

## Chorley Council

ACTION	OUTCOMES	TIMING
<b>i) LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND FUEL POVERTY AMBITIONS AND PRIORITIES</b>		
Lancashire Climate Change Strategy	Although the partnership no longer meets, the Lancashire Climate Change Strategy sets out the long term vision that Lancashire is “low carbon and well adapted by 2020” with a target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 34% (relative to 1990) by that time.	2020
Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Strategy	<p>Lancashire is moving towards the preventative agenda and will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Better health</b> – we will improve healthy life expectancy, and narrow the health gap</li> <li>• <b>Better care</b> – we will deliver measureable improvements in people’s experience of health and social care services</li> <li>• <b>Better value</b> – we will reduce the cost of health and social care</li> <li>• Shift resources towards interventions that <b>prevent</b> ill health and reduce demand for hospital and residential services</li> <li>• <b>Build and utilise the assets</b>, skills and resources of our citizens and communities</li> <li>• Promote and support greater individual <b>self-care and responsibility for health</b>; making better use of information technology and advice</li> <li>• Commit to delivering accessible <b>services within communities</b>; improving the experience of moving between primary, hospital and social care</li> <li>• Make <b>joint working</b> the default option (e.g. by pooling our budgets; commissioning together; sharing responsibilities for service delivery; sharing risk)</li> <li>• Work to <b>narrow the gap</b> in health &amp; wellbeing and its determinants</li> </ul>	2020
Carbon Reduction	5.1% per capita Carbon Dioxide emissions in Chorley, based on the most recent figures from 2012. This compares with a UK average of 6.2% per capita (source: DECC 2014 ‘Emissions within the scope of influence of Local Authorities for 2005-2012’.)	Ongoing
Fuel Poverty in Chorley	<p>8.2% of homes or approximately 3,654 households in the borough of Chorley are experiencing fuel poverty, based on the most recent figures from 2012, which were published in June 2014.</p> <p>This figure ranks Chorley 231<sup>st</sup> out of 326 Local Authorities in England, and represents the third</p>	Ongoing

	<p>lowest incidence of Fuel Poverty across Lancashire. The North West regional average for Fuel Poverty is 11.3% and the national average for England is 10.4% (<i>Source Department of Energy and Climate Change (2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data, low income high cost measure).</i>)</p> <p>The Council's Corporate Strategy contains a performance target which is for the Fuel Poverty rate in Chorley to be lower than the North West regional average. To date this target has been met.</p>	
<p><b>ii) MEASURES WE ARE TAKING TO RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMODATION</b></p>		
<p>Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO)</p>	<p>A report was commissioned by the Directors of Public Health for Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen, together with the Lancashire Energy Officers Group.</p> <p>The Report was produced by LESS, a Community Interest Company that delivers sustainability projects across Lancashire, along with partners AECOM and Firefly Energi.</p> <p>Its purpose was to recommend how local authorities in Lancashire could best take advantage of the opportunities presented by the government's flagship Green Deal and ECO energy efficiency schemes, which both launched in 2013. The report identified the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the national picture in regards to energy efficiency</li> <li>• An analysis of the energy efficiency improvements that could be made to local housing stock</li> <li>• An indication of which areas could attract the most ECO funding and which might be most receptive to an 'able to pay' approach to fitting insulation and other measures</li> <li>• The main issues affecting Lancashire that Green Deal and ECO may help solve.</li> <li>• The background and status of energy efficiency work within each local authority area and any issues particular to it</li> <li>• An overview of available health data and discussion of the link between wellbeing and warm homes</li> <li>• Recommendations on what action to take and what structures to put in place to achieve results</li> </ul> <p>This report forms the basis of the Lancashire wide CHiL scheme (Cosy Homes in Lancashire). Fixed rates have been agreed with installers and additional income generated from some energy efficiency measures will be used to subsidise harder to treat properties and support the installation of boilers at no cost to residents on benefits, thus creating a more equitable delivery mechanism to address vulnerable households and fuel poverty. The infrastructure is in place and ready to deliver however changes to the fuel utility targets have slowed the process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>ECO assistance, whilst initially designed to improve the homes of fuel poor households in line with the Warm Front scheme ie providing insulation and whole house heating, has been subject to delivery anomalies which has meant there has been a rush to maximise carbon scores by replacement of boilers on an uncontrolled basis. Market-led funding mechanisms whilst efficient in some respects are inconsistent and sporadic.</p> <p>The substantial changes announced to the ECO, less than 12 months after its launch, have had a very negative impact not only on the industry but on the most vulnerable, fuel poor residents. Equally, ad hoc competitions like the Green Deal Communities Programme, that only provide assistance over a short period in a very limited number of local authority areas, are not the way forward either because it becomes a postcode lottery as to whether or not an individual is lifted out of fuel poverty depending upon whether their local authority has the resource to bid.</p> <p>Rapid policy changes and short-term initiatives are unhelpful to the householders, delivery agents and the insulation industry that have to deal with them and have led to a lack of confidence in energy efficiency measures designed to eradicate fuel poverty.</p> <p>The Green Deal cannot be regarded as an appropriate policy tool to help fuel poor households. For fuel poor households the risk is that it is unlikely that vulnerable residents will be in a position to evidence the savings necessary as part of the assessment. The calculated energy savings will not be achieved as the savings will be taken as thermal comfort.</p> <p>It is also noted that enforcement by Trading Standards of <b>EPC's/SAP</b> in Private Rented Sector housing does not occur across Lancashire</p> <p>A further barrier to delivering on a community basis is the fact that a certain percentage of the wall must be insulated.</p>	
<p>Minimum standards in the private rented sector</p>	<p>The Council's Neighbourhoods team carries out HHSRS inspections, and has trialled proactive inspections. The Council has also appointed an Empty Homes Officer as part of its approach to reducing the numbers of empty homes across the Borough</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Hard to Treat Homes</p>	<p>The Council was intending to work in partnership with a Lancashire company (Technitherm) on a scheme to insulate hard to treat homes in the village of Croston, parts of which are designated as at risk of flood. Promotional activity took place in 2013-14, but regrettably due to the fluctuations in funding availability which resulted in the proposed funding ending, it was not possible to launch the scheme.</p>	

