

Home Energy Conservation Act 2023 Report

Review of spending period 01/04/2021 - 31/03/2023

Introductory Questions

1. Name of Local Authority

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

2. Type of Local Authority

Metropolitan Borough Council

3. Name, job title and email address of official submitting report

Paul McGrath , Climate Change and Fuel Poverty Officer email is paul.mcgrath@solihull.gov.uk

Headline and Overview

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

Yes

No

5. If yes, please provide a link.

Strategies - Housing | [solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk) , Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) | [solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk) , Net Zero Carbon Council Plan | [solihull.gov.uk](https://www.solihull.gov.uk).

6. If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

Yes, within 1 year

Yes, within 2 years

Yes, within 3 years +

No development plans

7. In the last 2 years, what has been the cost (or estimated cost) of your energy efficiency and/or carbon reduction initiatives, schemes and services? Please consider the total cost of running and administering the scheme(s). Please input 0 if no schemes or initiatives has been implemented.

Approximately £3 million

8. Which, if any, of the following outcomes have been achieved through your energy efficiency and/or carbon initiatives, schemes and services? Please select all that apply.

- Energy savings
- Carbon savings
- Job creation
- Increased business competitiveness
- Alleviation of fuel poverty
- Improved health outcomes
- None of the above
- Energy advise service by Act On Energy

Consumer Advice and Information

9. Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

Yes

No

10. If yes, please select all that apply

Local Authority website

Local advisory service

'Find ways to save energy in your home' (formerly Simple Energy Advice) [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website

'Find ways to save energy in your home' [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) phonenumber

Leaflets

Social media

Local Energy Hubs

Age UK & Act On Energy

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

11. Have you conducted any assessment or analysis to understand the existing capacity in your local supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050?

Yes

No

12. If you answered yes, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

Use of Trustmark online service to check availability , only 18 registered providers in Solihull. Currently working with internal economic development team to reach out to supply chain for future schemes , schemes

13. Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain?

Supporting training provision at local training providers

Supporting FE colleges to improve facilities or train trainers or otherwise enable better delivery of retrofit

Providing installer networking opportunities or other business support for growing companies.

Careers advice or similar involving local businesses doing schools outreach to encourage young people into the sector.

None of the above

Networking event booked for Birmingham & Solihull Councils: Supporting Suppliers to Reach Net Zero 29 Feb 2024

14. Do you provide advice for your residents and small businesses about how to pick an installer business or how to avoid being mis-sold inappropriate improvements?

Yes

No

15. Has there been any Trading Standards activity against energy efficiency or home retrofit businesses in your area due to mis-selling or otherwise poorly advising consumers about retrofit measures?

Yes – there has been action taken on a regular basis

Yes – but rarely

No – resourcing constraints have curtailed potential activity

No – we are not aware of any issues

16. If you received funding under Local Authority Delivery, Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, did availability of PAS 2030:2019 or MCS certified and TrustMark registered supply chain affect your ability to deliver?

Yes

No

17. If you answered yes, please can you tell us which parts of the supply chain were particularly affected (please select all that apply)?

Installers of insulation

Installers of windows/doors

Installers of heat pumps

Retrofit assessors

Retrofit coordinators

All of the above

Other

18. If you answered yes to question 16 please can you tell us, what actions did you take to overcome those barriers (please select all that apply)?

- Marketing to drive supply chain interest
- Use of frameworks or a local DPS to reach more businesses
- Supporting training and upskilling more generally
- Using a main contractor and requiring them to source suitably certified supply chain (either through contracting or training up their own staff)
- Delivering in-house e.g. by upskilling existing social housing maintenance teams, directly employing retrofit coordinators etc
- Other

Social Housing Decarbonisation

19. Did you apply to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 2.1?

- Yes, and successful in securing funding
- Yes, and not successful in securing funding
- No

Don't know

20. Which, if any, of the following motivated you to apply for SHDF Wave 2.1? Please select all that apply.

Financial support for retrofit

Technical support for retrofit

Tenant needs

Expectations of future energy performance regulations

Other

21. Which, if any, of the following barriers prevented you from applying to SHDF Wave 2.1?

Application window too short

Too much information needed at application

Don't own enough stock

Not enough capability

- Too Costly
- Retrofit work is not a priority
- Not enough information
- Don't know
- Other

22. Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

23. If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- Internal funding
- Funding from other Government schemes
- Don't know

Other

24. If no, what is/are the main reason(s) for not planning to carry out any retrofit work? Please select all that apply.

Lack of funding

Lack of internal resource

Lack of capacity

Lack of technical support

Retrofit work is not a priority

Don't know

Other

25. How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

One , Solihull Community Housing (SCH) is Solihull's ALMO

Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) Regulations

26. Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies

Yes

No

27. Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

Yes

No

28. Are you aware of the PRS MEES draft toolkit for supporting local authorities?

Yes, and I've used it

Yes, but I haven't used it

No

29. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

Please enter the amount /estimated amount.

