

HECA Reporting 2023 – Runnymede Borough Council

Introductory Questions

- Name of Local Authority - Runnymede Borough Council
- Type of Local Authority - District Council
- Name, job title and email address of official submitting report - Dan Callaghan, Graduate Climate Change and Sustainability Officer, dan.callaghan@runnymede.gov.uk

Headline and Overview

Q1 - Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic properties?

- **Yes /No**

Q2 - If yes, please provide a link.

- [Runnymede Asset Management Plan - 2021-2026 2](#)

Q3 - If no, are you planning to develop one, and in what timeframe?

- N/A

Q4 - 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.

- £3,652,333

Q5 - 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
- Other - please specify.

Consumer Advice and Information

Q6 – Do you provide or promote any advisory services to consumers on how to save energy?

- **Yes/No**

Q7 - 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 website
- 'Find ways to save energy in your home' gov.uk phonenumber
- **Leaflets**
- **Social media**
- Local energy hubs
- Other- please specify

Local Retrofit Supply Chain

Q8 - 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

Q9 - If you answered yes to question 8, please summarise any specific bottlenecks (or provide a link if this information has been published).

- Lack of accredited retrofit installers and capacity, specifically outside ECO
- Lack of retrofit training facilities / institutions
- Lack of materials
- Cost of materials
- Prohibitive accreditation procedure, particularly for local, smaller businesses
- Short term nature of funding opportunities

Q10 - Which, if any, of the following actions are you taking to upskill and/or grow your local retrofit installer supply chain? Please select all that apply:

- Supporting training provision at local training providers
- Supporting FE colleges to improve facilities or train trainers or otherwise enable better delivery of retrofit training.
- 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
- Other (please state)

Q11 - 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

Q12 - 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**

Q13 - 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

Q14 - If you answered yes to question 13, 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 (please state)

Q15 - If you answered yes to question 13 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 (please state)

Social Housing Decarbonisation

Q16 - 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

Q17 - 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 – please tell us your motivation(s) for applying

Q18 - 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 – please tell us what prevented you applying

Q19 - Have you carried out/planned to carry out any retrofit work in absence of SHDF funding?

- **Yes**
- No
- Don't know

Q20 - If yes, how is this funded/how would this be funded?

- Internal funding
- **Funding from other Government schemes**

- Other
- Don't know

Q21 - 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
- Other
- Don't know

Q22 - How many of your social housing partners are you aware applied for the SHDF?

- N/A (no partners)

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

Q23 - Do you enforce the PRS MEES Regulations in domestic tenancies?

- Yes/**No**

Q24 - Do you use the PRS MEES Exemption Register?

- Yes/**No**

Q25 - 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

Q26 - In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you engaged with

in respect to enforcement of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- None

Q27 - In the past 2 years, how many domestic private rented properties have you found to be non-compliant?

- None

Q28 - In the last 2 years, how many non-compliant properties have been improved to EPC Band E after you have engaged with them?

- None

Q29 - How many compliance notices have you issued in the past 2 years for non-compliance of the PRS MEES Regulations?

- None (enforcement is carried out by Trading Standards, however we have not encountered any cases to refer to them)

Green Home Finance

Q30 - 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.

- Surrey County Council are currently considering promotion of these, but currently there is nothing in place.

Q31 - Do you take any steps to raise awareness of the availability of private financing options (such as green mortgages) to fund retrofit works? Please include links to any relevant online materials.

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

Q32 - 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

Q33 - Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?

- Yes/**No**

Q34 - 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**
- Other
- [option to provide additional information]

Q35 - 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 households.**
- Other
- [option to provide additional information] - In 2021, Runnymede Borough Council secured £4.335m LAD1B funding from BEIS, which was added to with £68k from Surrey County Council and £390k from Runnymede Borough Council for a total £4.4m. 390 homes has measures installed through LAD1B funding. Runnymede Borough Council joined the Surrey Consortium of Local Authorities with Action Surrey for further LAD and HUG rounds and 7 energy efficiency initiatives were installed at a cost of £36k through LAD2. The estimated savings for Runnymede from LAD2 were 5T CO2e. Through LAD3 between April and June 2023, 60 energy efficiency measures were installed in 34 Runnymede households at a cost of £358k and a CO2 saving of 41T per year. Through HUG1, the Surrey Consortium of Local Authorities was allocated approximately £1.8m of capital funding. This project commenced in October 2022, running to April 2023. On average, households with measures installed are expected to save £260 on energy costs per year. In Runnymede, 1 loft insulation and 24 park home insulations were made. The total value of these measures were £363k with a project carbon emission reduction of 27T CO2e. We are in the process of

implementing the ECO scheme and we have the energy efficiency grant under the Home Improvement Agency Assistance Policy

Q36 - Does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?

- **Yes/No**
- If yes, please can you explain how it does this? - Yes, reducing fuel poverty is a recognised co-benefit of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan
- If no, is this something you might consider doing or are there barriers to doing this?

Local Authority Delivery

Q37 – 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 – please specify

Q38 – Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for on-gas properties?

- **Yes/No**

Q39 - If no, please specify what is lacking.

- EPC data needs manipulation to remove duplicates and updated EPCs and it does not differentiate easily the types of fuel to see which are gas or actually LPG, oil, solid fuel etc. Large number of homes do not have an EPC rating. Relatively difficult to cross reference EPC data with low-income households to target homes eligible for grants etc.

Home Upgrade Grant

Q40 – 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 – please specify

Q41 - Does your local authority have access to good quality housing data for off-gas properties?

- **Yes/No**

Q42 - If no, please specify what is lacking.

- EPC data needs manipulation to remove duplicates and updated EPCs. Relatively difficult to cross reference EPC data with low-income households to target homes eligible for grants etc. Large number of homes do not have an EPC rating.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

Q43 - Did your local authority have a published Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO3, during 2022?

- **Yes/No**

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

Q44 - How many declarations were issued for low-income vulnerable households during ECO3?

- N/A

Q45 - How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households under ECO3?

- N/A

Q46 - How many declarations were issued for in-fill under ECO3?

- N/A

Q47 - What was the highest income cap published in your Sol?

- N/A

Q48 - If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason did you give?

- N/A

Q49 - Did you charge for declarations to be signed?

- Yes/No

Q50 - If so, please state how much and how you decided on this figure.

- N/A

Q51 - ECO4 commenced in July 2022, has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility under ECO4?

- **Yes/No**

Q52 - If 'No' are there any specific barriers preventing you, from publishing and participating in the scheme?

- We are in the process of doing this. The Council was previously delayed when working within a consortium, but this is now being taken forward with a delivery partner.

Q53a - Do you directly engage with energy suppliers either for ECO Flex (or other domestic energy efficiency schemes)?

- **Yes/No**

Q54b - 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)

- N/A

Q55 - 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

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

Q56a - 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**

Q57b - If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- N/A

Q58a - Do you encourage landlords to promote smart meter uptake, e.g., landlord licencing schemes.

- **Yes/No**

Q59b - If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- There is no legal requirement for this and is not a consideration for any hazard risk assessments we carry out.

Q60a - Do you arrange for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises?

- **Yes/No**

Q61b - If no, please explain why not, and what plans will be put in place to implement this.

- N/A