

SOUTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT (HECA) PROGRESS REPORT 2015

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 (HECA) 1995, recognises local authorities' ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation (owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) in their areas.

This progress report 2015 updates the initial Further Report, submitted in March 2013, and sets out the energy conservation measures undertaken in the preceding two years and those that South Tyneside Council consider practicable, cost-effective and likely to result in on-going and significant improvements in the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in the South Tyneside area.

Further progress reports detailing how South Tyneside Council is progressing with the measures identified within this report and the impact on emissions and the level of fuel poverty locally will be provided at 2 yearly intervals i.e. 31st March 2017 up to and including 31st March 2027.

ACTION		TIMING
1/ LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES		
Carbon Emissions Reduction in the Domestic Sector	South Tyneside Council is a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors Initiative, a voluntary commitment to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources within the Local Authority area. South Tyneside Council has set a target to reduce carbon emissions by at least 20% by 2020, against a 2005 baseline. An initial plan for achieving this level of CO₂ emissions reduction is contained in South Tyneside's Sustainable Energy Action Plan. Sustainable Energy Action Plan for South Tyneside. A full progress monitoring report and revision of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan is due in the near future. Current performance on emissions from all sectors is 4.7 t CO₂ per capita, a 13.3% reduction on the 2005 baseline. Domestic carbon emissions acc3s acan 2005 to 2012 UK local and regional CO₂ emissions	2020
Tackling Fuel Poverty	The latest Fuel Poverty Statistics from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (published June 2014) indicate that the level of fuel poverty in South	

2014

alleviate fuel poverty and safeguard/create employment.

The scheme launched in late 2013,

South Tyneside Homes are in the proc

	agenda through the development of specific projects and literature to be delivered /distributed by the group.	
Age UK Affordable Warmth Interventions	Age UK South Tyneside has continued to deliver a wealth of home energy related interventions to vulnerable households in South Tyneside in the 2013-15 period, starting with a holistic assessment of the older persons needs prior to referral for support from a wide range of services to improve home energy efficiency and address other needs. Measures/Programmes delivered include: EON funding to deliver energy efficiency assessments, to fit draught-proofing, radiator foils, insulation and cold alarms to alert older people when temperatures fall. Public Health funded Falls Prevention Service, providing local older people with an assessment, aids and adaptations, removing hazards, fixing identified problems to prevent older people from falling in their homes. Older people accessing energy efficiency assessments are assessed by Age UK's Information and Advice service to check eligibility for Warm Homes Discount. Age UK South Tyneside continues to raise awareness of home energy efficiency, delivering events to encourage older people to keep warm and well through their 'Spread the Warmth Campaign'. Funding from GlaxoSmithKline has enabled the employment of a Postural Stability Instructor to assist older people who have received a falls assessment to improve mobility and encourage physical activity, further integrating the links with health and social care services. South Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) Resilience Group includes council representatives from Social Care and Public Health. This group is responsible for the distribution of Winter Pressures funding. Winter Pressures funding 2014/15 is supporting a 'Home from Hospital' programme through Age UK, where homes are prepared (made safe and warm), ready for an older persons return.	2013-15

	It is anticipated that Age UK South Tyneside will continue to deliver similar services in the 2015-16 period.	
NEA Community Action Partnership	National Energy Action (NEA) and British Gas have teamed up with Warm Up North to launch a Community Action Partnership (CAP) in the North East, which will allow Warm Up North partner authorities access to a British Gas Community Investment Programme. Through the scheme, selected charities and community groups will be able to refer people to Warm Up North to find out if they are eligible for a free or subsidised gas boiler and other energy efficiency measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation. Each successful gas boiler install will attract a cash incentive for the community group / charity to reinvest in their community projects. Age UK, which has branches in the nine Warm Up North Local Authority areas, is one of the first voluntary sector organisations confirmed to be part of the scheme. As part of the project, NEA will provide information and support to front-line organisations over the coming months to help local people benefit from warmer, more energy efficient homes. Specialist support from NEA, will allow staff working on the ground within South Tyneside's communities to identify residents facing fuel poverty, helping to ensure that the people most in need of help receive the assistance they require. The programme will run to April 2016 and there will u(anc)14 2016 ao,e th ale2(h a)-u al 2016 y all u(	

project saw the delivery of in-house training to 170 front line staff and 40 involved tenants.

Additional funding secured for 2014-15 was used by the involvement team to update the training programme for further roll-out to tenants. The training has focused on energy efficiency issues and on encouraging tenants to take ownership of their relationship with energy suppliers and switching supplier themselves (where advantageous) rather than provide a switching service per se.

