

HECA Progress Report for North Kesteven Lincolnshire

March 2017

Introduction

This is a consortium report for the seven city, district and borough councils in Lincolnshire and therefore there will be some commonality with the other Lincolnshire authorities: each reporting authority has added their own sections detailing local specific plans or progress where applicable.

The HECA Further Report for North Kesteven was issued in March 2013, with a progress report issued in March 2015, followed by this report as two yearly progress reports are required. The reports were submitted as cohesive reports covering the themes and information common to Lincolnshire and specific to the district of North Kesteven as all the local authorities in the county work together as the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP) regarding this subject

This report covers the same geographical area and provides a further update on the progress made since the initial report was issued. To give a complete picture ideally this update should be read alongside the original report.



The Home Energy Lincs Partnership includes the seven district councils listed below and Lincolnshire County Council. Its membership consists of officers who are involved with the domestic energy efficiency and/or the wider climate change agenda. Working together, the partnership allows us to offer a more consistent approach to delivering affordable warmth and domestic energy efficiency to Lincolnshire residents.

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council

HELP focuses its attentions on schemes and projects that promote and improve domestic energy efficiency and co-ordinates its actions with the wider climate change agenda.

1. Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities

The current situation in Lincolnshire

Fuel poverty

In Lincolnshire in 2014 there were an estimated 33,204 households in fuel poverty, equating to 10.6% of the total compared with 10.1% for the East Midlands. The levels of fuel poverty have risen from 9.6% in 2013. These fuel poverty rates are calculated on the Low Income High Costs (LIHC) methodology.

It should be noted that the datasets do not include Park or Mobile homes even though some vulnerable fuel poor Lincolnshire residents live here: currently there are no datasets that capture this information.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)

A total of 17,471 ECO measures have been installed in 13,963 households (0.9% of total households) as at end of September 2016. This equates to 44.4 households per 1000 households in the county which is notably lower than the 57.5 per 1000 households for England.

Fuel poverty levels have risen during this period of lower than average installation figures for ECO measures. During previous government-introduced schemes, HELP has experienced challenges in attracting providers into the rural parts of the county, as it is less cost effective to deliver measures especially in sparsely populated rural areas.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics>

CO2 emissions

CO2 emissions reduced from 8.4t per capita in 2005 (2.7t per capita attributed to housing) to 6.3t per capita in 2014 (1.8t per capita attributed to housing)

The reduction in CO2 in housing could be attributed in part to previous government-introduced schemes (such as Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Warmfront) and concerted efforts by HELP to improve take up of these schemes across Lincolnshire including the HELP insulation scheme which utilised CERT funding.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

Mains gas and electric usage and supply

No statistics are available from BEIS for gas and electric consumption in Lincolnshire. The domestic mean electricity consumption per household in the East Midlands in 2015 was 3852 kWh which is on par with the average for England at 3914 kWh.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data>

The domestic mean gas consumption per household in the East Midlands in 2015 was 13401 kWh which is on par with the average for England at 13210 kWh.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-gas-consumption-data>

According to BEIS, the number of off gas properties in Lincolnshire has reduced from 69,000 in 2012 to 63,000 in 2015, a fall of approximately 9%. However, the number of off-gas properties remains high, with the exception of City of Lincoln which is virtually all on mains gas. South Kesteven, with the lowest proportion, has a total of 17% of the total households as off-gas and East Lindsey has the highest proportion at 36% off-gas.

However, the Lincolnshire Research Observatory shows that between 2012 and 2015 the numbers fell from to 68400 to 48210, a fall of approximately 30%.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network>

<http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Housing.aspx>

Feed in tariff installations

As of the end of January 2017, in Lincolnshire, there have been 15,661 domestic installations of electricity-generating technology from a renewable or low-carbon source registered for FiTs. Of these 15598 were domestic PV installations, 61 were wind turbines and 2 CHP. This is an increase of 4168 since April 2015. Total installed capacity is 61.643 MW, an increase of 17.203 MW.

