

HECA REPORT

DERBY CITY COUNCIL

supported by

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY
ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

1. Local Energy Efficiency Priorities and Ambitions

The City Council's ambitions to improve home energy efficiency and reduce household carbon emissions are implemented through a range of strategies.

1.1 What has happened in Derby and how does Derby compare nationally?

i) Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funded insulation and heating measures

From the start of ECO in January 2013, through to December 2016, measures were installed in 9,453 households in Derby, which is 9% of all households in Derby, compared to an average of 7.4% of households across England¹.

During the period covered by this report, April 2015 – March 2017, Derby Homes has installed 1,300 'A' rated boilers and insulated the solid walls of 255 council homes. In the same period Derby City Council has assisted 81 private homeowners to have solid wall insulation installed.

ii) Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions

Between 2005 and 2014, domestic emissions in Derby reduced by 25%, from 2.4 to 1.8 tonnes per year, based on a 5-year rolling average to balance out the effects of weather extremes. In the same period, domestic emissions across England reduced by 20%².

iii) Domestic gas consumption

Between 2005 and 2015, average consumption in Derby reduced by 29% (17,601 kilowatt-hours (kWh) down to 12,487kWh per meter). In the same period, consumption across England reduced by 25%³.

¹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-energy-efficiency-national-statistics#headline-releases

² www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics

³ www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-gas-consumption-data

iv) Domestic electricity consumption

Between 2005 and 2015, average consumption in Derby reduced by 16% (4,235kWh down to 3,530kWh per meter. In the same period, consumption across England reduced by 10%⁴.

v) Fuel Poor Households

Between 2010 and 2014, the number of households in Derby increased by 10% to 104,703. In the same period, the number of fuel-poor households reduced by 39%, to 11,175⁵.

For the same period, in England the number of households increased by 4% and the number of fuel-poor households reduced by 33%.

1.2 Derby's Climate Change Strategy⁶

Provides a framework through which we work together to improve the efficiency with which we use resources, reduce the city's CO₂ emissions and address the challenges that a changing climate will bring. It operates over six themes:

- A thriving sustainable economy
- Smarter travel option
- Energy efficient homes
- A secure local and renewable energy supply
- Being prepared for a changing environment
- An active community

Two themes in particular present achievable aims for the city's households:

- **Energy efficient homes** - aims to ensure that local people have homes that enable them to reduce their demand for energy and to use energy more efficiently.
- **A secure local and renewable energy supply** - aims to reduce Derby's reliance on energy from fossil fuels through a locally generated, diverse, efficient and more secure energy supply.

With an ever-growing focus on reducing the climate change and air-quality impacts of powering our homes, we foresee an increasing role for insulation together with local low-carbon energy generation and supply in helping the city tackle fuel-poverty and energy bills.

⁴ www.gov.uk/government/collections/sub-national-electricity-consumption-data

⁵ www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics

⁶ www.derby.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/climate-change-and-energy-management/climate-change/

1.3 Derby City Housing Strategy 2015-2019⁷

Encompasses a number of services:

i) DASH – the Decent and Safe Homes service, which is designed to increase the supply of good quality accommodation in the PRS and to ensure the delivery of high quality private sector housing services, including landlord support services (training, briefings, updates and guidance).

ii) DHEAS – Derby Home Energy Advice and Assistance, offers free advice and information to all of Derby's residents on ways to improve energy efficiency in the home. By working closely with other organisations, for example energy companies, the service raises awareness of financial and other assistance that could benefit homeowners, landlords and tenants.

iii) SW+H – Stay Warm and Healthy programme is managed by the council's Healthy Housing Hub, providing a range of services to vulnerable households in Derby. These include:

- emergency heating
- debt advice
- income checks
- insulation works
- heating system repairs/improvements
- energy tariff check

iv) CESP – City Energy Saving Programme offers insulation services to owner-occupiers and private sector landlords and more recently to social housing via Derby Homes. The principal aim of the programme is to make solid wall insulation an affordable option for homeowners through appointing accredited installers, negotiating best option terms with funding sources dominated by the Energy Company Obligation, and by offering direct financial support through interest-free loans.

2. Energy efficiency improvements 2015-17

2.1 Information, advice, education and promotion

The council website includes a section on climate change and energy management⁶ which provides information on:

- Global climate change, plus the full council strategy and a handy 4-page summary including how individuals can become more involved.
- Home energy information, advice and help, with easy to understand information on how to get a better price for energy by using the 'Considering Switching Supplier' link,

⁷ www.derby.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-democracy-elections/policies-and-plans/housing-strategies/#housing-strategy

and simple measures to help keep a house warm. The home page of this section also provides a link to the council's HECA report.

2.2 Tackling Fuel Poverty

DASH aims to raise housing standards in the private rental sector by engaging with private sector landlords to raise housing act awareness and by partnering with neighbouring local authorities to harmonise standards. DASH operates across Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire and parts of Nottinghamshire to:

- Reduce the waste of homes standing empty
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Address the general condition and safety of the PRS housing stock

DASH provides a valuable signposting service both for landlord members and for local authorities seeking engagement with the private-rented sector.

SW+H helps local vulnerable people struggling to keep warm at home by offering advice, practical support and works to stay warm, safe and healthy in their homes – with particular focus on:

- Older people
- People living with long-term health conditions or disabilities
- Pregnancy or families with young children

SW+H also works closely with small voluntary local groups through the Good Neighbourhood Fund, supporting people in the community who are older, socially isolated, have mobility issues and are experiencing deterioration in health both mental and physical. Voluntary groups can apply to the fund for up to £500 to cover items of equipment, resources, health related events or projects that help to address some of the problems/issues faced by people in the winter months. The fund has assisted 12 local groups with over 500 people benefitting.

