

Home Energy Conservation Act Progress Report 2019

Fenland District Council

Document information

Full Title	
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1 Progress to date

1. Introduction

This document summarises the progress made by Fenland District Council in relation to the Home Energy Conservation Act¹. The Energy Saving Trust has prepared this progress report on behalf of Fenland District Council, in accordance with the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995 and the associated guidance which was published on January 2019².

Energy Saving Trust is a leading energy efficiency research and advice consultancy which has been at the forefront of the delivery of energy efficiency policy in the UK for the last 25 years. Our experience of working in the building, energy efficiency, technology and wider climate change sectors means we have the technical, research and economic experience required to deliver successful, energy efficiency strategies, policies and projects. We have an innovative range of services which local authorities, Registered Providers of social housing, businesses and other organisations use to benefit their residents, tenants, employees and customers. In particular, we are highly experienced in delivering reports for local authorities to meet Governmental regulations and have delivered a number of HECA progress reports in previous years. We remain independent and we will continue to provide impartial advice based on sound evidence and expertise.

¹ Home Energy Conservation Act. HM Government, 1995

² Guidance to Local Authorities in England on *Home Energy Conservation Act* (HECA) Reports for 2019. BEIS 2019

2. Summary

Fenland Council continues to offer several incentives to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock and target the most vulnerable residents. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and carbon reduction are covered in both Council wide strategies including: the Business Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Fenland Core Strategy, and specific initiatives such as the Big Community Switch, Stay Well, and Warm Homes Fenland.

Ofgem research has found that comparing and switching supplier or energy tariff can make a big difference to the gas and electricity bills of householders – with annual savings of around £300 available³. The Council, through the Big Community Switch programme, joined the iChoosr energy switching scheme in 2017, to get cheaper energy prices for groups of householders, benefitting from better buying power.

The Council has a number of staff pro-actively inspecting private rented houses to ensure that they meet health and safety requirements under the Housing Health & Safety Rating System. The energy efficiency of the properties is taken into consideration as part of the inspections along with faults and failings such as excess cold resulting in action to rectify these failings with landlords. These visits are an opportunity to signpost residents to other services such as early help teams, for benefits support or to access housing grants. Additionally, through the Warm Homes Fenland programme in partnership with Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT), households have access to free energy advice to all residents in their home.

Another way of helping those in fuel poverty is via the Stay Well scheme, which aims to identify people vulnerable to cold through links with flu clinics and GP surgeries and to give them financial support on fuel payments and emergency heating repairs among others.

³ Be An Energy Shopper Advice. Ofgem, 2016

3. Introduction to HECA

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires local authorities to improve the energy efficiency of all residential accommodation in their areas through practical and cost-effective measures. The original aim was to achieve a 30% improvement in energy efficiency over 10 years, but this was later extended to 15 years.

From 1997, English authorities were required to submit annual reports showing their progress towards achieving the targets. The 12th annual report was produced in 2008 and then the requirement ceased. Following the introduction of new guidance in 2017, the legal requirement was reinstated for Councils to improve home energy efficiency, and to report on progress. The aim was to make continuous improvements to home energy efficiency to 2027, and Councils were required to publish further reports and action plans every two years.

Due to low reporting rates during the 2017 reporting period, BEIS implemented new guidance in 2019 in which they set specific questions for the local authorities to answer via an online survey platform in addition to the publication of a report based on the online survey. The questionnaire focuses on carbon reducing and energy efficiency strategies of local authorities. Although HECA is focused in the domestic sector, local authorities can also report on carbon reducing and energy efficiency actions in the non-domestic sector.

Reports are required to outline issues such as the local authority's local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities and the steps that the local authority will be taking to take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives.

4. Climate Change and CO₂ Emissions

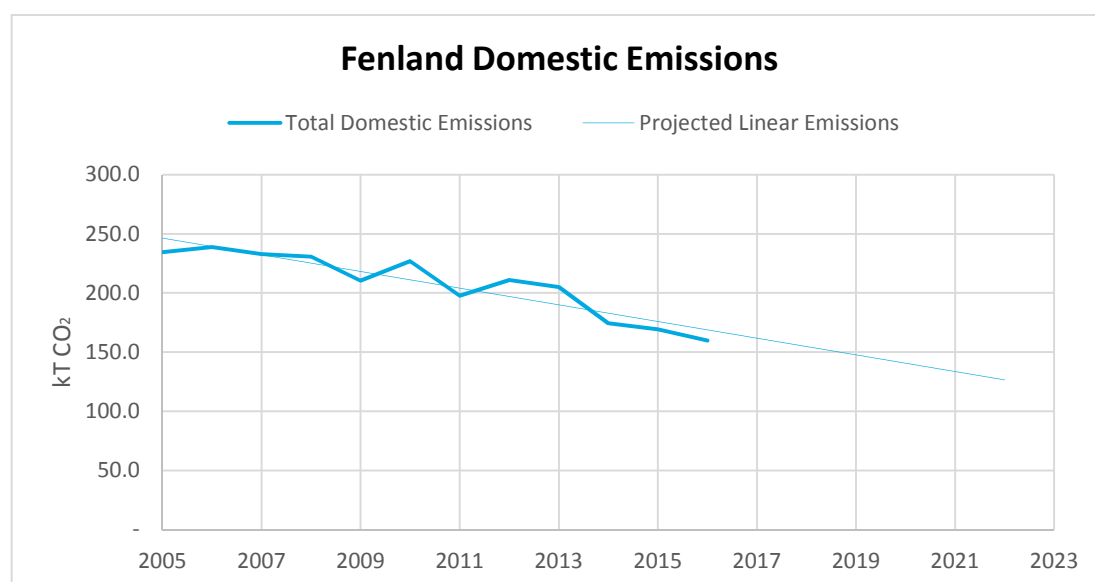
The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding national target to reduce CO₂ emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels. The Act requires the Committee on Climate Change to recommend a series of five-year carbon budgets leading to the 2050 target. In June 2016 the Government accepted the Committee's recommendation for the 5th budget which was equivalent to an emissions cut of 57% on 1990 levels by 2030.

The Government has stated that LAs are expected to play a major role in meeting these targets through the management of their buildings and vehicle fleets, and in how they influence householders, businesses and transportation in the wider community.

Figure 1 shows the total annual carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from domestic properties in Fenland as calculated by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), for 2005 to 2016. Considering the previous 2 years, the figures show that despite a small population increase (approximately 2%) the total domestic emissions have reduced by 15kt CO₂ (8%).

According to the Committee on Climate Change, the domestic emissions would need to be reduced by at least 3% per year to meet the current carbon targets⁴. From this, it can be concluded that Fenland Council is on track to meet the UK carbon emissions targets.

Figure 1: Domestic emissions for the district, 2005 to 2016, with 2022 projection



Should the current trend in emissions reduction continue at a similar rate, the projected total domestic emissions in 2022 would be 127 kt CO₂. However, it cannot be assumed that the current rate of improvement will be maintained; simple measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation have been installed in the majority of homes, primarily leaving the harder to treat housing stock still remaining. Ongoing improvement will therefore require measures with higher capital costs such as solid wall insulation as well as other hard to treat energy efficiency measures and decarbonizing sources of heat.

According to the Committee on Climate Change, the main challenge for carbon emissions reductions is finding low carbon alternatives for heating in buildings connected to the gas grid⁵. Since in Fenland 95% of the households are connected to the gas network (see section 1.7.4.), this challenge is also applicable to the Council. The main pathways proposed by the Committee on Climate Change involve hydrogen boilers, and either electric or hybrid heat pumps. Other strategies are also considered, including district heating and domestic micro-CHP among others.