Source: <https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/>

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) accreditations

From April 2014 to December 2016, 1409 domestic installations were accredited for the RHI in the county, an increase of 777 from January 2015.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-heat-incentive-statistics>

Housing Stock condition

In 2014, the Lincolnshire Private Sector Housing group in collaboration with HELP, commissioned the BRE to undertake a series of modelling exercises to produce a Dwelling Level Housing Stock Database and reports for both Lincolnshire and for each of the district council areas (with the exception of South Holland; however high level results were included to enable countywide results and comparisons to be made). The reports provide updated information on the condition of the housing stock with a focus on the private sector. Key indicators for Lincolnshire are listed below:

Of the private sector stock (owner occupied and private rented) it is estimated that:

- 21% has a Category 1 hazard
- 15% has an excess cold hazard
- 21.5% fall below EPC Band E (based on SimpleSap[^])
- 15% is in fuel poverty (Low income, High costs – LHIC – definition)
- Current mean SAP ratings[^] are:
 - owner occupier: 51
 - private rented: 48
- 26.5% of private rented properties have an EPC rating[^] below Band E (East Lindsey has the highest percentage falling below Band E (34.1%) and City of Lincoln has the lowest (17.0%)).

[^]based on BRE's SimpleSAP model which is a simplified version of the SAP model that produces an output broadly comparable to SAP.

Source: BRE Dwelling Level, Housing Stock Modelling and Database for North Kesteven prepared by the Building Research Establishment 14th June 2014.

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/housing/energy-conservation-reports/>

Relevant strategies

Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy 2010-2016. The Home Energy Lincs Partnership is currently updating the Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth strategy to reflect current need and resources available across the county: it builds on the previous 2010-2016 strategy, celebrating our achievements whilst considering limiting factors. The agreed themes have remained the same but the actions have been developed to reflect the current landscape. The strategy will be adopted by all seven Lincolnshire 2nd tier councils and Lincolnshire County Council this year.

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire 2013-2018. The Strategy underwent a mid-term review in 2016 to refresh priorities under each theme. Ensuring that people have access to good quality, energy efficient housing that is both affordable and meets their need remained a priority under the theme of tackling the social determinants of health. In order to help achieve this, the actions reaffirmed commitment to work with HELP to refresh and deliver the Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy to address fuel poverty and reduce the fuel poverty gap. Fuel poverty and the fuel poverty

gap remain the leading measure to demonstrate the progress being made to meet the housing priorities for this theme.

The **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** (JSNA) that provides the evidence base for the Strategy is being refreshed for publication in 2017 in time for a new strategy to be produced for 2018. The JSNA will contain a topic covering Excess Seasonal Deaths and Fuel Poverty. HELP is intending to work with Public Health analysts to ensure the evidence base for fuel poverty is as strong as it can be.

Climate Local

Lincolnshire County Council signed up to Climate Local on 12th August 2012. The Action Plan provides a strategic framework for joint action. Progress is reported on and published annually.

It includes a commitment to:

- Work with partners to promote energy and resource efficiency, reduce fossil fuel energy dependency and alleviate fuel poverty (e.g. HELP)

The Action Plan (Lincolnshire County Council's commitments and actions) and annual reports can be downloaded at <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/sustainability/our-impacts/>

The current situation in North Kesteven

Fuel poverty

In North Kesteven in 2014 there were an estimated 4,288 households in fuel poverty, equating to 9.1% of the total compared to 10.6% for the county and 10.1% for the East Midlands (LIHC methodology). North Kesteven has the second lowest level of fuel poverty in the local authorities in Lincolnshire. The levels of fuel poverty have risen from 7.7% in 2013.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics>

Energy Company Obligation

A total of 2,090 ECO measures have been installed in 1,713 households as at the end of September 2016 (0.1% of total households). This equates to 35.9 households per 1000 households in the borough which is lower than the 57.5 per 1000 households for England.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics>

CO2

CO2 emissions reduced from 8.4t per capita in 2005 (2.6t per capita attributed to housing) to 6.3t per capita in 2014 (1.8t per capita attributed to housing)

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

Mains gas and electric usage and supply

Domestic mean electricity consumption per household in 2015 is 4,216 kWh, higher than the average for both the East Midlands and England.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data>

Domestic mean gas consumption per household in 2015 was 17,773 kWh, which is lower than the average for both the East Midlands and England.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-gas-consumption-data>

According to the statistics from BEIS, the number of off gas properties in North Kesteven has reduced by 1000 to 9,000 from 2012 to 2015 (published data is rounded to the nearest thousand). However, the Lincolnshire Research Observatory shows that between 2012 and 2015 the numbers fell from to 10,400 to 7,172, a fall of 31% which is similar to the fall seen across Lincolnshire as a whole.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-national-estimates-of-households-not-connected-to-the-gas-network>

<http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Housing.aspx>

Feed in tariff installations

As at the end of January 2017, 2,724 domestic properties had registered for FiTs in North Kesteven (included in the Lincolnshire figures above). Of these 2,719 were domestic PV installations and 5 were wind turbines. This is an increase of 613 since the 2015 HECA report. Total installed capacity is 10.68 MW an increase of 2.526 MW.

