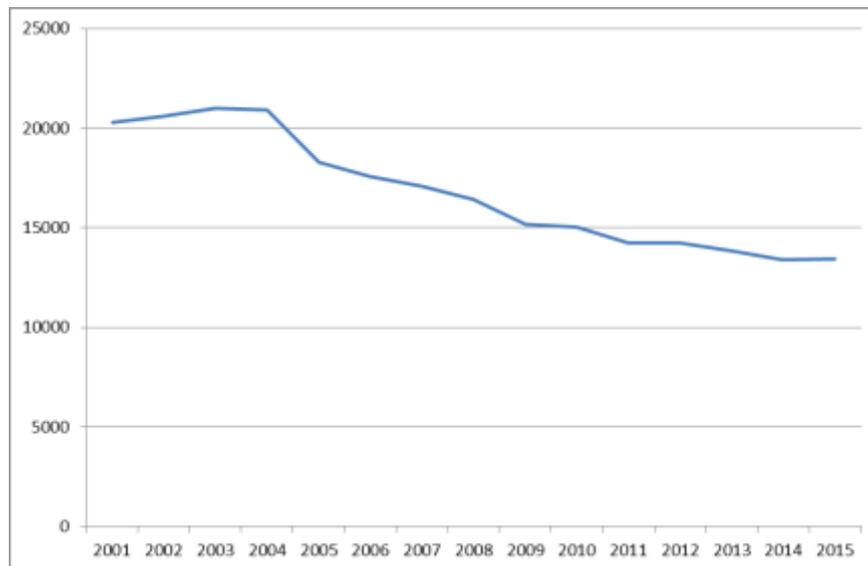
It is also worth noting that in this period the estimated mid-year population has also risen from 117,200 in 2005 to 128,500 in 2014 ³

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

3.3 Sub-national gas consumption

Table 5: Average Domestic Gas Consumption per Meter (kWh) in Cambridge

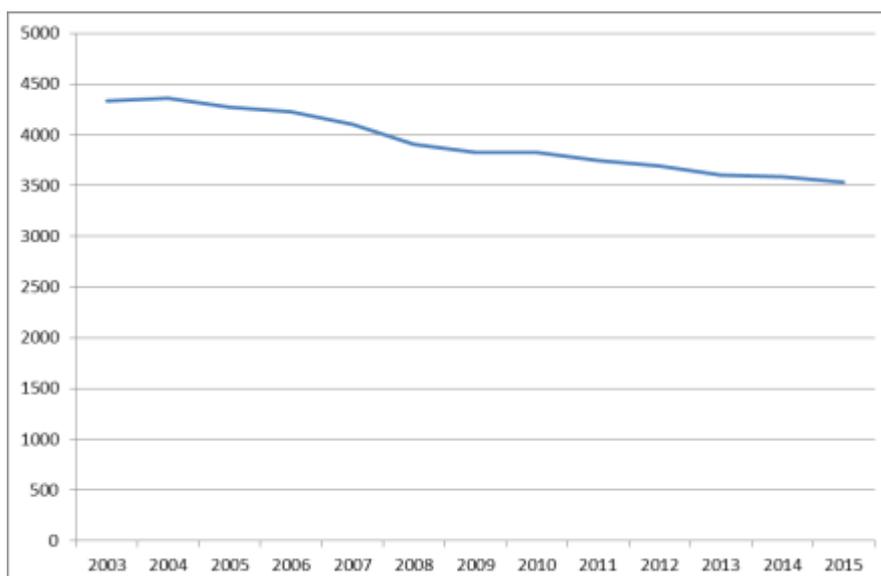


Source: BEIS, Sub-national gas consumption statistics 2005-2015⁴

Since 2004 there has been a general trend of reduction in the average consumption of gas in Cambridge, although there was a slight rise in consumption between 2014 and 2015. Gas consumption will depend on the efficiency of the property, but it will also directly relate to weather conditions and the heating demand to maintain a suitable internal temperature.

