

Respondent

< 75 Anonymous >

52:04
Time to complete

Instructions

Please remember that Microsoft Forms will not save your progress so we would highly recommend that you prepare your answers in advance before copying them over. All questions are optional but, responses to all are highly encouraged.

If a question is marked as required (*) and you do not wish to answer it, please respond with 'N/A' and then move on to the next question that you wish to answer.

Please note that for each of the open answer questions there is a character limit of 4000 (this is approximately 500 words).

Introduction

Please answer the following questions to provide general information about your Local Authority.

1. Please provide the name of your Local Authority. *

Sefton Council

2. Please provide us with the type of Local Authority. *

- County Council
- District Council
- Unitary Authority
- Metropolitan District
- London Borough

3. Please provide us with the name, job title and email address of the official submitting the report. *

Stephanie Jukes, Energy Manager, stephanie.jukes@sefton.gov.uk

Headline & Overview

A section on the main strategies Local Authorities have to promote carbon reduction and energy efficiency, the stakeholders they work with and the impact these strategies have.

4. Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties? *

Yes

No

5. If yes, please provide a link to the strategy.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/environmental-protection/energy-and-environment/climate-emergency/strategy-implementation-plan-and-reports/>

6. What scheme(s) is your Local Authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation properties in the next two years? (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth • The Affordable Warmth Service: The service relies on external funding to employ staff. Employing 2 case workers and a coordinator to assist vulnerable/ fuel poor residents to achieve affordable warmth at home. • ECO: Issuing Local Authority Declarations under ECO flex when required. • Warm Homes funding: Secured until November 2021 for 1st time central heating, gas connections and insulation measures • Gas Safe funding: Secured until September 2021 for repairs and replacements of unsafe gas appliances • Covid-19 winter resilience funding: Secured until June 2021 for heating, insulation and energy saving measures • Energy Redress funding: Secured in partnership with a local community organisation, to give energy efficiency advice and provide energy saving measures until 2022 • Smart meter rollout: Funding secured to raise awareness in the community until December 2021 • Liverpool City Region Collective Energy Switch: Regular promotion to

encourage residents to obtain the best prices by switching supplier Retrofit • The Retrofit Team: The service relies on external funding to employ staff. Consists of three members of staff to provide the project management function and administrative support to deliver existing schemes. Also conducting feasibility studies for new funding opportunities and research into innovative technology. • Currently delivering a £5million ERDF Retrofit for the Future project across the LCR • Successfully acquired £1.3m funding for a LAD 1b collaboration project in the LCR • Have been awarded over £2m to deliver a LAD 2 project in the Sefton borough in partnership with a local RP. • In the process of re-launching a LA, RP and advocacy steering group named Viridis to share best practice and work collaboratively on future funded schemes. • Working in partnership with a local university to explore innovative monitoring and emerging technologies. • Working with new partnerships such as Cadent and United Utilities to explore/trial innovative technologies

7. What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), such as the value of grants and other support made available, plus any other costs incurred (such as administration) as desired? (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth • The Affordable warmth service staff and on costs of approximately £116k pa. The service relies on external funding to keep this much needed service operational. • ECO. Administration costs of £25 per LAD, currently absorbed by LA due to no funding • Warm Homes funding. £2600 per install, retention admin fee payable at end of project. • Gas Safe. £6000 for capital costs – repair or replacement gas appliances • Covid-19 winter resilience funding. Capital funding of £20k for heating/ insulation measures • Energy Redress (FILT). £25 per visits staffing costs. £75 per visit energy saving measures • Smart meter rollout. Approximately £25k for promotional work and staffing costs • Liverpool City Region Collective Energy Switch. Part of Service level agreement with EPPlus Retrofit • The Retrofit Team staffing provision costs £150k pa and is reliant on revenue from projects such as ERDF and LAD2. All posts are temporary contracts. • The £5 million ERDF project was match funded with 55% RP contributions. The revenue budget was relatively small covering two project management salaries, consultancy and marketing. • LAD1b £350k capital budget, no revenue budget so costs absorbed by the Council. as working in collaboration with Liverpool City Council • LAD2 £1.9M capital budget, £235k revenue budget which includes approximately £100k of ancillary costs.

8. What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)? (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth • Energy Projects Plus • Affordable Warmth Partnership Group (consisting of over 60 charities, public, private and third sector organisations) Retrofit • Behaviour Change Programmes with Energy Project Plus and AA Projects • Innovative monitoring with Liverpool John Moore's University • Social Housing Providers including OVH, Magenta, & Torus • Other Local Authorities in the Liverpool City Region • Hatch Regeneris provide the ERDF Summative Assessment/Project Evaluation • Aecom support our project management function for LAD2 and Parity Projects assisting in the feasibility studies

for future interventions. • The Viridis steering group combines multiple LAs, RPs & advocate organisations.