The Council's capacity to carry out additional measures to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock depends on the availability of resources and funding. Additionally, changes in energy consumption can change due to a number of factors, including energy cost changes, changes in economic activity, and seasonal temperature changes, each of these being outside of the Council's control.

⁴ [CCC, How the UK is progressing](#)

⁵ Imperial College, Analysis of alternative UK heat decarbonization pathways, 2018.

5. Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty in England is measured by the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) definition⁶, which considers a household to be in fuel poverty if:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level); and
- Were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

The latest figures from the BEIS published in June 2018, show that an estimated 4,500 households in Fenland in 2016 lived in fuel poverty. This equates to 10.8% of total households, compared to 7.5% in 2014. If this trend continues, fuel-poverty in Fenland may become greater than the National average, predicted to be around 12%.

Figure 2: Fuel poverty, Fenland compared to the National average

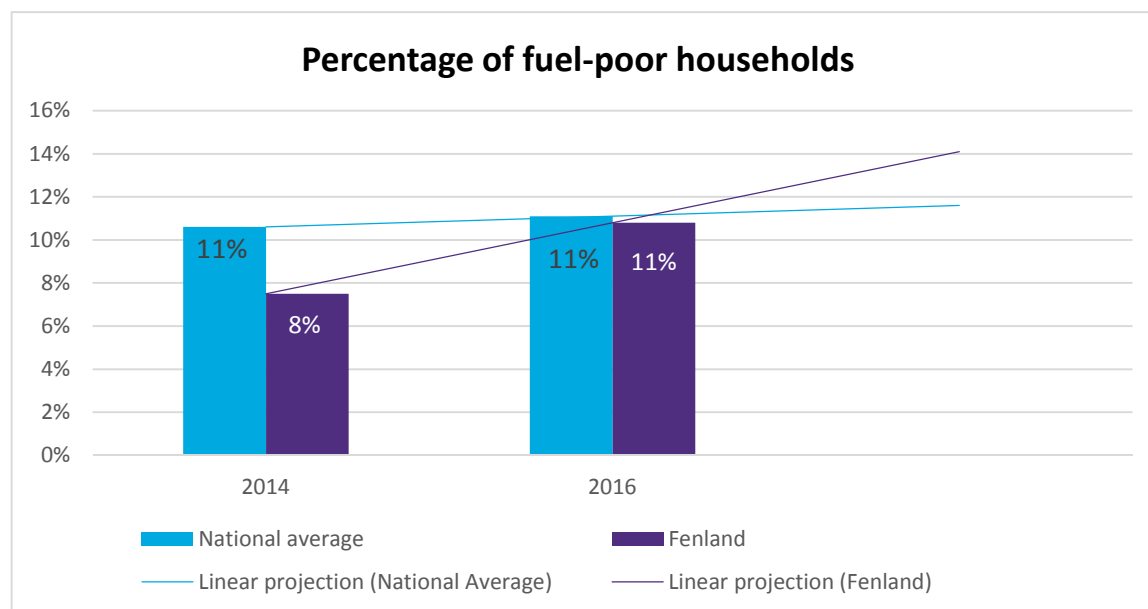
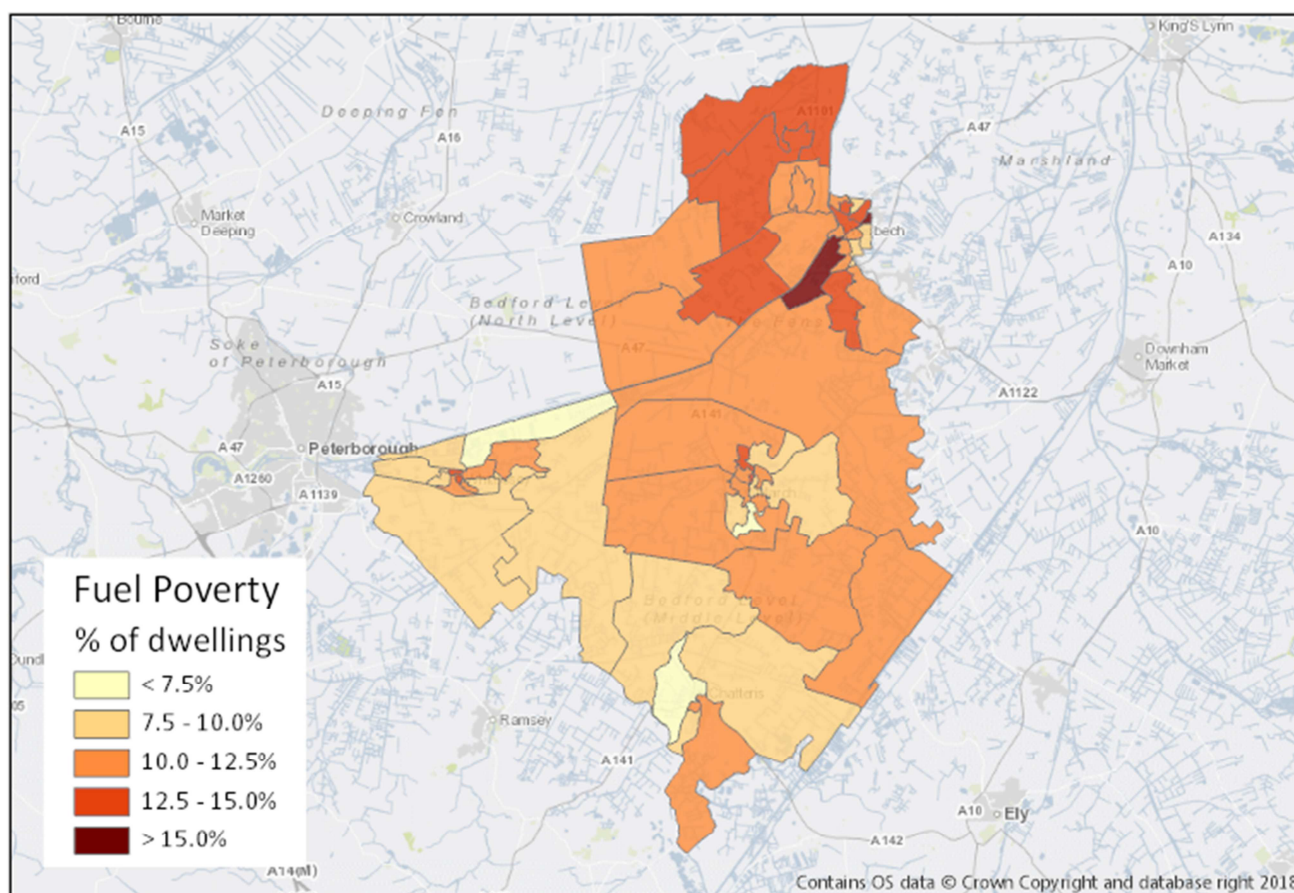


Figure 3 shows a spatial analysis of the fuel poverty rates in each LSOA (Lower Layer Super Output Area) in Fenland. The figure is taken from Energy Saving Trust’s Home Analytics database. The darker red areas indicate higher rates of fuel poverty; these are the areas in which schemes could be targeted.

⁶ This is different to the previous definition prior to 2013, consequently it is not possible to compare earlier statistics prepared using the different definitions.