CESP continues to work to offer the best available financial package to homeowners to facilitate the installation of solid wall insulation. Current funding streams make it challenging to continue to deliver a service that continues to benefit many fuel poor households. The Council is currently exploring the potential benefits of Flexible Eligibility to maximise the availability of this service to those households in greatest need.

All services offered by the council including its Carelink telecare service continue to create links with external agencies including:

- Care Co-ordinators
- Community Groups
- Derbyshire carers
- EMAS (East Midlands Ambulance Service)
- Energy suppliers

- DFRS (Derby Fire and Rescue Service)
- GP's
- Hospital
- Mental Health Service
- Occupational Health (NHS)
- Self-referral

2.3 Building Control

Building Control's input into home energy conservation is primarily to ensure that residential building works are constructed so as to conform to Building Regulations Approved Documents.

Many home improvements, like replacement windows and boilers, are managed through 'self-certification' schemes like FENSA and Gas-Safe. Involvement by Building Control is limited to instances where, for example, a house purchase may be delayed due to a lack of 'self-certification'. In these instances Building Control arranges for the relevant works to be inspected, and certification issued retrospectively.

The council strives to innovate where valuable data can inform the wider market. A recent application was submitted for a new development by the council of 26 apartments fronting the River Derwent, bringing back into use a vacant site and providing much needed new homes.

The new building will have a green roof to soften the visual impact and to reduce water run off, as part of a sustainable drainage strategy. A green roof mimics natural drainage solutions by using permeable surfaces to filter, absorb and moderate run off by storing the rainwater in the plants and soil and then releasing the water back into the atmosphere by evapotranspiration. The plants retain the water they need, and help to remove and retain airborne particles from the local atmosphere thus helping to improve air and water quality.

It has been evidenced that green roofs contribute towards reducing a building's energy consumption due to its' thermal performance.

The environmental impact of this new building will be mitigated by incorporating this simple provision and although it will not replace ground based habitats the roof will offer biodiversity for wildlife.

From June 2017, the Building Control services of Derby City Council merge with Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales, High Peak, Bolsover and Chesterfield councils to form a stand-alone organisation, Derbyshire Building Control Partnership. This merger will enable cross-boundary services with the aim of becoming more efficient and effective to residential and business sectors.

2.4 Smart Meters

In the Autumn of , council will launch its own energy brand, Ram Energy.

This not-for-profit brand aims to offer a very competitive market price for gas and electricity to both pre-payment and standard customers. Historically, pre-pay customers have been poorly served by the energy sector, with some of the highest energy charges. Ram Energy will offer a low “pay as you go” tariff to help lower income families keep bills low. In addition, Ram Energy will also replace pre-pay meters with SMART meters, which will not only provide tenants with alternative ways to top up their meters, but also help them manage their energy consumption.

It is our view therefore that this initiative can help tenants move away from more costly variable tariffs to fixed deals, once they better understand their true consumption.

Non pre-payment customers will receive monthly statements allowing them to keep up-to-date with their energy costs and the option of fixed or variable monthly payments, with a discount for those who manage their accounts on line.

2.5 Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

Overall minimum living standards in the private rented sector are monitored by the Housing Standards Team. On average the team receives between 450 and 550 service requests per year, most of which are in connection with the PRS and which result in a similar number of full HHSRS (Home Health and Safety Rating System) inspections. These inspections often lead to improvements in energy efficiency following action by the team to encourage the landlord to improve insulation and heating.

The team also takes responsibility for the enforcement of The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015.

In addition to the monitoring and regulatory service, the team supports and encourages proactive landlords through a Landlords' Forum. Forum meetings often attract 70-80 landlords and takes place on a non-scheduled basis, to discuss the state of the PRS market, changes like upcoming legislation or regulations, and the services that the council can offer.

3. Looking ahead 2017-19

Derby will continue with developing the scope and range of DASH, DHEAS, SW+H and CESP programmes.

In summer 2017 Derby will publish a Statement of Intent to facilitate access to Flexible Eligibility as part of the new tranche of ECO funding. Following this the council will be seeking a partnership arrangement with an ECO obligated energy supplier.

In 2017, Council Cabinet adopted 50 pledges for 2016-19, a number of which will have an impact on home energy consumption, including:

- The launch of Ram Energy, scheduled for Autumn 2017 will provide an opportunity to investigate accessing energy consumption data to enable the council to offer tailored advice and support – Cross Portfolio
- Deliver 500 affordable homes for Derby people to rent or buy – Cross Portfolio
- Buy or renovate 300 problem or empty homes across Derby – Urban Renewal Portfolio
- Increase the number of elderly people receiving advice and adaptations so they can live independently at home by 10% - Urban Renewal Portfolio
- Protect targeted inspections of unfit properties focusing on the worst landlords and properties in the city – Urban Renewal Portfolio
- Protect the welfare rights advice service – Urban Renewal Portfolio

Derby City has made good progress in assisting government to meet legally-binding carbon emission reduction targets. We see the progress made, together with the ambitions in this report, acting as a focal point for future activity, particularly in tackling issues surrounding vulnerable and fuel-poor households.

I confirm that I have seen and agreed this report of the progress made by this authority to implement it's energy efficiency report as required under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

Signature



Name Fareed Hussain
 Cabinet Member for Housing and Renewal

Authority Derby City Council

Date 5 June 2017