9. What has been, or will be, the outcome of the scheme(s)? These outcomes could include energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness or societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc. (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth • Behavioural change • Lower carbon emissions • Reduction in fuel poverty • Improved energy efficiency • Decline in cold related illness and Excess Winter Deaths • Increased household income Retrofit • ERDF Retrofit for the future will improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions for over 500 homes in the LCR • LAD1b will improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions for 120 homes in the LCR • LAD 2 will improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions for over 200 homes in the LCR

Communications

Section on how Local Authorities engage stakeholders (including consumers and businesses) to promote awareness of energy efficiency.

10. Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy? *

Yes

No

11. If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken. (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth The Affordable Warmth Service case workers provide assistance and advice to Sefton residents on energy saving. This includes making funding applications for heating and insulation measures, awareness raising and energy efficiency advice, information on smart meters and switching energy supplier. Retrofit The Retrofit team signposts clients to the internal Affordable Warmth Team and to advocate organisations such as Energy Projects Plus for energy advice

12. How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth The Affordable Warmth case workers provide advice over the phone and through home visits. They also attended several public facing information events each year including (flu clinic, coffee mornings etc) and organise two Keep Warm Keep Well events p.a. The team also organise 2 Affordable Warmth Partnership meeting p.a. that consist of over 50 partner organisations, to support networking and to keep them abreast of new developments. Retrofit As part of the behaviour change programmes residents receive information advising on best practices to maximise energy efficiency post retrofit works. Planned dissemination events have unfortunately been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and virtual webinars are due to take place instead

Local Green Supply Chain

Section on how Local Authorities assess the capacity of local supply chains that support home retrofit and energy saving measures and how Local Authorities are planning to grow this capacity.

13. Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? *

Yes

No

14. If Yes, please summarise the outcomes. (4000 character limit) *

Whilst Sefton Council has not undertaken a specific assessment of capacity, the Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region (CA LCR) have undertaken a trust mark survey to establish local capacity and future plans. In 2020 as part of work around the Green Homes Grant scheme, local companies were invited to take part in a survey. The survey found; • There were 67 trust mark accredited local companies (6 based in Sefton) • 73% of respondents have capacity to expand in future • 64% of businesses wish to offer other energy efficiency measures in the future The CA LCR have also created the Sustainable Job Creation Programme (£180m): The programme will work with businesses to create jobs where adults can develop the experience and skills that those businesses will need in the coming months and years including retrofitting. For works undertaken to deliver Green Homes Grant LAD2, Sefton are working with a Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified installer. This was achieved through accessing a recognised procurement framework. • Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

If Yes, please summarise the outcomes. • What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities. • What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit? • If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered. • How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers? • Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts?

15. What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities. (4000 character limit) *

See Q14

16. What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit? (4000 character limit) *

See Q14

17. If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered. (4000 character limit) *

See Q14

18. How effectively is your Local Authority able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers? (4000 character limit) *

See Q14

19. Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts? (4000 character limit) *

See Q14

Social Housing

Section on measures Local Authorities have taken to improve the energy efficiency of Social Housing.

20. What action, if any, has your Local Authority taken to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures in social housing? Have these been installed to a satisfactory quality? What actions (if any) have your social housing partners taken? (4000 character limit) *

Sefton Council continue to work in partnership with RSLs in the borough and in the LCR to improve their stock efficiency. Both the existing ERDF Retrofit for the future and the LAD2 scheme involve working in collaboration with the largest social housing provider in the borough. Other RSLs are also being encouraged to participate in future funded interventions. A partnership group of regional Local Authority and RSL Asset Managers meet on a frequent basis.

21. Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings). *

Yes

No

22. If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information? (4000 character limit) *

Although we have excellent relationships with most RSLs in the borough information relating to their stock, procurements or planned investment works is not readily shared unless required as part of a grant funded exercise or application.

23. Have you experienced any challenges to retrofit, including during any previous government schemes you have taken part in (e.g. supply chain, funding, tenant cooperation, mixed tenure, split incentive, policy clarity, etc)? Please provide some detail. Have social housing partners reported any challenges to retrofit? (4000 character limit) *

The main challenge in the existing retrofit schemes being delivered in collaboration with RSLs is communication and the production of documentary or financial evidence required for claims, reporting or audits. The recent pandemic has also significantly impacted on access arrangements to tenants' homes.