Figure 3: Fuel Poverty by LSOA, 2018



6. Energy Company Obligation: ECO3

In July 2018 BEIS published its response to its Energy Company Obligation: ECO3⁷. As proposed in the consultation, the scheme is moving to focus much more on fuel poverty. The Affordable Warmth Obligation (officially known as Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation – HHCRO) will now make up 100% of the scheme’s budget, leaving the Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) with no contribution. The ECO3 will run from the end of September 2018 until March 2022 and around £640m per year will be spent on energy efficiency over that period.

Some of the biggest changes compared to the previous scheme include:

- The increased focus on fuel poverty, rural areas and solid wall insulation.
- The inclusion of innovative measures to deliver the scheme.
- The greater role for local authorities – they will now be able to determine eligibility for a greater part of the scheme (more details below).
- Opening up the scheme to households receiving disability-related benefits and the Child Benefit.
- A relaxing of the eligibility criteria.

⁷ Energy Company Obligation: ECO3, 2018 to 2022 – government response. BEIS, 2018.

1.6.1 Main considerations for local authorities

There are several inclusions in the Government's decision on ECO that impact local authorities and grant a greater role for their involvement in the scheme. Local authorities will be able to determine eligibility for up to 25% of the ECO, social housing properties rated E, F and G will be eligible to receive measures under Affordable Warmth (although not heating system replacements/repairs), social housing properties rated D will also be eligible for the innovative measures and local authorities will be able to determine non-fuel poor households as eligible for solid wall insulation, where this forms part of a project that delivers solid wall insulation to fuel poor, or low income and vulnerable to the cold households.

1.6.2 Flexible eligibility and local authority declarations

Local authorities will continue to determine eligible homes under the new 'flexible eligibility' mechanism. This is primarily aimed at targeting fuel poor households not in receipt of the eligible benefits and low income households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. This will be a voluntary mechanism that suppliers can use to meet up to 25% of their Affordable Warmth Obligation. Under this mechanism local authorities would be required to:

1. Publish a 'statement of intent' detailing the methodology and criteria they intend to use to identify eligible customers, before they can provide a declaration to suppliers.
2. Issue a declaration to energy suppliers stating that they had determined a household, or a number of households, as eligible under Affordable Warmth (AW), and the reasons for determining them as eligible.

After the ECO2t, the Government has increased its limit from 10% to 25% of AW and intends to monitor quite closely how it is working, including requiring local authorities to produce annual reports in April of each year on their use of flexible eligibility and collect and maintain evidence on their targeting processes, and participate in the evaluation. Social housing properties (other than those rated E, F and G – see section 1.6.4 below) will not be eligible for flexible eligibility.

1.6.3 Solid wall insulation for non-fuel poor households

Under flexible eligibility, local authorities will be able to determine non-fuel poor households as eligible for AW in order to facilitate the installation of solid wall insulation, where this forms part of a project that delivers solid wall insulation to fuel poor, or low income and vulnerable households. The in-filling provision is to make it easier to install solid wall insulation in fuel poor private tenure homes. The in-filling will only apply to SWI and will apply if at least 50% of the properties in the designated group of households are either fuel poor or low income and vulnerable to cold.

1.6.4 E, F and G rated social housing properties eligible under affordable warmth

Social housing properties rated E, F and G will be eligible under AW and will not be subject to any of the other eligibility requirements (i.e. being in receipt of eligible benefits). Insulation measures and first-time central heating (including renewable heat) or first time district heating will be eligible measures. Boiler and other heating system replacements or repairs (of any fuel type) will not be eligible.

7. Housing Stock

The following section shows current information on the housing stock in the local authority area. Figures are from Energy Saving Trust's Home Analytics database which uses a combination of historical energy efficiency installation records along with statistical and geo-spatial models to provide an accurate profile of the housing stock in Great Britain.

Home Analytics is unique because of the quality of the data that underpins it and the advanced modelling processes used to predict accurate property attributes and energy efficiency information at the address level. This data will help the authority develop strategic, evidence-based planning and market assessment when considering energy efficiency improvements.

Home Analytics models are calibrated wherever possible to verify published sources of data such as the UK Census and national housing surveys. As well as actual data the Home Analytics database includes statistically modelled values and should therefore be treated as a guide rather than an absolute view of the entire housing stock.

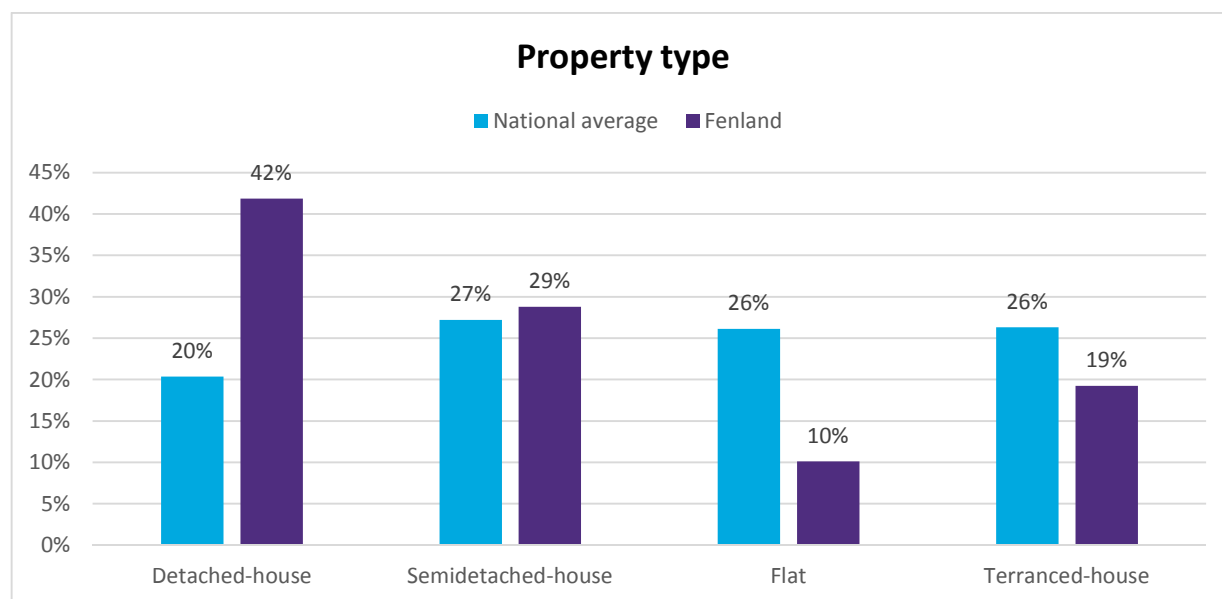
1.7.1 Property Type

There are approximately 43,000 households in Fenland⁸. The largest archetype of the housing stock in Fenland is detached houses, these account for 42% of Fenland's housing stock; this is far higher than the national average. Detached houses are generally bigger than other property types and therefore can be more expensive to retrofit. However, they generally have more space around them making them the most suitable house types for ground source heat pumps and biomass boilers.

There are significantly fewer terraced houses and flats in Fenland than the national average. Terraced houses and flats are generally the most suitable property types for mass roll-outs of energy efficiency measures because these properties can provide economies of scale.

⁸ National Statistics, Household Projections for England for 2019, May 2019

Figure 2: Property types, comparison with national average



1.7.2 Property Tenure

Fenland has a particularly high proportion of owner-occupied properties (5% higher than the national average). Owner occupied properties have fewer stakeholders involved in the decision to make energy efficiency improvements, compared to rented properties, and can therefore be a relatively easy demographic for targeting improvements towards and offering financial assistance (e.g. homeowner loans).