Through the programme a number of front line staff have also been trained to deal with minor enquiries and to refer more involved energy efficiency / supplier issues to the Energy team. This has resulted in an increase in the number of issues being referred and hence an increase in the number of opportunities to provide quality advice to tenants. Enquiries/issues dealt with tend to be quite complex ranging from accrued debt and missed repayments to self - disconnection issues amongst the most vulnerable. r

Solar Photovoltaic Installations (New Build)	installations. The project has helped South Tyneside Council / South Tyneside Homes to address a number of issues for tenants including the availability of affordable energy and rising energy costs. The provision of free electricity to some of our most vulnerable tenants is helping to alleviate fuel poverty and the generation of renewable energy is helping to reduce borough-wide carbon emissions associated with the domestic sector. South Tyneside Council and South Tyneside Homes remain committed to the deployment of renewable energy as a means of supporting vulnerable tenants and tackling fuel poverty. The delivery of future Solar PV schemes will be dependent on the allocation of capital funds, the identification of suitable homes and future approval processes adopted by the District Network Operator, all of which will have a bearing on the economic viability of potential schemes.	
	South Tyneside Council / South Tyneside Housing Ventures Trust Limited have incorporated Solar PV installations into the build of 67 fu5	

Hybrid Heating Scheme	South Tyneside Homes is one of a select number of organisations taking part in a flagship programme to demonstrate and monitor a new hybrid heating system which combines a high efficiency gas combi boiler and the latest renewable energy air source heat pump. The systems will be integrated with Solar PV which will serve to future proof the properties by reducing tenants' energy costs further and alleviating fuel poverty. The heat pump element of the hybrid system is eligible for the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which will offer RHI payments over the next 7 years. Properties with heat monitoring installed are also able to claim additional funding from DECC for a 7 year period as part of a scheme to encourage the take-up of renewable heating systems. All monitoring data collected as part of the trial will be shared with DECC and used to assist central government policy development.	
ZERO CARBON HOMES	We will continue to ask for standards as laid down in the current building regulations and keep abreast of developments in respect of the government's commitment to Zero Carbon homes. The latest updates to Part L came into force on 6th April 2014 and as a result new build homes will have to be an average of 6% more energy efficient than under the 2010 regulations and non-domestic buildings will have to be 9% more energy efficient than under the 2010 regulations. The Local planning authority monitors measures taken to ensure developments minimise their impact on the environment and the causes of climate change by application of the Code for Sustainable Homes, in accordance with our adopted Local Development Framework Policies ST2 (Sustainable Urban Living) and DM1 (Management of Development). South Tyneside Council is driving forward a series of schemes providing quality new homes across the borough. 222 new homes at Trinity South are being built to Code level 3. 120 homes at Simonside Park are being built to a minimum Code level 3 with the option for potential purchasers to upgrade to Code level 5. 20 bungalows in the scheme are being built to Code Level 4.	2016

South Tyneside's Local Development Framework policies on Mixed-Use Development Opportunities all seek to encourage higher than excellent BREEAM and EcoHomes standards in our three town centre-based Area Action Plan areas.

South Tyneside's Supplementary Planning Document 1 Sustainable Construction and Development is now somewhat outdated and its review will be incorporated in the current review of all our LDF policies as part of the preparation of our new Local Plan over the next few years [South Tyneside's Local Plan](#) so will reflect any updated approaches, standards and guidance as appropriate.

The UK's first carbon negative social housing scheme at Sinclair Meadows in South Shields is an excellent example of new housing development in the borough that is already going beyond the Zero Carbon definition. [Sinclair Meadows](#)

interrogation of this data to help identify homes that are suitable for loft-insulation/
loft-insulation top-

	installed. Where costs have allowed, a number of homes have benefitted from the installation of internal insulation where it has not been possible to raise the energy efficiency rating of the property by alternative means.	
SMART METERS	The government is currently working with industry and consumer groups to prepare for mass roll-out of smart meters, starting in 2015. 80% of domestic electricity consumers are expected to be using smart meters by 2019. As part of the national roll-out programme, South Tyneside Council will support the installation of smart meters linked to measures delivery through Warm Up North, where this fits with the desired approach of the delivery partner. South Tyneside Homes has	

	Durham County Council Northumberland County Council Sunderland City Council Gateshead Council Hartlepool Council South Tyneside Council – Internal Partners Public Health Welfare Rights Adult Social Care Children and Families Social Care Environmental Health Trading Standards Telecare Services	
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