

Mid Devon District Council

HECA REPORT 2017

Introduction

Mid Devon District Council is a mainly rural district of 352 square miles. The majority of the population is located in the three main towns of Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton but a large number of residents live in the rural areas outside of these towns. A number of these areas are not on mains gas and therefore have limited access to affordable heating solutions. As a result 35% homes are considered non-decent due to thermal comfort, whilst 29% of the housing stock is non-decent due to category one hazards.

Mid Devon District Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the district and promoting schemes that improve energy efficiency of dwellings and help to reduce fuel poverty. Both the Corporate Plan and the Housing Strategy contain relevant priorities to help us deliver these aspirations within existing resources.

Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities

Mid Devon District Council's Corporate Plan 2016 to 2020 has four priorities. These are:

Economy ***Homes*** ***Community*** ***Environment***

Under the Environment priority, the most relevant aim is

Aim 2 – Reduce our carbon footprint

- Seek new ways to improve our operational efficiency, reducing energy use and lowering our carbon footprint
- Continue to promote energy saving initiatives
- Continue to support green initiatives which can be installed in homes and which help to improve energy efficiency and sustainability.

The council has not set a specific carbon reduction target but is committed to undertaking activities that support this aim.

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.

ECO

Mid Devon District Council is one of 8 District Councils in partnership with Devon County Council that is currently in the process of procuring a replacement for the CosyDevon energy efficiency scheme which has been running throughout the last 2 years utilising funding from E-on. The partnership is also working on flex criteria to ensure that we take full advantage of the forthcoming ECO2t and ECO3

Fuel Poverty

The CosyDevon partnership is delivering a fuel poverty scheme, the Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP), through energy agency, Agility Eco. The LEAP project

offers in-depth home visits accepting referrals from any number of partners, including local authorities, CAB, Age UK. The Scheme will continue for at least 2 years, with regular review meetings which monitor and evaluate progress.

The Devon JSNA Community profile 2016 produced by Public Health Devon shows that Mid Devon has 12.8% of households in fuel poverty, higher than the south west region (11.5%) and England (10.4%).

Loans

Mid Devon District Council offers loans to homeowners through Wessex Resolutions CIC. The loans are available to provide replacement boilers and energy efficiency measures and in some cases technology to provide sustainable energy solutions. They are also available for home improvements, home repairs and window replacement.

Affordability and Smart meters

In partnership with Agility ECO the Council is due to launch an energy switching scheme to assist local residents find the best deal on their fuel bills. The scheme aims to help low income households find a more affordable energy supplier to prevent fuel poverty. However the scheme will be available to all residents. As part of this scheme we will be looking at how we can promote the use of smart meters.

Enforcement

The Private Sector Housing team at the council actively regulates private rented accommodation through enforcement activity. In particular, one of the main hazards identified in the housing stock is the hazard of excess cold. The team will take enforcement action to ensure improvements are made to rented accommodation to improve the energy efficiency of these properties.

The team actively requests EPCs from landlords and tenants as part of our enforcement activity.

We are also in the process of developing a project to target enforcement resources to areas of high need in the district. The project will aim to deal with poor quality rented accommodation. The project will also be proactively looking for houses in multiple occupation and unlicensed mobile homes used as rented accommodation. As part of this proactive approach we will aim to signpost households to the various fuel poverty and energy efficiency schemes in the area, whilst taking enforcement action against landlords to improve their properties.

Measures which the 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)

Mid Devon District Council uses the Energy Saving Trust Housing Analytics Data Base (HAD3) which was acquired by the CosyDevon partnership and provides property specific energy efficiency data enabling accurate targeting of interventions.

Work is currently underway to input real time health data into HAD3 which will enable the targeting of measures to householders with specific health issues

All local data will be used to help target the enforcement project. Local data has also been used to identify empty homes and we are actively pursuing owners of empty homes to bring these properties back into use and up to an energy efficient standard. We will be working with a number of partners to identify key areas to target using their local intelligence.

Timeframe for delivery and national and local partners

Activity	Timeframe for delivery	Partners
Establishing a low emissions partnership	2017/18	Devon District Councils
Procurement of partner to deliver ECO as part of the Cosy Devon partnership	2017/18	Devon District Councils and Devon County Council
LEAP project	2016- 2018	Devon District Councils and Devon County Council, local voluntary organisations
Delivery of loans	Currently ongoing to be reviewed March 2018	Wessex Resolutions CIC
Energy Switching Project	2017/18	Agility ECO, UK Power
Proactive enforcement projects	2017/18	Police Fire Service
Empty Homes project	2016-2018	Council departments
Air Quality Action Plan 2017-21	Aug 2017	Devon County Council Public Health Devon