3.4 Sub-national electricity consumption

Table 6: Average Electricity Domestic Consumption per Consumer (kWh) in Cambridge



Source: BEIS, Sub-national electricity consumption statistics 2005-2015⁵

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/gas-sales-and-numbers-of-customers-by-region-and-local-authority>

Average electricity consumption in Cambridge shows a steady reduction since 2003. While annual average temperatures in Cambridge will have some effect on energy consumption, the majority of residents are on mains gas. Therefore there will be less of a direct relationship when compared with the annual gas consumption figures.

The data therefore indicates that year on year the average electricity consumption per household is reducing and this is most likely due to efficiency improvements.

3.5 Fuel poverty

A person is regarded to be living in fuel poverty if they are a member of a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

In 2012 the Hills Review, an independent review of fuel poverty conducted by Sir John Hills recommended that Government should adopt a new way of measuring fuel poverty. Government accepted this recommendation and moved to a new measure of fuel poverty named Low Income High Costs. Under Low Income High Costs households are considered fuel poor if they have:

- an income below the poverty line (including if meeting its required energy bill would push it below the poverty line); and,
- higher than typical energy costs.

In terms of Cambridge City, published fuel poverty figures are as follows:

Table 7: Fuel poverty figures for Cambridge and England as per the high fuel cost, low income fuel poverty definition.

Year	Cambridge		England	
	Estimated Number of Fuel Poor Households	Proportion of Households Fuel Poor (%)	Estimated Number of Fuel Poor Households	Proportion of Households Fuel Poor (%)
2011	7493	15.8	2390053	11.2
2012	6087	13.2	2282579	10.7
2013	5788	12.1	2346715	10.6
2014	5447	11.3	2379357	10.8

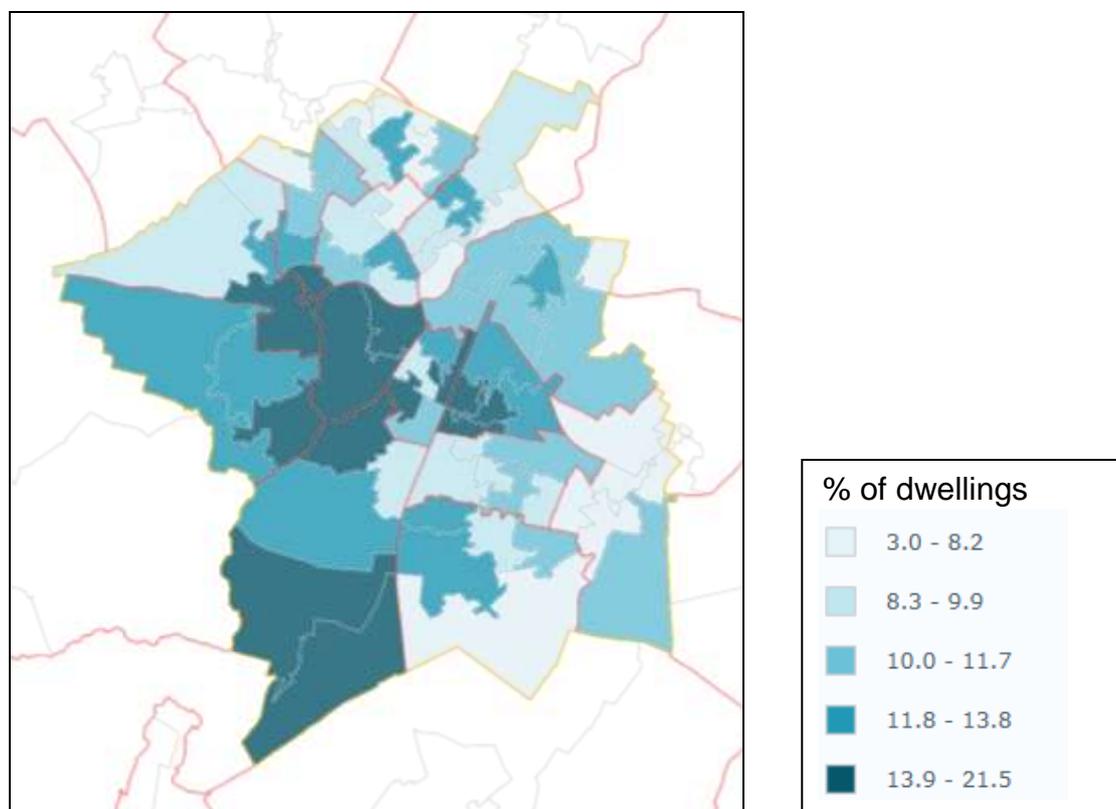
*Note: local high fuel cost, low income data has not been calculated prior to 2011
Source: BEIS, Fuel poverty sub-regional statistics⁶*

