

# Home Energy Conservation Act 2023 Report

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

## Introductory Questions

1. Name of Local Authority

Mid Sussex District Council

2. Type of Local Authority

District Council

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

[REDACTED]

## 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.

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/environment-net-zero/sustainable-economy-strategy/>

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.

The Warmer Homes programme was funded by LAD and HUG funding. MSDC is a member of a consortium of councils. The Warmer Homes consortium was awarded £15.6 million of LAD (Phase 3) funding and £16.2 million HUG (Phase 1 funding), resulting in a £31.8 million programme across the 21 Local Authority areas involved in the Warmer Homes consortium. The scheme was delivered at no cost to the Council other than officer time. Warmer Homes secured £41.4m further HUG funding for phase 2, running until 2025, and are currently delivering HUG2 on the council's behalf. Again the cost to this Council is officer time. The Solar Together scheme for 2022-23 was delivered by iChoosr and West Sussex County Council. MSDC incurred an initial cost of £6635 for letter mailout, but this cost was subsequently covered by WSCC using the commission earned on previous successful solar panel installations in the scheme. Citizens Advice – a single point of contact (SPOC) service is promoted by MSDC. The service runs cross-county. This is at no cost to MSDC and is currently funded by WSCC. ECO 4 is operating in West Sussex, administered by colleagues at Arun District Council and delivery partner the National Energy Foundation, no costs to MSDC. £10,517 commissioning consultants to complete a Heat Decarbonisation Plan (HDP) for MSDC's main offices at Oaklands.

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
- Other

## 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

County-wide West Sussex Affordable Energy Website – maintained by the West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership. [www.westsussexenergy.co.uk](http://www.westsussexenergy.co.uk)

## 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).

Enter your answer

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

Other

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
- MSDC own a very small social housing stock for temporary housing to assist in discharging our homelessness duties. We are not a social housing provider.

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?

Unknown



## 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.

2

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.

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.

0

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.

0

## 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.

The Solar Together scheme, administered by WSCC, leverages bulk buying power to offer discounts for the able-to-pay sector. We provide advice on our website. <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/environment-net-zero/a-net-zero-home/> We signpost to the West Sussex Energy Advice page: <https://westsussexenergy.co.uk/> This details various grants, including the Boiler Upgrade Scheme, which provides discounts on heat pumps.

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

- Referrals from other frontline organisations. These links and key contacts are established by delivering externally funded Fuel Poverty awareness training for frontline staff. Training delivered by Citizens Advice and promoted through the West Sussex Affordable Energy Partnership and website.

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

The Affordable Energy Partnership work with community partners to deliver and promote the variety of home energy and energy saving schemes to residents and frontline workers. The Affordable Energy Partnership fund and the West Sussex Emergency Heater scheme for

low-income households with a broken heating system. (Loan of 2 oil filled radiators until the heating is fixed or replaced). Energy saving/keeping warm training available for vulnerable hard to reach communities/residents – funded and delivered by community partners. MSDC offer financial support, including via the Household Support fund on our website: <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support/>

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?

MSDC's Sustainable Economy Strategy (SES) contains objectives and actions relating to improving energy efficiency (Objective 13). This includes participating in schemes to use green home grants and improving the energy efficiency of the district's least efficient homes. Fuel poverty and carbon reduction are inextricably combined under these actions. Further, as set out in Fuel Poverty strategy outlined above, 'Key Areas for Action Section 5. CARBON REDUCTION' states: "Work with colleagues and partners to support work to reduce carbon emissions from our domestic homes, increase the uptake of low carbon heating measures and improve the energy performance of the worst performing homes across our District. Using these opportunities to upskill our local workforce and engage with schemes that promote the use of local contractors and organisations where possible. We will work with partners at District and County level to support and enhance their work to raise awareness, mitigate and to adapt to climate change, whilst ensuring those on the lowest incomes are not left behind and are not disproportionately affected by any price increase or new low carbon technologies".

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

Enter your answer

## 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

MSDC is in a consortium of partners across the South of England which bids for funding such as HUG and LAD on behalf of its members, and administers the scheme. The Programme ran a successful LAD3 scheme.

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.

Enter your answer

## 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

MSDC is in a consortium of partners across the South of England which bids for funding such as HUG and LAD on behalf of its members, and administers the scheme. The Programme ran a HUG1 scheme, and is currently running a HUG2 scheme, running from 2023-2025.

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

Enter your answer

## 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?

30

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

36

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

0

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

£46,155 annual (£3846 monthly)

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

Income thresholds had been defined to take into account the higher living costs in West Sussex. ONS data on average income levels across West Sussex has been analysed. An income threshold of 80% of the West Sussex mean income was considered a tailored and appropriate proxy, in conjunction with the other eligibility criteria, for identifying a low-income household in West Sussex

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.

Enter your answer

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?

Enter your answer

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)

Enter your answer

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.

Installation work under ECO and HUG is carried out by third party contractors, who have their own processes.

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

We don't have any plans for the promotion of smart meters as our direct involvement is in licensing HMOs and provision of such devices is not a mandatory licence requirement. In HMOs

such a device may not be appropriate or technically possible when a single landlord supply is provided and where no individual metering is undertaken.

In single household rented accommodation the issues we experience, mainly damp and mould, will not be resolved by the installation of a smart meter. Most concerns raised by residents are about maintaining adequate indoor temperatures because of a combination of increased unit costs, lower than desired EPC rating and property disrepair.

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.

The Council is not a social housing provider and therefore does not hold any social housing. However, we are installing smart meters in all temporary accommodation units acquired by the Council.



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