Approximately 65 this year where we have required the landlord to provide the information. Prior to that we looked up the property on the register and we would have done approximately 50.

30. In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

Please enter the amount /estimated amount.

2

31. In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

Please enter the amount /estimated amount.

2

32. How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

Please enter the amount /estimated amount.

1

Green Home Finance

33. What programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency improvements for those who are able to pay? Please provide links to any relevant online materials.

Worked with Trustmark , and agreed a link on our web site <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/retrofit>, to enable residents to find a registered provider. Also recently employed a green homes lead to support the able to pay market (now called willing to pay)

34. Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works?

- Yes
- No, but we have plans to do this in the future
- No

35. If yes, please include links to any relevant online materials.

Enter your answer

36. Do you refer homeowners interested in energy efficiency to retail lenders offering green finance products?

- Yes
- No, but we have plans to do this in the future
- No

Fuel Poverty

37. Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- Yes
- No

38. How do you identify fuel poor households? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Used local data sets on energy efficiency/housing

- Used local data sets on household income
- Campaigns to encourage potential households to reach out
- National EPC data base , Parity Projects, local knowledge , IMD , Social Housing data.

39. What actions are you taking to reduce fuel poverty in your area? Please select all that apply and provide additional information if possible.

- Delivery of government wide schemes such as the Home Upgrade Grant or Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.
- Actions to increase financial support to low income or vulnerable
- Use of Act On Energy for advise , Household support fund

40. Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

- Yes
- No

41. If yes, please can you explain how it does this?

Link into the Net Zero Strategy, & Solihull Community Housing (SMBC owned) retrofit strategy and overarching Housing strategy.

42. If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?

N/A

Local Authority Delivery

43. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Local Authority Delivery scheme, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

- lack of capacity
- lack of capability
- lack of awareness
- Other

44. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- Yes

No

45. If no, please specify what is lacking.

We do have EPC data for on gas , however questions over the accuracy , additionally 40 % of Solihull does not have a EPC registered on the national EPC database.

Home Upgrade Grant

46. If your local authority did not apply for funding from the Home Upgrade Grant, please indicate which barrier(s) prevented you from applying.

lack of capacity

lack of capability

lack of awareness

Other

47. Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

Yes

No

48. If no, please specify what is lacking

Answered Yes , however we do have EPC data for off gas , as before however questions over the accuracy , additionally 40 % of Solihull does not have a EPC registered on the national EPC database. Off gas are in the main for flats approx 7,000 homes (estimated by parity projects) out of the 91,000 in Solihull

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

49. Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

Yes

No

50. Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail during the course of 2022:

How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

6

51. How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

6

52. How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

None

53. What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

£31,000 changed with the last SOI amendment.

54. If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

No

55. Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

Yes

No

56. If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.

N/A for ECO 3 , we will charge for ECO 4 as it's more a more complex application and process. Approx £100.00 subject to review.

57. ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

Yes

No

58. If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

Answered Yes , however we are concerned that ECO 4 is a new process , is a more complex application, which will limit the scheme a activity. Also PAS 2030 / 2035 has not been priced into ECO 4. We are aware some LA's are refusing to sign up to the scheme.

59. Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex or other domestic energy efficiency schemes?

Yes

No

60. If yes, please provide the name of the scheme and indicate whether this is an LA, Supplier, DESNZ or other organisational run scheme (please specify)

EON – Lyndon & Olton Scheme , it's a supplier scheme.

61. Which route(s) do you envisage submitting referrals through under ECO4 Flex? Select all that apply

All four routes available

Route 1

Route 2

Route 3

Route 4

Smart Metering

62. The following questions refer to smart metering advice. Please provide any additional details where possible.

Do you provide smart metering advice when implementing energy efficiency improvements (including through grant schemes such as the Energy Company Obligation and the Home Upgrade Grant) in residential accommodation?

Yes

No

63. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

Enter your answer

64. Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

Yes

No

65. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this

Currently No , but will under the new PRS registration scheme (unless government policy amended) to commence in 2024.

66. Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

Yes

No

67. If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

Residents have wanted choice with energy supplier , policy being reviewed.



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