There are a relatively small number of local authority homes in Fenland, 6% below the national average. Along with housing association properties, local authority properties are suitable for mass roll-outs of energy efficiency improvements given the high level of control that the Council and the housing associations have over their properties. These improvements can provide economies of scale and significant improvements to the overall energy efficiency of housing in the authority.

Figure 3: Property tenure, comparison with national average

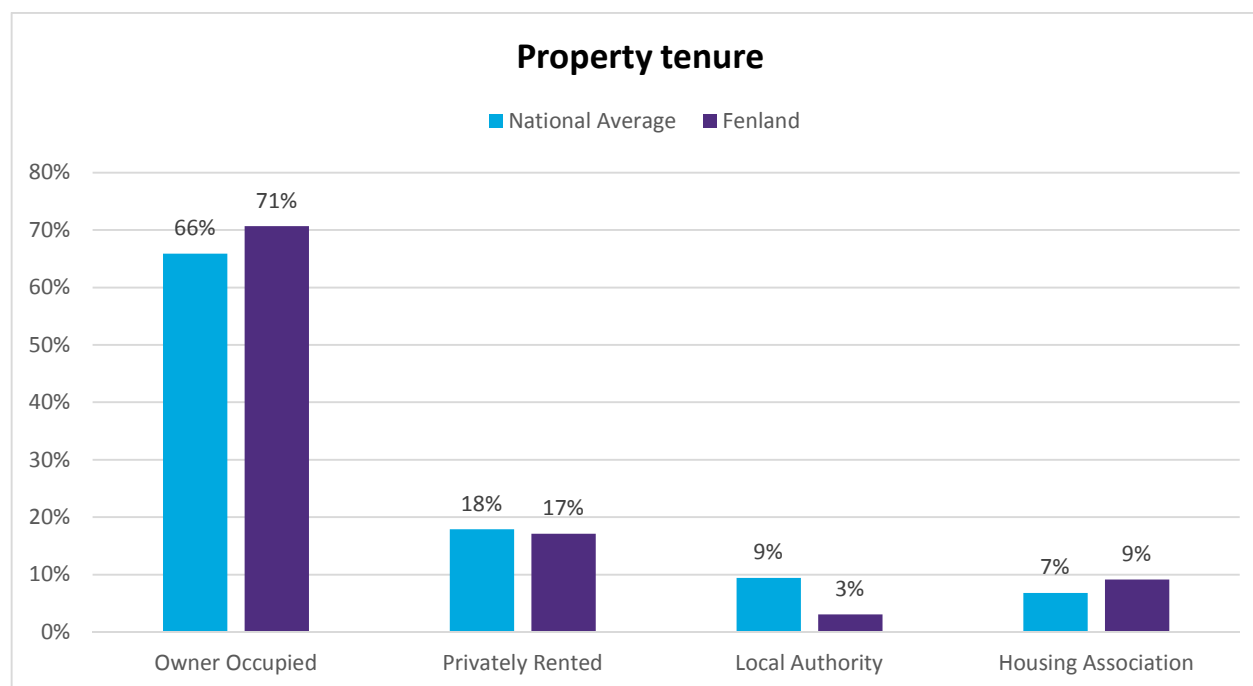


Table 1: Property tenure, private and social housing

Primary Tenure	Secondary Tenure	Proportion (%)
Private	Owner Occupied	71%
	Privately Rented	17%
Social	Local Authority	3%
	Housing Association	9%

1.7.3 Property Age

Fenland has approximately 15% more post-1967 properties than the national average. Properties constructed in this time period generally have cavity wall construction. They are less likely to have period features than older properties, which can make energy efficiency retrofits more cost-effective than with older properties.

Almost a third of the properties in Fenland were constructed after 1982; newer properties are typically constructed to a higher energy efficiency standard than older properties.

Figure 4: Property age, comparison with national average

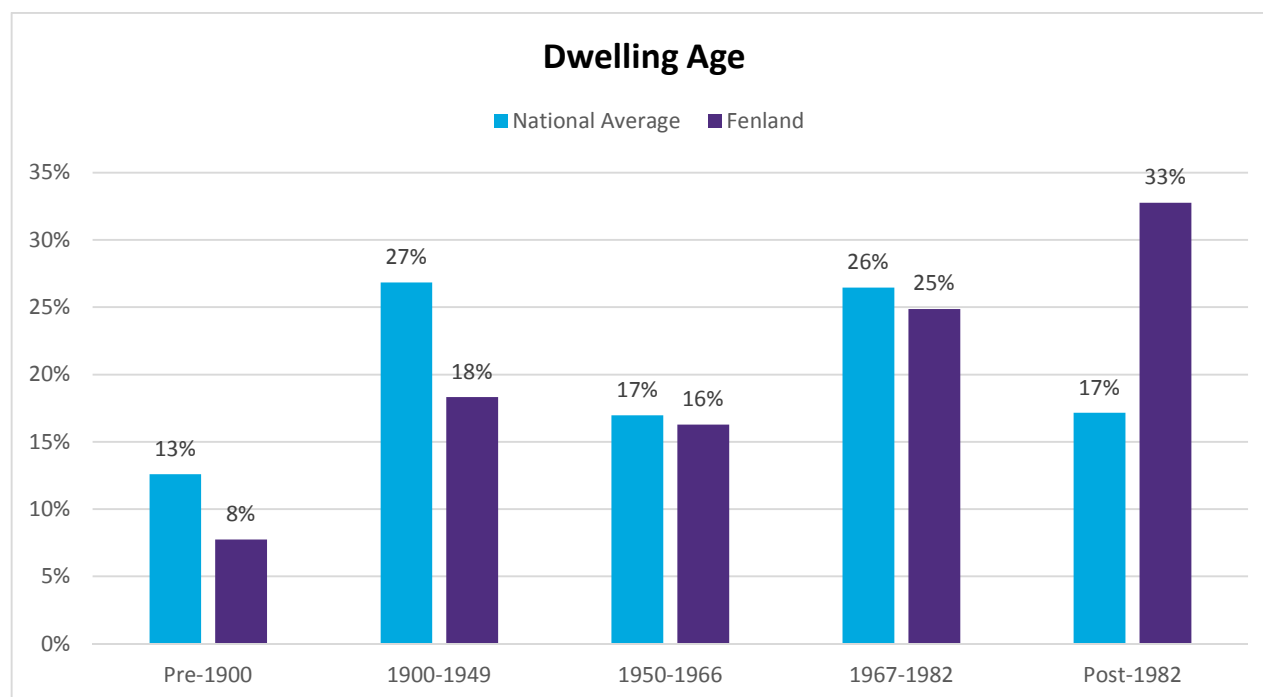


Table 2: Property age

Property Age	Proportion (%)
Pre-1900	8%
1900-1949	18%
1950-1966	16%
1967-1982	25%
Post-1982	33%

1.7.4 Fuel Type

Approximately 95% of Fenland’s properties are on the mains gas network. Mains gas is a relatively low carbon and inexpensive fuel. Modern condensing boilers provide high efficiency and low running costs.