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/regional-and-local-authority-electricity-consumption-statistics-2005-to-2011>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>

Figure 1: Percentage of fuel poverty in Cambridge by LSOA.

Figure 1 shows a spatial analysis of the fuel poverty rates in each LSOA (Lower Layer Super Output Area) in Cambridge. The darker areas indicate higher rates of fuel poverty.



Source: Cambridgeshire Atlas, Fuel Poverty⁷

The last four years have seen a steady reduction in the proportion of residents in fuel poverty in Cambridge. In comparison to figures for England, Cambridge has a higher fuel poverty percentage, but the rate of reduction in the last four years is greater in Cambridge than compared to England. In 2014 the figures for Cambridge still showed a reduction in fuel poverty from the previous year, where for England there was actually a small increase. Therefore while Cambridge typically has higher levels of fuel poverty when compared to England, the figures show that we are having a greater impact in reducing that rate. Based on the figures for 2014 Cambridge has 0.5% higher fuel poverty than England, but based on previous years we should see the Cambridge percentage lower than England in the next year or two.

As an aside, under the old definition of fuel poverty of 10% of income being spent on energy bills, Cambridge was typically below the average for England, and usually followed the trend of rise and falls in line with the figures for England.

It is widely understood that fuel poverty is dependent on household income, energy prices, and home efficiency. Cambridge City Council does not have any influence on market prices for energy or on household income. However through seeking the best energy deals

⁷ <http://atlas.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/Housing/FuelPoverty/atlas.html>

for residents to help maximise that income, and through helping to provide more efficient homes to reduce energy demand, we are able to provide some assistance to reduce fuel poverty.

4.0 Policies and Targets

This section outlines national and local policies and targets relating to increasing the energy efficiency of residential accommodation.

4.1 National Policies and Targets

4.1.1 Climate Change Act

The Climate Change Act (2008) established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% below base year levels by 2050, to be achieved through action at home and abroad.

To drive progress and set the UK on a pathway towards this target, the Act introduced a system of carbon budgets which provide legally binding limits on the amount of emissions that may be produced in successive five-year periods, beginning in 2008. The first three carbon budgets were set in law in May 2009 and require emissions to be reduced by at least 34% below base year levels in 2020.

The fourth carbon budget, covering the period 2023-27, was set in law in June 2011 and requires emissions to be reduced by 50% below 1990 levels.

4.1.2 Energy Act

The Energy Act 2008 introduced a number of measures to encourage renewable energy generation by households and non-domestic users (including the public and private sectors). This included the Feed in Tariff scheme, and the Renewable Heat Incentive, which provide financial support for renewable heat sources.

The Energy Act 2011 introduced a number of new measures to stimulate energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses. The Energy Company Obligation replaced the previous obligation, Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

4.1.3 Energy Company Obligation

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO), first introduced in 2013, is an energy efficiency scheme for Great Britain. ECO places legal obligations on larger energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises. It focuses on insulation and heating measures and supports vulnerable consumer groups. ECO is intended to assist in reducing carbon emissions, maintaining security of energy supply and reducing fuel poverty.