North Kesteven District Council has installed 224 Solar electric systems onto their social housing since 2012.

Source: <https://www.renewablesandchp.ofgem.gov.uk/>

Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) accreditations

From April 2014 to December 2016, 198 domestic installations were accredited for the RHI in the district.

North Kesteven District Council has installed 88 Air Source Heat Pump and solar thermal systems on their social housing.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/renewable-heat-incentive-statistics>

Housing Stock condition

Of the private sector stock (owner occupied and private rented) it is estimated that:

- 18% has a Category 1 hazard
- 14% has an excess cold hazard
- 19.6% fall below EPC Band E (based on SimpleSap[^])
- 16% is in fuel poverty (Low income, High costs – LHIC – definition)
- Current mean SAP ratings[^] are:
 - owner occupier: 52
 - private rented: 50
- 24% of private rented properties have an EPC rating[^] below Band E, equating to approximately 1700 properties

Source: BRE Dwelling Level, Housing Stock Modelling and Database for North Kesteven prepared by the Building Research Establishment 14th June 2014.

<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/housing/energy-conservation-reports/>

According to census data, in the period 2001-2015 the population of North Kesteven has increased by 18.5% from 94,400 to 111,876.

Property numbers have changed in the private rented sector, from 3,382 households in 2001 to 6,184 in 2011. With net new households at around 7,102 properties.

Source: ONS census

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/latest>

Relevant strategies and ambitions

The NK Plan 2017-2020 has Our Homes as one of its four corporate priorities. It contains the ambition of 'maintain and improve housing in NK' and to achieve this we want to;

- Ensure all council properties meet the NK Decent Homes Standard
- Promote improvements in the condition of private sector properties

The first is included in the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2016-2046, which contains Service Objective 3; Ensure all Council properties meet the NK decent homes standard. In addition the Plan contains the commitment to building to a Fabric First Plus standard which has been developed in consultation with residents.

North Kesteven District Council's Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy 2013-2016 aimed to help vulnerable home owners and tenants remain living independently in their homes, where it is appropriate to do so. The Strategy has five themes and key actions which includes; Ensuring proper housing standards, Reducing energy use and delivering affordable warmth, and Promoting access to the private rented sector.

Progress has been made on relevant actions as follows:

- 3,875 social housing properties, that the Council could access, has achieved the decent homes standard.
- The county's first super energy efficient, PassivHaus standard, social housing has been completed.
- 76 affordable homes were delivered in 2015/16.
- A total of 223 council houses have had solar electric panels fitted.
- A total of 2,221 council houses have had A rated central heating boilers fitted. 507 were fitted between 2014-2015.
- A total of 25 council houses have had solar thermal hot water systems fitted. 23 were fitted between 2014-2015.
- A total of 63 council houses have had air source heat pump systems fitted.
- A total of 8 council houses have had ground source heat pump systems fitted.
- A total of 1,583 council houses had other types of heating system fitted. 234 were fitted between 2014-2015.

Regarding the second, the Council remains committed to raising the standard of private rented homes throughout the district of North Kesteven. To achieve this the Council's Private Sector Housing team provide support and help to both landlords and tenants.