24. How does your Local Authority currently/how will your Local Authority in future plan to go about identifying suitable housing stock and measures for retrofit? How do social housing partners identify suitable stock? By the same measures or via a different method? (4000 character limit) *

Sefton use a variety of data for stock suitability that include the latest stock condition data, UNO data, EPC database, together with ONS and census information. We have also commissioned through the North West Hub a licence to use a database from Parity Projects which will assist in future feasibility studies.

25. What considerations would make you more or less likely to apply for government funding? If known, what is the opinion of your social housing partners? (4000 character limit) *

We always welcome the opportunity to apply for additional funding to improve stock efficiency in the borough of all tenure types. We would prefer a direct allocation of funding rather than a competition award. We have recently withdrew from submitting an application for LAD 1A and also the SHDF Demonstrator phase with a Social Housing Provider because the delivery timescales were too short and match funding for investment works with most RSLs is planned at least 12 months in advance.

26. To what extent are social housing tenants willing or unwilling to undergo retrofit, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their participation? If known, is this the same opinion across all social housing tenants or is it different with Housing Association and Arms-Length Management Organisation tenants? (4000 character limit) *

In our experience most social housing tenants are willing to agree to retrofit works such as EWI programmes that improve the aesthetic appearance of the properties as well as the energy efficiency.

27. Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate? (4000 character limit) *

We have not been party to the responses for the leaseholders.

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards

How Local Authorities enforce and promote awareness of the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards that came into force in April 2018.

28. Is your authority aware of the Private Rented Sector Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations requiring private rentals in England and Wales to meet a minimum energy performance rating of Energy Performance (EPC)C Band E as of April 2020, unless a valid exemption applies? *

Yes

No

29. Which team within your authority is responsible for, leading on enforcement of the Private Rented Sector minimum standard? Please provide the contact details (Name and email address) of the person leading this team. *

Clare Taylor, Housing Standards Team Manager, clare.taylor@sefton.gov.uk

30. What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues? (4000 character limit) *

All housing policies are available through the council website and significant changes are communicated through social media channels. As part of selective, additional and mandatory licencing conditions landlords are made aware of the MEES.

31. What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)? (4000 character limit) *

The main barriers to enforcement of the MEES is staffing resources and funding within the Housing Standards enforcement team to carry out this work.

32. Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? *

Yes

No

33. If no, please explain why. (4000 character limit) *

Enforcement of MEES measures are only conducted as part of a licensing condition in selective licensing areas or for specific property types (HMOs) or as part of a housing standards referral for poor housing conditions. The team does not search for and enforce against cases of non-compliance to the MEES.

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing)

34. What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable please outline the budget (and % of the budget that is used), where such funding is sourced and where it is targeted. (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth There is no core council funding to promote domestic energy saving, but we have accessed grant funding as specified in previous questions. (owner occupied, privately rented) Retrofit The £5 million ERDF funded Retrofit for the Future project is only for social housing tenants and carried out retrofit work to 505 properties in the LCR The Government funded GHG LAD 1b project is targeting 30 properties all that are owner occupied. The Government funded GHG LAD 2 scheme will be targeting 165 properties that are private rented and owner occupied. In addition 50 properties will be from a RSL.

35. What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for? (4000 character limit) *

There is no core funding. In addition to the work we are already doing, we will apply for any future funding opportunities including LAD3

Fuel Poverty

A section on how Local Authorities identify those in fuel poverty and any initiatives used to address this.

36. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy? *

Yes

No

37. What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty? (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth The Affordable Warmth service is a reactive service that is oversubscribed with referrals from vulnerable residents and frontline workers. It does not have capacity to seek out and target additional fuel poor households. Retrofit team A limited number of households have been identified based on funding criteria. Blockers to identifying households include staffing capacity and up to date available information.

38. How does fuel poverty interlink with your Local Authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy? (4000 character limit) *

The Council's Climate Emergency declaration includes encouraging community action to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The current retrofit programmes are referenced within the strategy and action plan.

39. Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area. (4000 character limit) *

- High rates of unemployment
- High rates of people with disabilities or health conditions
- Higher than average aging population
- High number of hard to treat – pre 1920 properties
- High number of privately rented properties

40. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have. (4000 character limit) *

Affordable Warmth • Energy Switching through Liverpool City Region collective energy switch • Fuel debt reduction through applications to energy trust funds and top ups through Energy projects Plus • Smart meter promotion through SEGB scheme • Home visiting advice service • Keep Warm Keep Well events and other public facing events/ talks • Assisting residents to apply for funding for heating and insulation measures • Affordable warmth Partnership meetings consisting of over 50 partner organisations • Assisting residents to apply for Warm Homes Discount • Service Level Agreement with Energy Projects Plus to also provide energy saving advice to residents Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades. £200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery

Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades.