An extension to the obligation period for ECO2 was established under The Electricity and Gas (Energy Company Obligation) (Amendment) Order 2017. The extension to the obligation period runs from 1 April 2017 to 30 September 2018 and is referred to as ECO2t.

ECO2t has two distinct obligations:

- Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO): the installation of carbon qualifying actions, which are wall and roof insulation measures, connections to district heating systems (DHS), and
- Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO): the installation of heating qualifying actions, including insulation and the repair and replacement of boilers and electric storage heaters, to reduce home heating costs for low income, fuel poor and vulnerable people. This is also known as the 'Affordable Warmth' obligation.

ECO2t also provides opportunities for local authorities under 'flexible eligibility' whereby local authorities have the ability to utilise their local knowledge and data to identify and determine whether certain households are eligible for assistance. The aim of flexible eligibility is to enable people to be reached who would otherwise be excluded.

4.1.4 Fuel Poverty Strategy

The Fuel Poverty Strategy 2015, called "Cutting the cost of keeping warm – a fuel poverty strategy for England" requires governments to tackle fuel poverty by making the coldest, leakiest homes in England more energy efficient.

This strategy outlines challenges and actions for the next 15 years to ensure future Governments take the right steps to tackle fuel poverty and get help to those who need it most.

A new legally binding target is at the heart of the new strategy. The fuel poverty target is to ensure that as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by 2030.

The strategy includes two milestones of:

- Band E by 2020, and:
- Band D by 2025

Early measures to tackle the problem of fuel poverty and achieve the new target include:

- New regulations specifying that from April 2018 private landlords cannot rent out energy inefficient properties (homes with Energy Performance ratings below 'E').
- Extending the successful ECO scheme to 2017, so that a further 500,000 properties will be made cheaper and easier to heat, building on the one million homes that ECO and the Green Deal have helped in the last 2 years.

The strategy prepares the ground for future new measures with a series of pilots focused on priority areas, ranging from health aspects of fuel poverty through to specific housing types like off gas grid properties and park homes.

4.2 Local Policies and Targets

4.2.1 Cambridge City Council Vision

The Council has a clear vision to lead a united city, 'One Cambridge - Fair for All', in which economic dynamism and prosperity are combined with social justice and equality.

The visions that relate to this report are:

One Cambridge – Fair for all

- A city which believes that the clearest measure of progress is the dignity and well-being of its least well-off residents, which prioritises tackling poverty and social exclusion, recognising that greater social and economic equality are the most important pre-conditions for the city's success.

Cambridge - a great place to live, learn and work

- A city which strives to ensure that all local households can secure a suitable, affordable local home, close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.

Cambridge - caring for the planet

- A city that takes robust action to tackle the local and global threat of Climate Change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

4.2.2 Climate Local

In August 2012, Cambridge City Council was among the first local authorities to sign the 'Climate Local' declaration. Climate Local has been developed by the Local Government Association as the successor to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, which the Council signed up to in 2006.

4.2.3 Climate Change Strategy

Cambridge City Council's Climate Change Strategy establishes the framework for the Council's action to address the causes and consequences of climate change over the next five years.

The strategy has an aspiration to achieve zero carbon status for Cambridge by 2050. Achieving this aspiration will require the City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the Universities, local businesses, and voluntary and community groups to work together closely in partnership.

The strategy sets out five key objectives to guide Council activity:

1. Reducing emissions from the City Council estate and operations

2. Reducing energy consumption and emissions from homes and businesses in Cambridge by promoting energy efficiency measures, sustainable construction, renewable energy sources, and behaviour change
3. Reducing emissions from transport by promoting sustainable transport, reducing car travel and traffic congestion, and encouraging behaviour change
4. Reducing consumption of resources, increasing recycling and reducing waste
5. Supporting Council services, residents and businesses to adapt to the impacts of climate change

In this strategy the council has committed to a total of 46 wide-ranging actions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Cambridge. These actions have been identified based on: an analysis of the sectors which currently contribute most to the city's carbon footprint; learning from current city council activity and good practice from other local authorities and organisations; and partnership or funding opportunities. They include:

- Reducing our emissions by 15% by 2021 through delivering 22 carbon reduction projects in our new Carbon Management Plan and rationalising our office estate, with an aspiration to reduce our emissions by 20% through further projects that are still being developed.
- Supporting residents to access financial support for domestic energy efficiency improvements through the Action on Energy partnership
- Working with partners in Cambridge Retrofit to mobilise private finance for investment in large-scale retrofit of buildings and estates in Cambridge and promote exemplar projects and good practice.
- Constructing new council homes to high sustainability standards and, where possible within the national planning policy framework, using local planning policy to secure high sustainability standards in new residential and commercial developments in Cambridge.
- Continuing to promote recycling and increase opportunities for residents and businesses to recycle.
- Investing £100m in improvements to public transport and cycling infrastructure through the City Deal with the aim of tackling congestion, reducing journey times, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.
- Promoting low-emissions buses and taxis in partnership with the County Council, bus companies and taxi companies.
- Supporting residents and businesses to respond to the anticipated effects of climate change, including flooding, water shortages and heat waves.

4.2.4 Carbon Management Plan

Cambridge City Council's Carbon Management Plan 2016-21 sets out how we will reduce carbon emissions from our estate and operations to address Objective 1 of the Climate Change Strategy.

The Council has set a target of reducing carbon emissions from the Council's estate and operations by 15% from 2014/15 levels by the end of 2020/21, with an aspiration to reduce emissions by 20% over this period.

Key actions contained within this plan, focus on the sites and services which use the most energy, including: swimming pools, car parks, vehicle fleet, office accommodation,

sheltered and temporary housing, the crematorium, community centres and commercial properties and include:

- Installing LED lighting in council buildings and car parks
- Upgrading heating boilers to more energy efficient systems with controls
- Insulation improvements, including roof and wall insulation
- Upgrading the vehicle fleet, and replacement of a number with electric vehicles.

4.2.5 Interim Housing Strategy Statement 2017

The Interim Housing Strategy Statement outlines Cambridge City Council's strategic vision for housing, and demonstrates how we are working in partnership to deal with housing issues in the City.

We made significant progress against our previous Housing Strategy 2012-2015. We consulted on an ambitious revised Strategy in summer 2015, but a number of major national policy changes emerged at around the same time, which meant we needed to rethink some of our proposals. This Interim Housing Strategy Statement draws on our 2015 draft, the results of the consultation, and new opportunities which have since emerged.

We have close strategic links with South Cambridgeshire District Council, and many common issues to deal with. Although there will be some differences in priorities and how we approach certain issues, both districts consider there would be real benefits from having a joint strategic approach. Therefore we are planning to work with South Cambridgeshire on a joint Housing Strategy, to link with our long-standing commitment for delivery of a joint Local Plan once our emerging Local Plans have been adopted.

4.2.6 Anti-Poverty Strategy

The aim of the Anti-Poverty Strategy 2014-17 is to improve the standard of living and daily lives of those residents in Cambridge who are currently experiencing poverty, but also to alleviate issues that can lead households on low incomes to experience financial pressures. The strategy identifies seven 7 key objectives for activity to address poverty, which are as follows:

- Helping people on low incomes to maximise their income and minimise their costs
- Increasing community pride, raising aspirations and making the move into work easier
- Reducing the impact of poverty on children and helping low income families with the cost of raising a child
- Reducing the link between poor health and poverty
- Ensuring that vulnerable older people and people with disabilities get the services that they need and reducing the social isolation they can experience
- Helping people with high housing costs, increasing numbers of affordable homes, and improving the condition of people's homes
- Working in partnership to tackle wider barriers to employment and engagement

The Strategy also sets out a range of new activities and initiatives that the City Council will undertake to address the key issues which contribute to poverty in Cambridge, including the Fuel and Water Poverty Action Plan

4.2.7 Fuel and Water Poverty Action Plan

The Fuel and Water Poverty Action Plan acknowledges the problem of increasing energy and water costs on lower income residents resulting in an increasing number of households living in fuel and/or water poverty. The aim of this action plan is to ensure co-ordinated support and to deliver real savings to reduce the number of households in fuel and/or water poverty in Cambridge City.

