

**EREWASH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Erewash Borough Council**  
**Further Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 Report**  
**2017**

This report presents information about strategies and initiatives employed by Erewash Borough Council to reduce domestic carbon dioxide emissions and fuel poverty in the borough. Domestic properties include owner occupied, privately rented and social housing. This is a further report, updating our last HECA report produced in 2015

Erewash Borough Council has a long track record of delivering initiatives with our partners to tackle climate change and reduce fuel poverty. The contribution we are able to make towards these challenges are in part due to the fact that the Council:

- has got unique knowledge of the local area's needs and circumstances;
- is able to link with wider strategic priorities and funding streams e.g. through health, education and regeneration agendas;
- is 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
- is directly accountable to local residents.

We welcome the opportunity to champion the changes required and to stimulate activity to meet the specific local needs outlined in this report. The authority will produce a further detailed report by the end of March 2019.

## HECA REPORT (Annex)

This report will be posted on the Council's website and copies made available upon request. Any enquires about the content of the report should be:

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sent to: Mick Hendley, Senior Housing Renewal Officer, Erewash Borough Council, Merlin Way, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 4RA or,

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### 1. Local Energy Efficiency Priorities and Ambitions

The Council supports the aim of the Climate Change Act 2008 to significantly improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation. The Council has an ambition to contribute towards the aims of the 2015 Fuel Poverty Strategy for England namely;

- To ensure that as many poor homes as is reasonably possible achieve a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C by 2030, Band E by 2020 and Band D by 2025.
- To insulate all cavities and lofts, where practicable, by 2020

The Erewash Core Strategy contains the following 3.1 Policy 1: Climate Change:

“All development will be expected to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to comply with national targets on reducing carbon emissions and energy use”.

The Erewash Housing Strategy 2011 – 2016 contains the following objective; “To improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions of homes” and highlights the benefits of an energy efficient home as:

- Improved health
- Increased disposable income
- Reduced cost to health services and,
- Reduced pollution

### **Levels of fuel poverty**

Levels of fuel poverty are affected by the cost of energy, the energy efficiency of the home, the way energy is used and the household income.

The average level of fuel poverty across all households in Erewash is 9.4%. This equates to 4,704 households. The average across Derbyshire is 9.8% based on the latest figures available (Government fuel poverty sub regional statistics).

In 2012, the government moved to a new measure of fuel poverty and it is important to note that this way of measuring fuel poverty led to a fall of around one third in the number of households being categorised as being in fuel poverty.

The Erewash Private Sector Housing Strategy 2013 – 2016 identifies that high quality housing delivers positive outcomes such as reducing fuel bill, improved thermal comfort and reduced CO2 emissions and outlines the Council’s strategic ambitions to tackle fuel poverty.

### **Partnerships**

The Council works closely with Derbyshire County Council, Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group and a number of other agencies including:

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Local Authority Energy Partnership (LAEP)

Erewash Social Services

Metropolitan Care & Repair

Marches Energy Agency (MEA)

Westville Group

## **2. Energy efficiency improvements 2015-17**

### **2.1 Information, advice, education and promotion**

The Council's website offers help and advice on energy-saving measures such as insulation, controlling your heating and energy-saving tips to save money. The website also offers a link to the Energy Saving Trust website and details of the Local Authority Energy Partnership (LEAP).

Acting on referral from Derbyshire County Council's First Contact Scheme the Council's home improvement agency provider, Metropolitan Care and Repair, offers home energy advice and carry out home energy surveys throughout the borough.

Erewash subscribes to the LAEP Communications Service, which is delivered in partnership with Marches Energy Agency (MEA). This service provides the residents of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire with information and advice on domestic energy efficiency by offering the following services;

The LAEP Everybody's Talking Website

- An average numbers of 498 hits per month
- An average of 5.5 news items added per month

Community Climate Action Network

- Monthly e-newsletters sent to community groups, local authorities and third sector organisations.
- Community conferences.
- Training to Frontline Workers.

The Fantastic Home

- A manned, interactive, mobile information vehicle visiting carnivals, fetes and other public events promoting home energy efficiency.

## **2.2 Tackling Fuel Poverty**

Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded measures:

The most recent data available shows the total of ECO funded measures installed in Erewash from April 2015 to November 2016 was 3,069.

Working with Westville Insulation, the Council is reducing fuel poverty by installing loft, cavity wall and external wall insulation throughout the borough. During 2013 -2017 191 lofts, 108 cavity walls and 17 external walls have been insulated.

For the past two years, average levels of funding source by Westville from Scottish Power and ECO are £175 for loft, £450 for cavity and £650 for external wall insulation.

Forecasts for 2017 indicate similar levels to 2016 i.e. loft 17, cavity wall 14 and external wall insulation 6.

Erewash will continue to work with Westville to promote the reduction of fuel poverty.

### **Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme**

The Derbyshire Healthy Home Programme, of which Erewash Borough Council is a participant, identifies and targets very low income residents suffering from long-term illnesses which are made worse by cold.

The programme is offered through GP practices and also accepts referrals from trusted sources, including Adult Care District Councils; Citizen's Advice; Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service and Home Improvement Agencies.

Most clients are unable to achieve affordable warmth by their own means and many of the homes encountered have ineffective or broken heating systems, are poorly insulated and draughty.

Each household receives a package of up to five evidence-based warmth, wealth and wellbeing interventions which are person-centred and delivered in a flexible manner.

## Summary of programme interventions in Erewash

- Residents assisted: 69
- Households assisted: 38 (most comprise older couples, both with health conditions)
- Total number of visits made to households: 133
- Total number of cold sensitive health conditions encountered: 114
- Average age of residents: 67

### 38 Households received in-home assessment and advice

Affordable warmth assessment leading to bespoke, comprehensive advice on home energy efficiency, understanding energy bills, the impact of cold on health and the importance of keeping warm to stay well.