£200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.

41. Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD? *

Yes

No

42. If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project. (4000 character limit) *

Sefton Council were successful in phase LAD 1b through a collaboration bid with Liverpool City Council, St Helens Council and Knowsley Council. The bid was worth £1.2m and will retrofit 120 homes in the LCR. Sefton will be carrying out an external wall insulation programme to 30 properties that are of a system built "no fines" concrete construction that are have low energy performance ratings. Sefton Council will also receive over £2m as part of the LAD 2 delivery scheme. The programme will be predominantly focussed around external wall insulation for homes that are of system built cross wall and "no fines" concrete construction.

43. Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022? *

Yes

No

44. If yes, please indicate the anticipated number of homes that could be upgraded per year. (4000 character limit) *

Sefton is currently compiling a business case to retain the retrofit team on a permanent basis to work on future low carbon schemes and conduct feasibility studies. We believe the current team could be responsible for approximately 1000 retrofits per annum.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

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 ECO “Local Authority flexible eligibility” (LA Flex) programme allows Local Authorities 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.

Local Authorities involved in the LA Flex programme 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 Local Authority has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.

45. Has your Local Authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? *

Yes

No

46. How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households? (4000 character limit) *

259

47. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households? (4000 character limit) *

86

48. How many declarations were issued for in-fill? (4000 character limit) *

0

49. What is the highest household income cap published in your Sol? (4000 character limit) *

No income published in SOI but the highest income we use is £1121.78 pw

50. If you have used an household income over £30k gross, what reason have you given? (4000 character limit) *

Joseph Rowntree minimum income standards calculator based on household make up. Highest level relates to adult couple with 4 children

51. Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much? (4000 character limit) *

Not at present

Smart Metering

A section on how Local Authorities promote awareness and uptake of smart metering

52. Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits. (4000 character limit) *

We have committed to raising awareness with the offline and low-income target group until December 2021. Directly through attending events, home visits, telephone advice and online talks. Are also raising awareness indirectly through training front line staff, online/ social media promotion and leaflets and posters in public buildings.

53. Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:
Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation. (4000 character limit) *

NA

54. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises. (4000 character limit) *

NA

55. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake. (4000 character limit) *

NA

56. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes. (4000 character limit) *

NA

57. Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons. (4000 character limit) *

The AWT will assist any residents to have appliances condemned

58. Other supporting activities. (4000 character limit) *

NA

Future Schemes and Wider Incentives

59. Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your Local Authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation. (4000 character limit) *

Sefton's primary focus will be to secure funding to support the affordable warmth and retrofit teams in the longer term to improve domestic energy efficiency. We welcome future

grant allocations, preferably with long term support to enable long term planning, community engagement, protection of the most vulnerable and delivery of carbon savings. Liverpool City Region Initiatives The LCR Combined Authority, that Sefton are part of, has developed a Build back better, Economic recovery plan 2020 Microsoft Word - BBB FINAL 200720.docx (liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk) One of the programmes identified is the "Refurbishing Housing for a Green Future Programme" (£250 million programme): Only 1% of the area's 700,000 homes currently achieve EPC rating A or B, with 75% rated D or lower; the objective of this programme is to bring 6,500 homes to EPC Band C or above over the next four years as part of a post-COVID-19 recovery stimulus package. The interventions proposed include external cladding, re-glazing, renewable energy systems, sensors and smart meters. This will stimulate the local and national supply chain, providing construction jobs and skills as well as associated reduced fuel poverty and improved health outcomes. The Liverpool City Region want to build upon this scheme to embrace neighbourhood level transformation in a strategic way to ensure a strong skills agenda, apprenticeship creation and comprehensive transformation at a larger scale to address climate ambitions. A further programme of work is around the Manufacturing Technology Centre's (MTC) radical innovation of Modern Methods of Construction (£155million programme): The next stage of MTC's expansion in the City Region, following a £15m expansion into rapidly reconfigurable and digital production lines, focuses on innovative excellence in modern methods of construction (MMC). The first phase is to develop new, more efficient methods for housing retrofitting. Concept design has begun with support of Torus and Peel Group, and can be mainstreamed into the above retrofit programme. Phase 2, is a comprehensive approach to new methods of modular construction – building homes like building cars – and will include a skills and development centre as part of the skills system locally, building on the MTC's highly regarded skills and training centre in Coventry.

End of Questionnaire

Thank you for completing the HECA report questionnaire on behalf of you Local Authority. If you have any further questions on the process please email HECARReport@beis.gov.uk (<mailto:HECARReport@beis.gov.uk>).