Activities will target specific groups and sectors within the city focussing predominantly on the low-income areas of the city identified through the Anti-Poverty Strategy. The council recognises that much can be achieved by working in partnership with other local organisations from the public, voluntary and private sectors with significant activity already being undertaken by these organisations.

The key objectives of the fuel and water poverty action plan are:

- Help residents reduce energy & water costs through practical projects and the dissemination of information.
- Ensuring that those living on low incomes across the city have access to information and support to benefit from opportunities to reduce their energy and water costs.
- Ensuring that vulnerable older people have access to information to benefit from opportunities to reduce energy and water costs.
- Ensure that Cambridge City Council responds to changing and evolving policy relating to fuel and water poverty.
- Investigate the opportunities for activities relating to fuel and water poverty that address the link between poor health and poverty.

5.0 Action Plan (2017 to 2019)

For the next two years our aims are to focus on providing dedicated support to those low income households who are experiencing fuel poverty, and to maximise all possibilities for securing funding and working in partnership to support residents to improve the efficiency of their own homes. We will also continue to invest in our own housing stock.

The main activity will therefore be to; utilise opportunities such as flexible eligibility, seek access to ECO funding or other sources, and to continue the joint working of the Action on Energy partnership. We also recognise the need to develop focussed activities with the public health sector through establishing effective working relationships, and delivering projects to meet fuel poverty targets.

A list of planned activity for 2017 to 2019 is below.

Work stream	Action	Description	Completion Date
Anti-poverty Strategy	Fuel & Water Poverty Officer	The anti-poverty strategy has funded one full time staff member to increase the staff resources to deliver the activity included in the fuel and water poverty action plan. All activity has the aim to reduce energy use and maximise income for residents living in the most deprived areas of Cambridge.	Currently funded up until March 2018
	Home Visits	The fuel and water poverty officer will provide home visits to residents to review their energy usage and the efficiency of their home. Based on the findings the officer will then provide advice on material changes to the property, behavioural changes, energy tariffs, and investigate access to funding and refer to other partner organisations where applicable.	Currently funded up until March 2018
	General Promotion of Good Practice	Promotion of good energy efficiency practice and activity the Council is involved in will be promoted to all residents in Cambridge, with specific, targeted information focussed on low income areas. This promotional activity will include; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the City Council Website and social media • Supporting local community events • Targeted mail outs • Distributing posters and leaflets • Support for any enquiries to the Council 	On going
	Sharing Prosperity Funding	The Council awarded £20,000 from the Sharing Prosperity Fund to provide capital assistance to residents who could benefit from minor energy efficiency works. This funding has been carried over into 2017/18 until the funding has been fully allocated.	March 2018

Anti-poverty Strategy	Collective Energy Switch	In the next two years we will maintain our relationship with iChoosr to promote the 'Cambridgeshire Collective Energy Switch Scheme' and aim to support three switching campaigns each year. Each campaign will be supported with targeted promotional activity and call centre support.	March 2018
	Smart Meter	The national roll out of smart meters has the ability to support residents in fuel poverty by helping residents to quantify their energy use and help to make informed decisions about switching supplier. However residents will require support through the installation process, to understand the meters, and what to do with that information. Cambridge City Council is well placed to support its residents with the roll out by provide advice and guidance and support.	2020
	Water Meters	We will continue to encourage all residents to switch to metered water supplies where there is financial benefit from doing so. We will utilise the findings from the water meter trial is low occupancy households to show the potential extent of savings available.	March 2018
	Water Efficiency	Water efficiency is also included as part of our promotion of ways to maximise income and we are working with Cambridge Water to publicise good practice and distribute free water products.	On going
	Public Health	We will maintain our involvement in the Countywide 'Stay Warm and Well' partnership to maintain strong working relationships with County wide partners and to maximise opportunities through working as a County wide group. The group also ensures there is targeted support for residents most at risk in the winter period. We will utilise good practice where possible to maximise the impact of our activity, i.e. NICE Guidance	On going
Funding Opportunities	ECO Funding	We will continue to investigate all opportunities to access ECO funding for the benefit of our residents. Action on Energy demonstrated we can deliver County wide projects at scale and we are keen to access funding to continue this scale of activity. We have staffing resource in 2017/18 to actively seek opportunities to continue this activity.	On going
	ECO Flexibility Eligibility	Through the opportunities provided by the new flexible eligibility we are able to set qualifying criteria for ECO funding that meets the specific priorities of Cambridge. We are keen to utilise this opportunity and we will be introducing our Flexible Eligibility criteria as soon as possible	September 2018