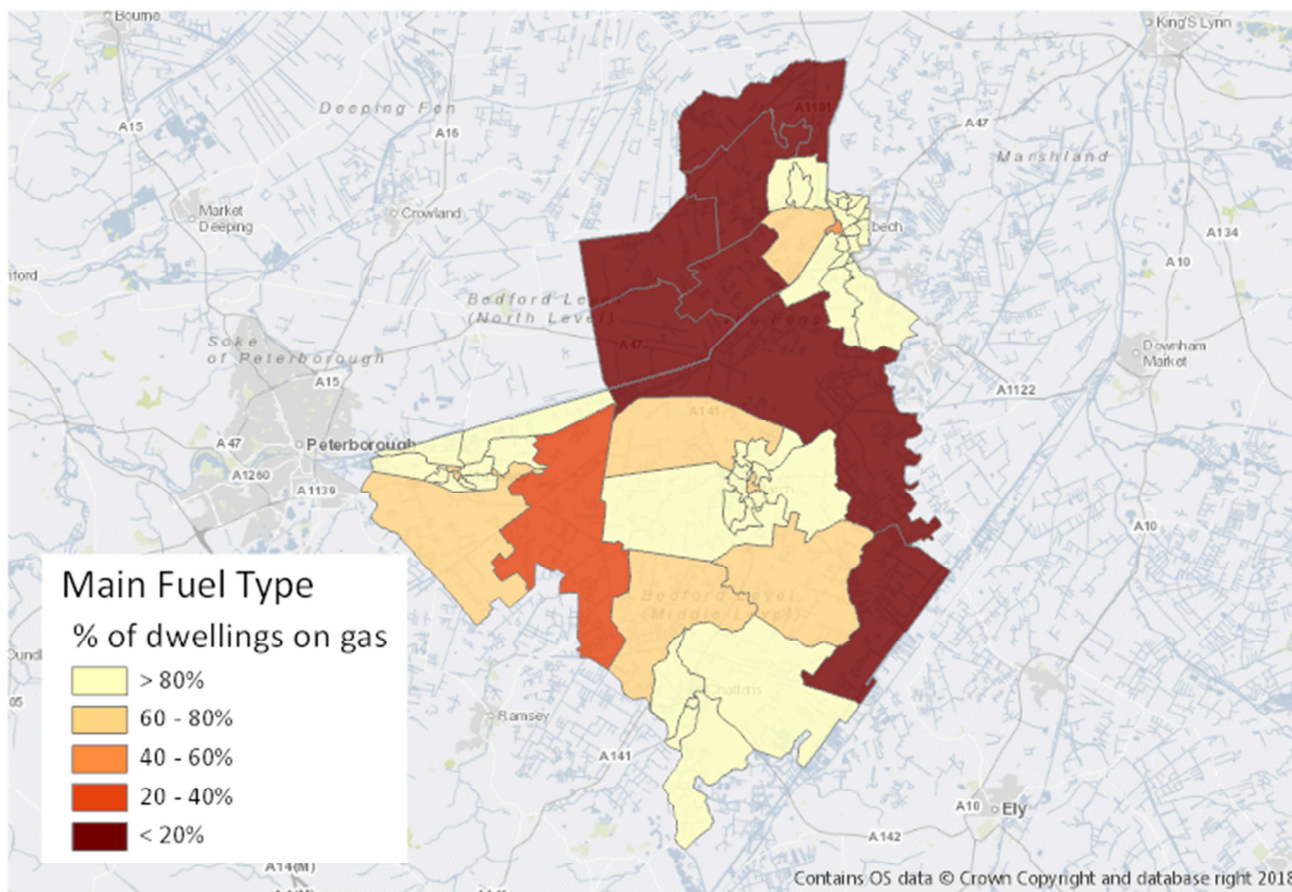
Approximately 4% of the housing stock uses electricity as its main space heating type. Electric heating is generally the most expensive form of heating and it is a relatively carbon intensive fuel. There is the potential for installing heat pumps in these properties to improve the efficiency of electric heating systems.

Table 3: Fuel type

Fuel Type	Proportion (%)
Gas	95.0%
Electric	3.6%
Oil	0.3%
LPG	0.2%
Solid Fuel	0.9%

Figure 6 shows a spatial analysis of the proportion of properties which use gas as their main fuel type. The darker red areas indicate areas with lower proportions of households on gas. These could indicate areas that might be suitable for extending the gas network or planning district heating schemes.

Figure 5: Main Fuel Type by LSOA, 2018



1.7.5 Loft Insulation

Loft insulation is a relatively cheap measure that can provide significant energy bill savings, reducing levels of fuel poverty and carbon emissions. Although the majority (56%) of properties have good levels of loft insulation (over 151mm) there is the potential for a loft insulation scheme to improve levels of loft insulation in the properties in the authority that have the lowest levels of insulation. However, these schemes can have diminishing economic returns as the remaining properties are generally harder to treat.

Figure 6: Levels of loft insulation, comparison with national average

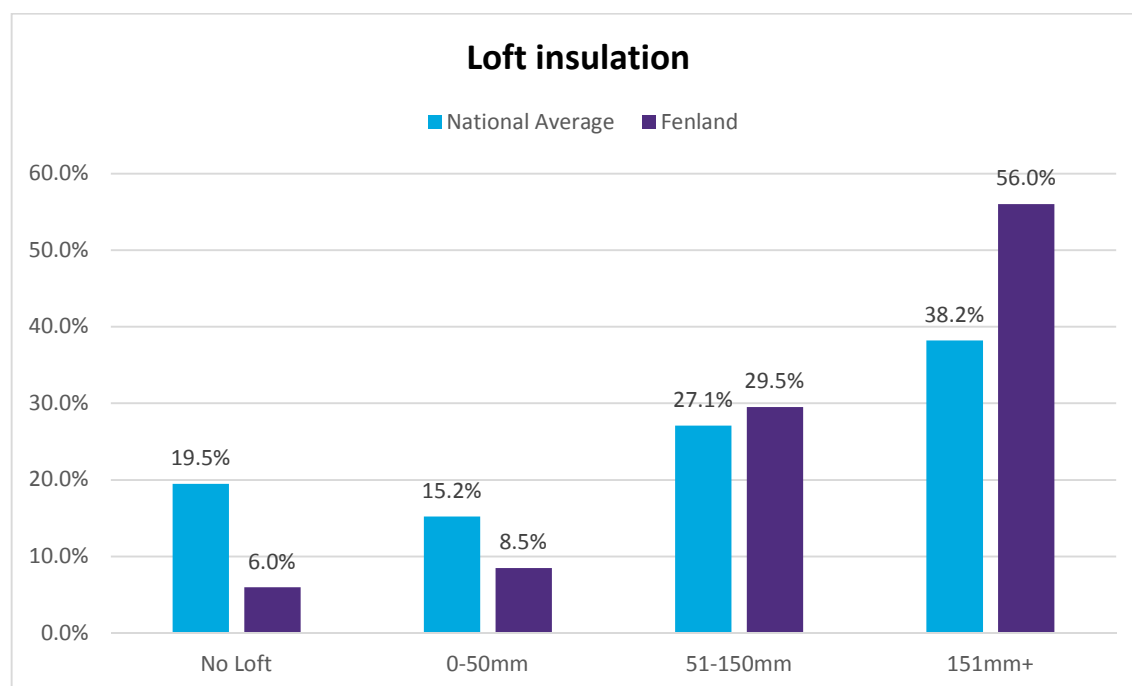


Table 4: Levels of loft insulation

Loft Insulation Thickness	Proportion (%)
No Loft	6.0%
0-50mm	8.5%
51-150mm	29.5%
151mm+	56.0%

1.7.6 Wall insulation

Around 74% of Fenland’s domestic housing stock is of cavity wall construction. Figure 8 shows the breakdown of wall types and proportion of insulated cavities. Of the cavity wall properties over a tenth (11%) are likely to be uninsulated. Compared to solid wall insulation, cavity wall insulation is a relatively inexpensive and easy measure. However, the remaining cavity wall properties are likely to consist of harder to treat properties which are more expensive to treat.