There are a range of projects that have been put in place, which are targeted at local landlords and tenants renting in the private sector. These projects are grouped under the Safe as Houses initiative managed by the team. Safe as Houses is a proactive campaign providing information, guidance and support to private renting landlords and tenants on their rights and responsibilities. Progress and activities include:

- 2000 people have been made aware of the campaign in 2016 by;
 - A Safe as Houses section on the Council's corporate website, with specific sections for tenants and landlords giving access to a wide range of information, documents and useful links. It includes an online reporting form for private housing queries.
 - 3 events for lettings agents and landlords.
 - 99 properties visited during door knocking campaign to meet tenants.
 - 138 North Kesteven District specific landlord and letting agent e-newsletters sent. The first edition was sent out in January 2017 and will be sent 3 times a year.
- 91 properties identified of the estimated 1600 properties in the district which could be effected by the changes in the law regarding energy performance ratings from 2018. As part of work to seek out private rented properties with poor energy performance ratings and helping landlords and agents understand the changes.
- 19 properties have been presented since the Enforcement Amnesty was introduced in June 2016. Aimed to encourage landlords to approach the Council for advice. Taking no enforcement action against the landlord for one year to allow for improvements to be made through negotiation and to agreed timescales.
- 6 landlords and 11 properties are currently accredited by the nationally recognised DASH (Decent and Safer Homes) accreditation scheme which is promoted to landlords.
- Over 500 tenant information leaflets distributed.
- External funding streams which may assist landlords or tenants to make home improvements have been promoted.
- Continue to make available advice for landlords and tenants on energy efficiency, home improvement measures and trade accreditation schemes.

The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy (Version 2) was published in June 2016. Where necessary the team's Enforcement officers will take appropriate enforcement action utilising the powers it grants them.

- 127 properties were inspected in 2015/16, by the Council's Private Sector Housing Enforcement Officers.
- 38 properties were made safe removing either a Category 1 or 2 hazard as identified under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and The Housing Act 2004.

A Financial Assistance Policy was approved and introduced in July 2016, including an interest free loan scheme for private sector landlords, where commercial finance is unavailable. It can be used to;

- Remove either Category 1 or 2 hazards identified by the Council under the HHSRS.
- Raise the energy efficiency of their tenant's property to an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C or above.

The Lincolnshire Landlords electronic newsletter is actively promoted to all landlords and housing professionals working in or having a connection to the district, with over 200 being added to the subscription list since 2012.

Source: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/housing/strategies-policies-and-service-standards/housing-strategies/>

Climate change and carbon management

North Kesteven District Council has an ongoing commitment to district carbon management, contained within the Low Carbon NK Plan, with a target of reducing Co₂ emissions by 20% from the 2005 baseline by March 2020. The latest data shows at the end of 2013 emissions had fallen by 12%.

In 2012 North Kesteven District Council becoming a signatory of Climate Local (the successor to the Nottingham Declaration). Making the commitment to take action in a changing climate and annually report on progress. Government funding was not secured to continue the national programme beyond March 2016. Subsequently it now operates as a self-supporting network influencing national policy through agencies such as the Local Government Association. North Kesteven continues to submit annual updates of its Low Carbon NK Plan to show its continued commitment to this agenda and to share the action being taken locally.

Advice on energy and thermal efficiency, energy use, and available incentives is provided to residents by Sustainability at North Kesteven District Council. From 2014-2016;

- Over 2000 residents were signed up to receive the quarterly SustainNK newsletter, providing information on government incentives, local schemes run by the Home Energy Lincolnshire Partnership, and other available support to improve domestic energy use, energy and thermal efficiency.
- Over 2500 residents received advice, face-to-face, over the phone, or by email

Sustainable growth is key to our ongoing success. As such we will look during 2017/18 to develop the theme of "Our Environment" with a focus on four key areas, the most relevant to this report being Places and Sustainability.

Source: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/business/support-for-business/sustainable-business/low-carbon-nk-charter-and-plan/>

2. The measures that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation

Fuel poverty

The Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP) consists of officers who are involved with the domestic energy efficiency and/or the wider climate change agenda. Working together, the partnership allows us to offer a co-ordinated approach to submitting bids for funding, and when successful, in delivering affordable warmth and domestic energy efficiency to Lincolnshire residents. The current resource allocated to deliver fuel poverty schemes is equivalent to 1.6 FTE split unevenly across all 7 districts across the county. This does not include input from Private Sector Housing enforcement officers who may advise on fuel poverty issues.

A new full time Fuel Poverty Co-ordinator post has been agreed in principle for a 2 year period funded by Lincolnshire County Council, with some financial contribution from HELP. The post will sit within the Public Health Division of Lincolnshire County Council. HELP is currently refreshing the Lincolnshire Affordable Warmth Strategy as further guidance is issued by government relating to ECO3, the minimum standards in private rented sector etc. The agreed themes of the Strategy remain unaltered whilst the Action Plans are being developed to reflect the current landscape.