Funding Opportunities	Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency	We continue to work with the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency to provide assistance to local residents through the grant funding available. In the past we have jointly delivered Warm Homes Healthy People funding and will continue to deliver joint work when the opportunities arise.	On going
	ERDF Funding	There are still opportunities to access ERDF funding and we are keen to investigate all opportunities should they help us to meet the priorities in Cambridge	On going
	Cambridge Retrofit	Cambridge Retrofit continues to try and establish a deliverable model and we maintain links with the scheme should useful opportunities develop.	On going
	Pay as you save scheme	Since the purchase of the Green Deal Finance company installer companies are able to provide a revised pay as you save scheme. We will monitor developments of this finance opportunity as a way of funding installations and to enforce the minimum energy efficiency standards.	On going
Private Rented Sector	Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards	<p>With the introduction of the minimum energy efficiency standards for rented properties, we will identify ways to utilise the standards to increase the energy efficiency of properties in Cambridge.</p> <p>From April 2018 onwards, private landlords will need to ensure that any domestic property they rent has an EPC rating of at least E before letting to a new tenant, or before renewing a tenancy with an existing tenant. Currently the regulations only require improvements to F and G rated properties if they can be carried out at no cost, however government are considering amending the regulations to introduce a spending cap.</p> <p>Once any changes to the legislation have been made we will develop a scheme to target Cambridge properties.</p>	On going
	HHSRS	<p>The housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) is a risk-based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings.</p> <p>Excess cold and excess heat are two potential risks and we will continue to support our residential housing team to assist property owners to reduce these risks through energy efficiency improvements. Environmental Health target category 1 excess cold hazards which are generally those with a SAP rating below 35.</p>	On going

Private Rented Sector	Debt Awareness	<p>The Residential Team is introducing a scheme to assist tenants with debt and to encourage landlords to refer their tenants for assistance.</p> <p>Debt advice would be provided by an approved debt advice provider; however we can also provide assistance with managing energy bills and improving the energy efficiency of the property.</p>	On going
	Winter Property Health Check	<p>We want to encourage landlords and their tenants to take reasonable steps to 'winter proof' their property and maintain a warm and health environment. Through the Residential Team we propose to introduce a winter checklist that would help landlords and their tenants to identify issues, and in turn signpost them to support available through the Council and other service providers.</p> <p>The support will include action to reduce a range of risks and hazards, but also to make recommendations on how best to heat the home, recommended levels of insulation, and reminders to service the boiler, switch energy supplier and lag pipework.</p>	On going
Renewable Energy	Feed in Tariff	<p>Where residents are keen to make significant changes improvements to their property we will advise them on renewable energy schemes appropriate to Cambridge.</p> <p>The Feed in Tariff (FiT) scheme is promoted in energy efficiency promotions and literature produced by the City Council. Officers are also able to give advice on renewable energy technologies and signpost enquiries to national schemes.</p>	On going
	Renewable Heat Incentive	<p>The Renewable Heat Incentive is promoted in energy efficiency promotions and literature produced by the City Council. Officers are also able to give advice on renewable heat technologies and signpost enquiries to national schemes.</p>	On going
General Activity	Community Groups	<p>Action on Energy continues to support local community groups and voluntary sector organisations working on sustainable energy-related issues in the form of assisting with events and public speaking when required.</p> <p>With the award of Green Deal Communities funding we also helped a local group, Cambridge Carbon Footprint deliver a Green Deal Communities focused Open ECO Homes events.</p>	On going