Approximately a quarter of the houses in Fenland (26%, 10,500 properties) are of solid wall construction. Only a very small proportion of the solid wall properties are insulated. Although solid wall properties are more expensive to insulate than cavity walls, this is the main section of the housing stock that remains to be insulated.

Figure 7: Wall types and insulation, comparison with national average

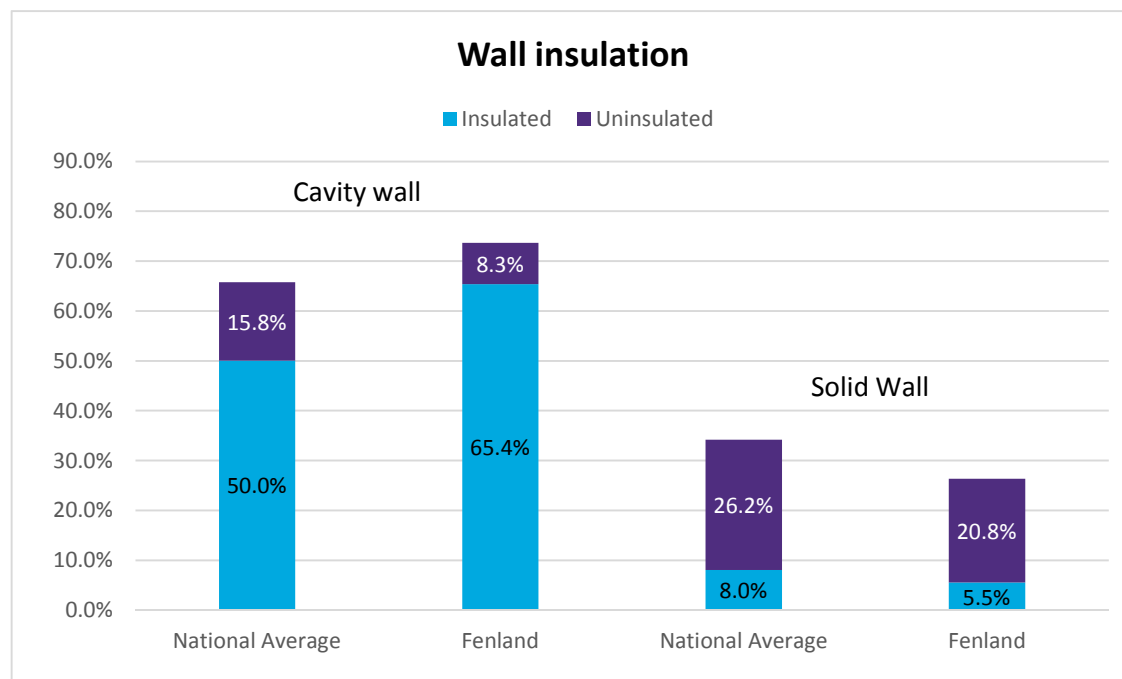
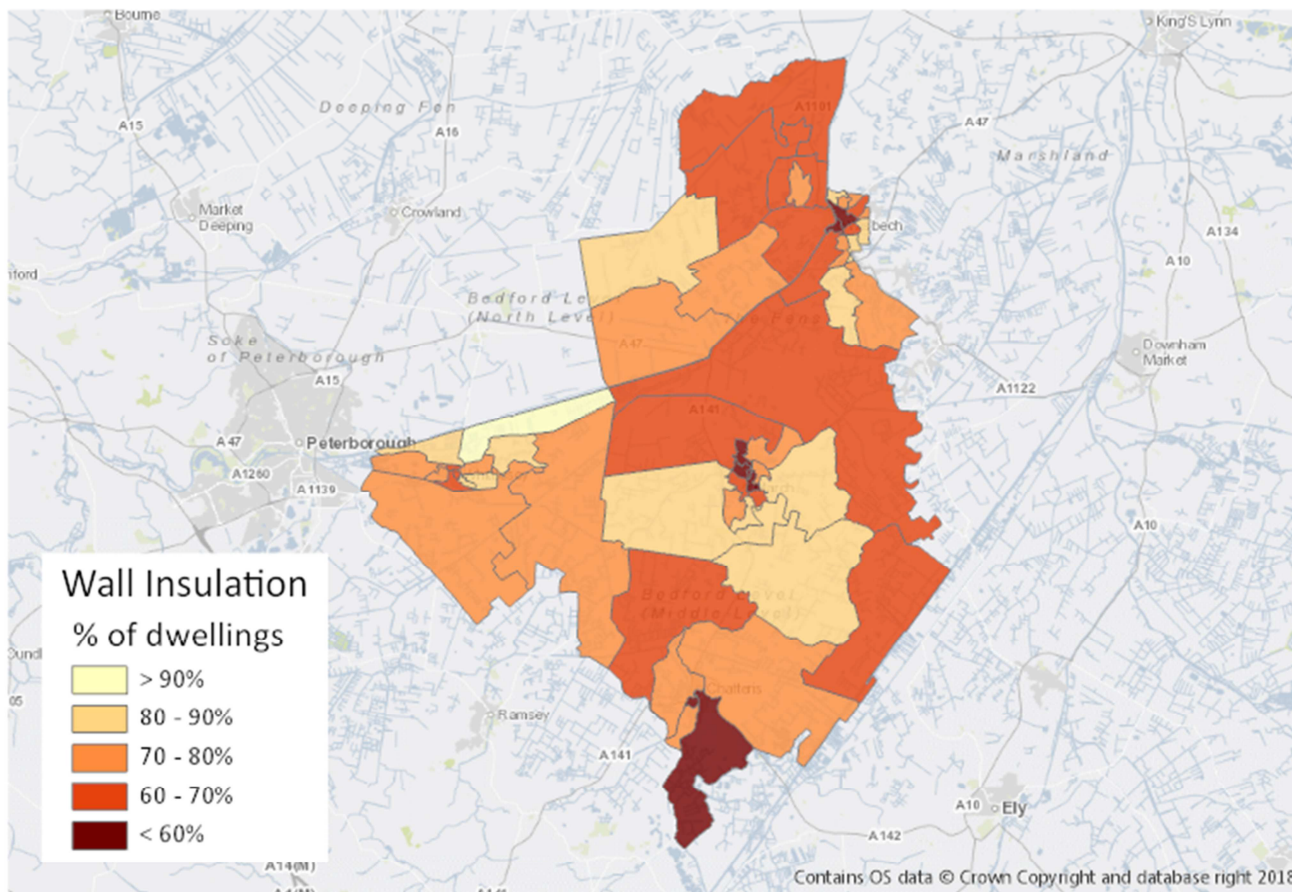


Figure 10 shows a spatial analysis of the proportion of properties with insulated walls in Fenland. The figure is taken from Energy Saving Trust’s Home Analytics database. The darker red areas indicate areas with lower amounts of insulation. These are the areas in which schemes could be targeted.

Figure 8: Wall insulation by LSOA, 2018



2 HECA 2019 Online Questionnaire

Due to low reporting rates in previous years, BEIS have refreshed their reporting system to include an online survey, aimed at streamlining the process and reducing LA reporting burdens. Newly structured around a series of questions and direct information points, the amended framework aims to support LAs to provide information and updates on the key energy efficiency topics of interest to BEIS Ministers. It will also enable LAs to provide a consistent picture of energy efficiency promotion and delivery across England within a standardized framework.

The reporting deadline via the online survey is the 31st May 2019, and the survey sections and specific questions and answers are details in the sections below.