Progress on ECO schemes has been limited. HELP was unsuccessful in their attempt to secure Green Deal Communities funding and so no co-ordinated local schemes existed. Due in the main to the rural nature of the district, measures under ECO seem to have mostly been the replacement of gas boilers thereby potentially excluding over 65,000 households in the county.

HELP is awaiting the issue of guidance on the proposed introduction of flexible eligibility within ECO before being able to consider the Statement of Intent.

Housing enforcement officers deal with issues in private rented properties following a complaint about poor housing conditions usually reported by the tenant. Using powers under the Housing Act 2004, officers investigate a range of hazards, with excess cold being one of the most common. Initial investigations could result in advice or assistance being given or where necessary a formal inspection of the property will be undertaken followed by enforcement action if required.

In 2014, following extensive input by officers from HELP, the Local Government Association set up a framework for Collective Energy Switching. As a result the Lincolnshire Energy Switch Scheme (LESS) was introduced. Auctions are held three times a year and since 2014 4219 households have switched saving over £930,957

£1m on their energy bills. HELP continues to look at ways to encourage vulnerable fuel poor households to benefit from this scheme. The scheme will continue until 2018 under the existing Framework agreement and it is expected this will then be extended until 2020.

HELP works in partnership with Community Lincs, a local charity, in delivering Energy Best Deal across the county and also their bulk oil buying scheme for residents in off-gas areas.

The Wellbeing Service(s) in Lincolnshire, commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council, Adult Care and Community Wellbeing provide short term, in-home support for a resident facing a change in circumstances in their life (e.g. following a bereavement, stay in hospital or loss of employment) to put in place what is needed to maintain independent living. Staff in the Wellbeing Service have been funded by Public Health to complete the City and Guilds in Energy Awareness so that in-home support to reduce fuel poverty can be included in the service.

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/public-health/behind-the-scenes/the-wellbeing-service/>

The Lincolnshire Advice Network (LAN) and Lincs2Advice service, run by Age UK, Citizens Advice Bureaux and the Lincolnshire Credit Union signpost people to advice providers on a wide range of issues. HELP continues to work with the LAN to ensure access to affordable warmth and energy advice is maximised.

<https://www.lincolnshireadvicenetwork.org.uk/>

North Kesteven District Council's website pages relating to energy efficiency advice and ECO provide information and useful links to our residents on available schemes. The pages are regularly reviewed.

North Kesteven District Council has an Affordable Warmth Co-ordinator providing information and advice to council tenanted properties.

All 3875 NKDC properties have access to the Council's Affordable Warmth Officer and advice services. During 2015/2016 – 167 initial assessments were followed by 124 revisits. In 2016/2017 – 134 new initial assessments were followed by 250 revisits.

Since the post started the collective total savings for tenants is close to £50,000 as a result of the advice received.

Source: www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/housing/help-for-private-renters-and-owners/keeping-warm-and-saving-energy/

Boilers

Lincolnshire County Council was successful in its consortium bid with six of the district councils to the Central Heating Fund for first time installation of central heating to off gas properties. The scheme blended Central Heating Fund monies with ECO and is being delivered in partnership with E.ON Energy Services. However, establishing the scheme in compliance with public sector procurement rules and delivery has proven challenging. This is due to a range of issues including the complicated processes E.ON has in place to fulfil OFGEM audit requirements for ECO. Nonetheless, 160 enquiries were generated and passed to E.ON and it should be possible to install between 50 and 80 mains gas, oil or LPG central heating systems. Others have secured replacement boilers through the ECO affordable warmth obligation. Much learning has taken place to help inform how partnership arrangements might work through Flexible Eligibility under ECO Help to Heat.

Smart Meters

Advice is given to residents when requested and during engagement in their homes. As there is currently only a limited resource in the county dedicated to fuel poverty / affordable warmth issues, there are no plans at this time to pro-actively promote smart meters to all residents.

Minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector

The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015 Part 3 will come into force in October 2017, to allow landlords to register exemptions in preparation for April 2018 after which landlords will be prohibited from granting a new tenancy on a sub-standard property. Sub-standard properties are described as those 'where the valid energy performance certificate expresses the energy performance indicator as being below the minimum level of energy efficiency' i.e. band E. Therefore any property with an energy performance indicator of F or G will be deemed to be sub-standard for these purposes.