General Activity	Action on Energy	<p>The Action on Energy partnership continues to offer the benefits of local authority partnership work across Cambridgeshire, but also an established brand and local network for energy efficiency advice.</p> <p>The partnership is actively seeking new projects to develop across the County and will continue to use the Action on Energy brand to market local activity.</p>	On going
	Energy Performance Certificates (EPC's)	<p>We continue to utilise EPC data for the Cambridge City district help target future ECO/Fuel Poverty assistance and identify potential area based hot spots. The data is also used for targeting enforcement by the Residential Team.</p> <p>We produce EPC's for all local authority properties when they become vacant.</p> <p>We also continue to investigate opportunities to utilise EPC's to assist our work with the minimum energy efficiency standards.</p>	On going
	Trialling new and innovative energy efficiency measures	Cambridge City Council regularly trials new and innovative energy efficiency measures and monitor their effectiveness accordingly with a view to adopting in all our own stock and promoting to the private sector.	On going
	Cambridge City Council Benefit Team	We continue to maximise our links with our Benefits Team to provide a targeted approach of ECO funding to vulnerable groups.	On going
Planning Policy	Local Plan	<p>The new Local Plan is currently undergoing examination with a view to it being adopted in 2018.</p> <p>Included in the new local plan is a consequential improvement policy, which seeks to ensure that where householder applications are submitted for extensions and loft conversions, wider works to homes to install basic energy efficiency measures are carried out. Water efficiency requirements for new homes are also included in the local plan.</p>	Local plan to adopted in 2018
Local Authority Housing	Local Authority Housing building programme	The Greater Cambridge Housing Development Agency (HDA) has also recently adopted the Cambridge Sustainable Housing Design Guide, which includes requirements related to the energy efficiency/carbon emissions of new homes as well as requirements related to water efficiency. This guide will be used for all schemes delivered by the HDA in Cambridge.	On going
	Insulation Programme for Local Authority housing stock	For 2017/18 we plan to invest up to £200,000 in external wall insulation and continue our programme of upgrading lofting insulation in properties with less than 150mm of insulation, or where we are carrying out re-roofing works.	On going

Local Authority Housing	Heating upgrade programme to Local Authority housing stock	We will continue to invest in the replacement of central heating boilers with high-efficiency condensing boilers	On going
	Upgrades to sheltered housing	The heating system at School Court sheltered housing scheme will be replaced with a high-efficiency communal heating system.	March 2018
	Water Meters	We are targeting low occupancy council properties to encourage these residents to have water meters installed as standard. Where properties become vacant we will also arrange for the water meters to be installed in preparation for the new tenants.	March 2018
Strategic	Cambridge City Council Environmental Health – Residential Team	The Environmental Health Residential Team works with landlords, tenants and other agencies to provide decent housing for all private rented sector tenants. Through these links we can develop energy efficiency initiatives to increase the standard of the private rented sector.	On going
	Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	The Cambridgeshire JSNA brings together data and information from a number of different sources to identify the health and well-being needs of the county's population, to help to inform health and social care decisions on commissioning. Housing has an important role to play in promoting health and well-being, and a number of priority recommendations in the JSNA are relevant to energy efficiency.	On going
	Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board	The Council is actively supporting the development of a county-wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy, through the Cambridgeshire Health and Well-being Board.	On going

6.0 Report Approval

This report was approved for submission on: 15th May 2017

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AP Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'J'.

Antoinette Jackson,
Chief Executive,
Cambridge City Council

This HECA progress report review date: 31st March 2018

Submission of next progress report due: 31st March 2019

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