Headline and Overview Questions		
1.	Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?	(Y/N)
2.	If yes, please provide a link to your current strategy here:	
<p>The Council incorporates carbon reduction and energy efficiency for domestic properties into its overarching strategies in order to obtain support from the widest range of stakeholders. These strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Business Plan, in which we prioritise facilitating housing development that delivers healthy environments and that which promotes wellbeing. (https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/14691/Business-Plan-201920/pdf/Business_Plan_2019_v2.pdf). • The Fenland Health and Wellbeing strategy, through which the Council is working to increase energy and heat affordability as well as ensuring building regulations and energy efficiency standards are met. (https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/12208/Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy/pdf/Health_Wellbeing_Strategy_v2.pdf). • Fenland's Core Strategy promotes renewables and low carbon energy sources as well as energy efficiency to tackle fuel poverty. (https://www.fenland.gov.uk/media/12064/Fenland-Local-Plan---Adopted-2014/pdf/Fenland_Local_Plan-Adopted_2014.pdf). 		
3.	If no, are you planning to develop one?	N/A
4.	a. What scheme(s) has your local authority implemented in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties since 2017? (if you have not implemented any scheme, please enter 'N/A')	

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

- Eco Flex: As a part of ECO3, Fenland Council, in cooperation with the Cambridgeshire Partnership of Local Authorities, has implemented Eco Flex criteria. Private sector households who could not qualify for measures previously under ECO schemes may now be eligible for financial assistance from their energy supplier under the published Statement of Intent. www.fenland.gov.uk/ecoflex
- Big Community Switch: The Council has implemented a community switching scheme that enables groups of individuals to get a better offer together on energy than they might otherwise receive on their own by utilising the power of group buying, whether they have a standard or prepayment meter.
- Stay Well: We have identified people who are vulnerable to cold living conditions through links with flu clinics and GP surgeries, referred them for financial support, such as emergency fuel payments and heating repairs.
- Warm Homes Fenland: The Council has worked in partnership with Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT) to provide free energy advice to all residents in their home throughout the winter months. <https://www.pect.org.uk/projects/warm-homes-fenland/>
- Section 106 Turbine Funds (non-domestic): The Council has established and facilitated volunteer committees to promote and encourage community led environmental projects in the vicinity of wind turbine developments, including energy efficiency and renewable energy installations. <https://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/9092/Glassmoor-Local-Environment-Fund>

b. What scheme(s) is your local authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation (such as owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing) or non-domestic properties in the next two years? (if you are not planning to implement any scheme, please enter 'N/A')

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

Planned energy efficiency schemes:

- Warm Homes Fenland will continue until March 2020/2021 (as above)
- The Council is committed to improving housing conditions within Houses in Multiple Occupation. 2 FTE are currently in post with a view to recruit 2 further FTEs to carry out inspections of HMOS. Recommendations to landlords for housing improvements are likely to include works that will improve home energy efficiency, such as upgrading heating.
- The Council with community volunteers is launching a 'Getting it Sorted' recycling website. The online resource will provide current and simple information to residents in several languages as to which products can be recycled and how to reduce waste to landfill in the first instance.

5.	<p>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? Please provide figures and a brief narrative account if desired.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 5 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Flex – 0.1 FTE • Big Community Switch - 0.1FTE • Warm Homes Fenland – funded via the Peterborough Environment City Trust • Stay Well - funded via Cambridgeshire County Council • Private Sector Housing – externally funded, 2 FTE • Getting it Sorted and Section 106 Turbine Funds – 0.5 FTE and £63K from developer contributions (broader environmental projects are also funded e.g. wildlife, sustainable travel etc.) 	
6.	<p>What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 6 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterborough Environment City Trust – Warm Homes Fenland • Resource Futures – Getting it Sorted project • Volunteer residents - Getting it Sorted project • Cambridgeshire Energy Partnership – Eco Flex • IChoosr – Big Community Switch • Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health – Stay Well • Planning Authority – Section 106 funded projects • Volunteer residents - Section 106 funded projects 	
7.	<p>What has been the outcome of the scheme(s) (e.g. energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness, societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.)?</p> <p>This does not have to be measured against national data or benchmarks, but rather focuses on the local authority's own monitoring and evaluation.</p>
<p><i>Free text response to question 7 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>Energy efficiency schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Flex – After the publication of the LA's Statement of Intent 22nd February 2019, four households have been given access to ECO3 funding, benefiting from loft insulation, first time central heating and two gas boilers. • Big Community Switch – Last year, around 40 households saved £200 on their annual energy bills by switching energy provider through the community energy buying scheme saving. The 2019 energy supplier's auction took place on 21st May 2019, and customers can choose to switch until 2th July 2019. • Stay Well - 80 applications submitted across the county by various partner organisations, mainly covering the cost of supplying energy or fuel with some small repairs. The total amount awarded for grants issued since Apr2018 – Feb 19 £65K. 	

- Warm Homes Fenland – Since January 2017, more than 200 households have received a free energy visit, resulting in total savings of over £35,500. The origin of these savings are diverse, such as switching supplier, referrals to grant schemes, bigger energy efficient measures, including loft and cavity wall insulation or boiler replacements, and smaller measures, such as draughtproofing.

Section 106 Turbine Funds (non- domestic)

- Food collection bins & blinds for diverting waste from landfill to a food bank
- Replacement energy efficient refrigeration
- Solar panels on community building
- Restoration of doors using recycled plastic wood on community building
- Replacement energy efficient heating system in scout hut

8. **What lessons have you learned from delivering this scheme(s)?**

Free text response to question 8 - please outline in no more than 100 words

- Working in partnerships brings synergies - skills and resources are shared.
- Council Tax mailing had a lower uptake than previously owing to GDPR preventing targeted mailing to benefit recipients.
- Online tools may lead to social exclusion - paper-based solutions are still needed.
- ECO3 is too complex for residents trying to assess how much they are eligible for. Particularly in terms of whether the property had some insulation already. Nor does the grant go far enough. A solid wall customer on a low income still has a £10K contribution which is unattainable. Carbon targets will not be met in fuel poor households if the subsidy is not significantly increased.

Local Communications Strategy

9. **Does your local authority provide any advisory service to consumers (and businesses) on how to save energy?**

(Y/N)

10. **If yes to question 9, please briefly outline how this is undertaken (or enter 'N/A' if appropriate)**

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

The advisory programme, Warm Homes Fenland, is facilitated by the Council and delivered by Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT). Warm Homes Fenland offers free energy advice to residents in their own homes, they only need to book a free visit from an advisor either by email or by phone. Although financial advice is not included, the agent will signpost to professional services.

PECT have received funding from section 106 funds to offer this service within Fenland and South Kesteven for 3 winters ending in March 2022.