#### **£2,660 of est. savings to households due to in home energy efficiency advice\***

\*CSE approved estimate for energy efficiency gains following in home bespoke advice

### 25 Households received free heating improvements

All heating and insulation improvements have been carried out by carefully selected contractors to ensure minimum disruption to vulnerable householders. The service extends to providing a rapid response for householders without heating.

| Interventions   |    | Investment     |
|---|----|----------------|
| New Boiler or full heating system                                 | 17 | £42,300        |
| New controls; thermostats, programmers, TRVs                      | 2  | £320           |
| System Repairs; boilers, radiators, controls, minor works         | 7  | £950           |
| Insulation; loft, cavity wall, draught proofing                   | 4  | £1,200         |
| Temporary oil heaters, dehumidifiers                              | 10 | £750           |
| <b>Capital investment from LAEP, grants and ECO contributions</b> |    | <b>£45,520</b> |

### 28 Households received fuel management services

Direct assistance with in-home fuel tariff switching, negotiating with energy providers on resident's behalf, clearing fuel debts, resolving water and energy metering issues, bill payment methods, placing households on Priority Service Registers, accessing Warm Home Discount and providing assistance with Welfare Right applications.

| Interventions   |    | Income        |
|---|----|---------------|
| Applying for fuel debt relief and debt advice                     | 7  | £6,082        |
| In home fuel tariff switching and support with metering issues    | 9  | £2,475        |
| Applying for Warm Homes Discount                                  | 2  | £280          |
| Placing clients on the Priority Service Register                  | 9  |               |
| Help with managing finances, grant applications or welfare rights | 10 |               |
| <b>Total household income generated</b>                           |    | <b>£8,837</b> |

## Health and wellbeing interventions amongst householders

The programme team ensures that each household receives a range of services to improve their wellbeing through the provision of free trips and falls service; key safes; free grab rails and minor mobility adaptations; carbon monoxide detectors; smoke alarms; water meters. Working with resident's GP practice and Care Coordinators to offer referrals for a flu jab, medication review or dietary advice.

| Interventions                                    |    |
|--|----|
| Occupancy advice                                 | 5  |
| Grab rails, banisters and key safes              | 5  |
| Trips and Falls Alert Service                    | 4  |
| Install carbon monoxide monitor and smoke alarms | 23 |
| Install water meter                              | 2  |

### 3. Households that received intensive support

One-to-one intensive support is provided to some households who require multiple home visits to resolve longstanding complex problems involving; housing options, serious disrepair, condemned or disconnected heating systems, unwilling or absent landlords, debt, isolation, hoarding, literacy, physical and mental health conditions. The programme works closely with statutory and third sector agencies to act swiftly or fund essential interventions.

#### Client feedback

Clients experience substantial improvements in their circumstances and in their ability to keep warm and well at home.

- 65% of clients questioned said their health condition had *improved significantly* as a result of receiving services.
- 90% said that they are now able to *comfortably* keep their home warm.
- 80% said that the services they received had *exceeded* their expectations.

During 2016/17 the Council's Home Improvement Agency provider, Metropolitan Care and Repair, has assisted in the provision of 7 new boilers and 1 new central heating system at a cost of £24,911. It has also enabled the servicing of 7 gas fire and 2 boilers at a cost of £800. The cost of these measures has been met via ECO, Gas Safe and other charitable funding.

## **2.3 Smart Meters**

The Council intends to engage with the LAEP with the rollout of smart meters. We see this as a way of assisting our residents, particularly the most vulnerable, to take advantage of the benefits and savings that smart meters bring.

## **2.4 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector**

The Council has engaged with local landlords via our annual Landlords' Conference and Landlords' Newsletter.

Westville Insulation attended the conference and were able to provide help and advice to landlords regarding measures available to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. They were also able to discuss discounted schemes using funding available via ECO and other funding they have been able to source.

Landlords were also advised regarding not being able to let F or G energy rated properties from 2018 and an outright ban by 2020.

The Council's Private Sector Housing Team enforces the Housing Health and Safety Rating System on a daily basis. Excess cold hazards account for over 50% of all Category 1 hazards identified.

The Council has a duty to take action to remove or reduce Category 1 hazards by taking any necessary enforcement action, which may result in undertaking works in default and prosecution of the owner of the property.

## **2.5 Area-based/street by street roll out of energy efficiency improvement**

The Council proposes to use the Housing and Energy Database (HED) developed by the LAEP to identify and target housing types in areas of high fuel poverty. These will be signposted to our energy partner Westville for ECO and any other government schemes available.

The Council will continue to analyse the Private Sector House Condition Survey data to identify areas vulnerable to fuel poverty.

### 3. Looking ahead 2017-19

The Council will continue to work with LAEP to develop relationships with Public Health and CCGs to link into wider funding streams including ECO, Better Care Fund and Sustainability and Transformation Plan.

Working together with other Derbyshire District and Borough Councils, the Council will consider the use of Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) powers as a means of using Better Care Funding, allocated for Disabled Facilities Grants. By identifying excess cold hazards and providing warmth solutions, this will help people with disabilities to live and remain independent in warm and healthy homes.

The Council will continue to engage with the LAEP to achieve affordable warmth solutions for the residents of Erewash.

The Healthy Home programme has recently been awarded a grant from Erewash CCG to focus interventions on households to prevent unplanned admissions to hospital and to help householders return home who are unable to leave hospital.

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For further information about this HECA report, please contact:

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