Guidance is awaited on the implementation of the Regulations. The Regulations state that the enforcement authority for domestic private rented properties is the 'local authority'. Housing enforcement officers within District Councils currently use their powers under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and the Housing Act 2004 to tackle excess cold hazards in private rented properties. When guidance is issued, a full evaluation will be made by each Housing Enforcement team in the county as to how the new Regulations will be integrated into existing enforcement activity in their area.

As 26.5% of the private rented stock in the county is estimated to have an energy performance indicator of F or G, this could have a major impact on the supply of private rented properties after April 2018 and could become a major challenge in the future.

Source: Lincolnshire Private Sector House Condition Survey 2009 Final Report June 2010.
<https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/housing/energy-conservation-reports/>

3. The measures which an authority has developed to implement energy efficiency improvements cost-effectively in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street roll out involving local communities and partnerships (e.g. social housing partners, voluntary organisations and town/parish councils, wider partnerships/innovation and procurement)

The last area based scheme introduced in Lincolnshire was the HELP Insulation Scheme in August 2010 which installed insulation measures to private sector households across the county. The Scheme was a partnership between all seven district councils, Lincolnshire County Council and the Energy Saving Trust. Funding of £1.75m was secured for the Scheme with an additional £9 million being attracted through the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) and Warmfront.

The Scheme was extremely successful with over 14,000 homes having insulation installed whilst attracting over £11m of spending on energy efficiency measures into the county. A customer survey of households who received insulation produced very positive feedback, with 83% of those surveyed stating that they were able to use their home more due to it being warmer and 81% now had their heating on for shorter periods of time and their bills had reduced.

Many residents are very wary of offers from energy companies and third party organisations to install energy efficiency measures in their homes. However, the HELP brand, supported by the local councils, became a trusted brand for providing practical measures, information and advice and proved there was an appetite from residents for locally co-ordinated county-wide schemes which had not been delivered before.

This support of locally co-ordinated schemes has been replicated with the Lincolnshire Energy Switch Scheme (LESS). Since it was introduced in 2014 4219 households have switched energy tariffs saving over £930,000 on their energy bills. Auctions are held three times a year and this successful scheme will continue until 2018 under the existing Framework agreement and it is expected this will then be extended until 2020.

There are currently no area based schemes in operation in the county. However there are numerous opportunities for both countywide schemes and specific area based schemes. The primary opportunities are:

- Provision of information and advice to vulnerable residents via face to face / telephone channels as well as providing written material and online assistance. Information and advice for low income, working residents who traditionally miss out on assistance.
- Loft, cavity wall and solid wall insulation schemes for owner occupied and private rented properties

- Provision of first time and replacement heating systems in off-gas areas, exploring the option of renewable energy where it would be the most appropriate solution
- Improving the energy efficiency of the private rented sector including provision of information and advice, ensuring that landlords provide Energy Performance Certificates to tenants, signposting to central funding available for improvements, and where necessary enforcement through HHSRS and other relevant Regulations (including Minimum Standards Regulations when introduced). Working with landlords, landlord associations / accreditation schemes, Trading Standards, letting agents and other housing professionals.
- Overcoming barriers to delivery e.g. procurement and legal guidance and support provided from central government funders to ensure that schemes can be brought forward quickly, efficiently and viably.

4. A timeframe for delivery and national and local partners

North Kesteven District Council works in partnership with the other Lincolnshire authorities as the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP).

HELP works in partnership with the commercial, energy, and voluntary sectors to deliver energy efficiency ambitions to residents in the county.

HELP feeds into the ALEO East Midlands and into the ALEO national network; officers from Lincolnshire play an active role in both, inputting into Government consultations.

Timeframes are dictated by the issue of guidance on the various Regulations being introduced and the relaunch of ECO:

- Statement of Intent – timeframe unknown until the documentation and guidance for flexible eligibility is published.

Engaging with ECO – timeframe unknown until documentation and guidance is published Lincolnshire Energy Switch will continue to run under current framework until 2018 and then it is expected that the framework will be extended for a further 2 years, so we expect to run switches till 2020 under the current Framework.

Lincolnshire Central Heating Fund will be wound up by March 2017.

5.

Signed off by



Ian Fytche

Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council