11.	How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses? (if you do not, please enter 'N/A' and move on to the next section 'Local Green Supply Chains')
<i>Free text response to question 11 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council tax mailing – IChoosr Community Energy Switching and PECT Warm Homes Fenland• Local press – all projects• Website – all projects• LA Facebook page – all projects• Targeted mailings – PECT Warm Homes Fenland• Face to face briefings – Section 106 Wind Turbine funds	

Local Green Supply Chains		
12.	Does your Local Authority promote the use of energy efficient products amongst consumers (and businesses)? (if you answer no please move onto the next section ‘Private Rented Sector’)	(Y/N)
13.	If yes to question 12, please briefly detail how this promotion work is undertaken.	
<p><i>Free text response to question 12 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>The Council is not in a position to verify the credentials of a product. If a business were to contact the Council we would signpost to the Carbon Trust.</p> <p>If a resident were to contact us regarding domestic products we would advise them to contact the Energy Saving Trust for further information or their current energy supplier. If a resident were to be lacking in domestic appliances owing to financial difficulty we would refer them to Turn2us for potential financial assistance.</p>		
14.	What engagement (formal or informal) does your local authority have with local businesses/supply chains involved in promoting energy efficiency products or carbon reduction?	
<p><i>Free text response to question 14 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>N/A</p>		
Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards		
<p>The Minimum Energy Efficiency Regulations (the Regulations) apply to all privately rented properties in England and Wales. As of April 2018, all such properties are legally required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) of at least an E before they can be let on a new tenancy. This requirement will then extend to all such properties by 1 April 2020, even if there has been no change in tenant or tenancy (please see BEIS’s published guidance documents for the full details on the standard).</p> <p>The PRS Regulations give enforcement powers to local authorities, and authorities are responsible for ensuring landlord compliance within their area.</p>		

15.	<p>Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards which came into force in April 2018?</p> <p>(if you answered no, please move on to the next section 'Financial Support for Energy Efficiency')</p>	(Y/N)
16.	<p>Which team within your authority is responsible for, or will be responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard?</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 16</i></p> <p>Private Sector Housing.</p>		
17.	<p>Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 17</i></p> <p>Jo Evans Private Sector Housing Officer jevans@fenland.gov.uk 01354 62(2263)</p>		
18.	<p>What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 18 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webpage dedicated to House Conditions & HMO's • Landlord Forums x 3 per year 		
19.	<p>Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties?</p> <p>If yes, how? If no, please explain.</p>	(Y/N)
<p><i>Free text response to question 19 - please outline in no more than 100 words</i></p> <p>We do not specifically target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties. However, when such a property is identified, enforcement action will be considered. Up until very recently this function has been carried out by Weights & Measures Authority at County level; however this has recently been delegated to the Private Sector Housing Team at District level.</p>		

Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

20. **What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable, please outline the sums, where such funding is sourced, and where it is targeted.**

(If you do not have any financial assistance programmes, please enter 'N/A' and move onto the next section 'Fuel Poverty')

Free text response to question 20 - please outline in no more than 200 words

The Council holds three section 106 funds for non-domestic community projects (www.fenland.gov.uk/grants) that have an environmental benefit, available for members of the community within the catchment area of the turbines. The supported projects include energy efficiency measures such as wall or loft insulation, renewable energy as well as transport alternatives to reduce carbon emissions.

The total value available to communities within 5km of the turbines under the section S106 funds is: £37,500 per annum index linked.

The specific funds are:

- Glassmoor Local Environment Fund – targeting community groups in Whittlesey, Coates, Eastrea, Pondersbridge and Ramsey Mereside within the turbines' catchment area.
- Whitemill Environment Fund – targeting community groups in Coldham, Friday Bridge, Elm, Rings End and Christchurch within the turbines' catchment area.
- Ransonmoor Community Fund – targeting community groups in Benwick, Doddington and Wimblington within the turbines' catchment area.

Fuel Poverty		
21.	<p>Does your local authority have a fuel poverty strategy?</p> <p>If yes, please describe the scope of the strategy, and the support that is available for low income and vulnerable households to help tackle fuel poverty in your local area. Please also provide a link to your strategy if published.</p>	(Y/N)
<p><i>Free text response to question 21 - please outline in no more than 300 words</i></p>		
22.	<p>What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 22 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>To identify potential areas of people living in fuel poverty, the Council has used the Cambridgeshire Fuel Poverty Atlas: https://data.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/story/fuel-poverty-cambridge-sub-region</p> <p>Additionally, Fenland Council is part of the County wide Stay Well partnership. As such, the Council receives and makes referrals regarding residents potentially vulnerable to cold conditions, which are shared in a network of public and third sector bodies. Support is given to the referred resident on services and funding to which they may be eligible.</p> <p>Partners include: Cambridgeshire County Council – Public Health Care Network Cambridgeshire Huntingdonshire District Council Arthur Rank Hospice Charity Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Cambridge City Foodbank Age UK Cambridgeshire East Cambridgeshire District Council Cambridge CAB Cambs Home Improvement Agency South Cambs District Council & Hunts and City Councils Rosmini Centre Wisbech Fenland District Council Cambridge City Council</p>		
23.	<p>How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall carbon reduction strategy? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 23 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <p>N/A</p>		

24.	<p>a. What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 24a - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Community Switch – Collective switching utilising the power of group buying to obtain a cheaper tariff for residents. • Warm Homes Fenland – Free energy advice to households. Including advice on fuel bills and on their meter type. • Stay Well – Referrals for residents to receive a £300 emergency fuel payments. Grants this year have been received by members of the settled and travelling community. • Two lead customer service advisors and two officers (specifically working in HMOs) have also received NEA (National Energy Action) City and Guilds fuel poverty advice training to be able to assist residents. 		
	<p>b. If you have taken measures or initiatives to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty, what partnership with business or energy providers have you undertaken? (enter 'N/A' if not appropriate)</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 24b - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IChoosr – Big Community Switch. The partnership consists of data sharing agreement and signposting residents. • Peterborough Environment City Trust – Warm Homes Fenland. The partnership consists of data sharing agreement and signposting residents. 		
<h2>The Energy Company Obligation</h2>		
<p>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.</p> <p>The recently introduced ECO “flexible eligibility” (ECO Flex) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO. LAs involved are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.</p>		
25.	<p>Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility?</p> <p>If yes, please include a link to your Sol below.</p>	(Y/N)

<p>www.fenland.gov.uk/ecoflex</p>		
26.	<p>Please use the following space to provide any further information you feel might be of benefit to BEIS, in helping us to understand ECO Flex delivery in more detail. For example, the number of declarations signed versus the number of households helped.</p>	
<p><i>Free text response to question 26 - please outline in no more than 200 words</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECO3 is too complex*. It is not straight forward for a residents to ascertain whether or not they are eligible for full or partial funding without first engaging with an installer who will usually confirm firstly if they have funding from a supplier, and secondly the amount of contribution for residents based not just on their circumstances but the amount of insulation already in a property for instance or fuel type. <p>Given the amount of marketing from suppliers around 'government funding' it is very common for residents to contact the Council in the first instance for the name of a supplier to get 'free insulation' for example. However, the Council is not able to recommend one installer over another, nor are we privy to which installers have secured what funding from which suppliers and for how long. It is therefore a minefield for residents looking to find financial support.</p> <p>We are calling out for a Warm Front type system where all Local authorities can signpost to one free phone number safe in the knowledge that the resident will get £x amount of funding for a specific retrofit. Even with advice lines such as EST, advisors do not have a comprehensive knowledge of all funding held by installers.</p>		
<h2>Smart Metering</h2>		
27.	<p>Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to:</p> <p>Engage and support your residents (including those in vulnerable circumstances or with pre-payment metering) to promote take up of smart meters and achieve associated benefits (e.g. ability to control energy use, identify best value tariffs)? Please detail any work undertaken or planned with local/community groups, housing associations, micro businesses, Smart Energy GB under their Partnership Programme and energy suppliers.</p>	

Warm Homes Fenland: The Council has been working with Peterborough Environmental City Trust (PECT) to offer any resident free energy advice in their home. This includes promotion of smart metering and assistance with removal/prevention of pre-payment meters.

Two lead customer service advisors and 2 officers (on specifically working in HMOs) have also received NEA City and Guilds fuel poverty advice training to be able to assist residents.