<b>iii) MEASURES WE PROPOSE TO COST EFFECTIVELY DELIVER ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN RESIDENTIAL ACCOMODATION BY USING AREA BASED / STREET BY STREET ROLL OUT</b>		
CHiL Scheme	Lancashire authorities are working together to target areas in Lancashire under the CHiL scheme in order to maximise take up of energy efficiency measures and ensure economies of scale. Up to 1,000 letters will be delivered in each local authority, including Chorley, over the coming months, to encourage take up of the CHiL scheme.	2015
<b>iv) FUEL POVERTY ACTIONS</b>		
Collective Energy Switching	Lancashire secured funding of £139,000 from the DECC Cheaper Energy Together fund to develop a Collective Energy Switching Scheme across Lancashire delivered by iChoosr. This led to the creation of the "People Power" campaign. Half of registrants (51%) were over the age of 60. However, only 857 of the 10,179 people county-wide that received an offer opted to take it up and switch supplier. This conversion rate (8%) from those that received an offer to those taking it up was lower than the expected rate of 10%.	2013-14
Energy Switching Support Service	<p>In 2014/15 the Council has implemented a corporate strategy project to offer customers the opportunity to have their existing gas and electricity tariffs reviewed by an expert who is engaged by the Council to assist customers to switch tariffs/suppliers on a one to one basis.</p> <p>The service is appointment-based and operates predominantly from the Council offices but home visits for disabled customers are also available. It is a free service and consists of a search of OFGEM approved comparison websites (ie those who sign up to the Confidence Code), which enables us to identify the best deal for the customer based on the energy they consume. The service also includes guiding the customer through the switching process, liaising with suppliers on customers' behalf, and dealing with any aftercare issues.</p> <p>As at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, 104 customers have switched tariffs/suppliers as a result of the Council having identified more favourable energy deals for them, based on a search of independent websites who comply with the OFGEM Confidence Code criteria.</p> <p>This has generated cumulative savings of £20,521 which equates to an average annual saving per customer of £197.32.</p> <p>The service will continue during 2015/16 and illustrates the Council's commitment to combating Fuel Poverty and assisting residents to achieve Affordable Warmth in their homes.</p>	2014/15 and ongoing

<p>'Warm Homes Healthy People' and related Affordable Warmth Projects</p>	<p>In 2013/14 and 2014/15 the Council has secured funding from Lancashire County Council Public Health department to carry out seasonal interventions to assist vulnerable customers with affordable warmth needs over the winter months. £40,000 was allocated to Chorley in 2013/14 and £34,000 in 2014/15.</p> <p>This has enabled the Council to provide the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Heating System Maintenance service</li> <li>* Dial a Ride Supported Transport service (offering transport to/from medical appointments)</li> <li>* Fuel Poverty Checks and Energy Advice</li> <li>* Energy Switching Support service (extending the number of days per week that this is available)</li> <li>* Emergency Heating</li> <li>* Promotion and public communication of the various services available</li> </ul> <p>Lancashire County Council have indicated that funding is also likely to be available for these services during the winter of 2015/16.</p>	<p>2013/14 to date</p>
<p>DECC Fuel Poverty Funding</p>	<p>National CERT funding ended in December 2012 but the Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group submitted a successful joint bid for short term continuation funding from DECC.</p> <p>DECC funding of £740,620 (for the whole of Lancashire) was secured to continue to provide free cavity wall &amp; loft insulation for Lancashire residents up until March 2013 post CERT and leading into ECO.</p> <p>The DECC Fuel Poverty Fund enabled a further 187 measures to be provided across Chorley consisting of 95 Loft Insulation and 92 Cavity Wall Insulation.</p>	<p>April to May 2013 (now closed)</p>
<p>Replacement Boiler scheme</p>	<p>Working alongside partners (UNIFY Credit Union, Baxi and Rheingold Contracts Ltd) the Council is lending support to a replacement boiler scheme known as the CURB scheme. The scheme aims to help customers to replace their existing boiler with a new more energy efficient one by taking out an affordable loan with an ethical loan provider. It is part of the Council's ongoing commitment to offer options and opportunities to customers to achieve Affordable Warmth in their homes.</p>	<p>2015 and ongoing</p>

v) NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS		
NW Carbon Action Network	The Council links into the NW CAN network to share knowledge on reducing domestic-sector carbon footprint and tackling fuel poverty across the region.	Ongoing
Chief Executives/ Directors of Finance	A Report was taken to both the Chief Executives of all the Lancashire authorities together with the Directors of Finance. The CEOs and Finance Directors have been supportive of the CHiL scheme and the work taking place together across Lancashire.	
Lancashire Home Energy Officers Group	The Lancashire Home Energy Group consists of representatives from the 12 district councils in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Blackpool Council, Lancashire County Council and Lancashire County Developments Ltd. The Group was established in 2007 and works in partnership to improve the energy efficiency of Lancashire Homes, address health inequalities exacerbated by living in cold damp homes, reduce fuel poverty, tackle seasonal excess deaths and reduce carbon emissions from the domestic sector.	Ongoing
Signed off by		
Position		