



## Progress Report

September 2017

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises local authorities' ability to use their position to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in their areas and consequently make significant contributions in delivering the Government's plans for carbon reduction and addressing fuel poverty.

Under the Act and subsequent amendments, all local authorities in England were required to produce a 'further report' by March 2013 setting out the authorities' energy conservation measures to significantly improve the energy efficiency of the residential accommodation in its area, and 'progress reports' on progress the authority has made in implementing the measures set out in its further report. A progress report was required by March 2015, and are expected to be required every two years thereafter.

This report is South Cambridgeshire District Council' second progress report. The further report of March 2013, and the progress report of March 2015 can be found at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/content/home-energy-conservation-act>.

New guidance to English energy conservation authorities on HECA was issued by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) in January 2017. This report takes into account this guidance, and is organised into five sections:

- A Introduction including baseline statistics relating to energy conservation in South Cambridgeshire
- B Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities
- C Measures in South Cambridgeshire that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy improvements of residential accommodation
- D Measures the Council 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 (eg social housing partners, voluntary organisations and town/parish councils)
- E A timeframe for delivery and national and local partners

## A Introduction

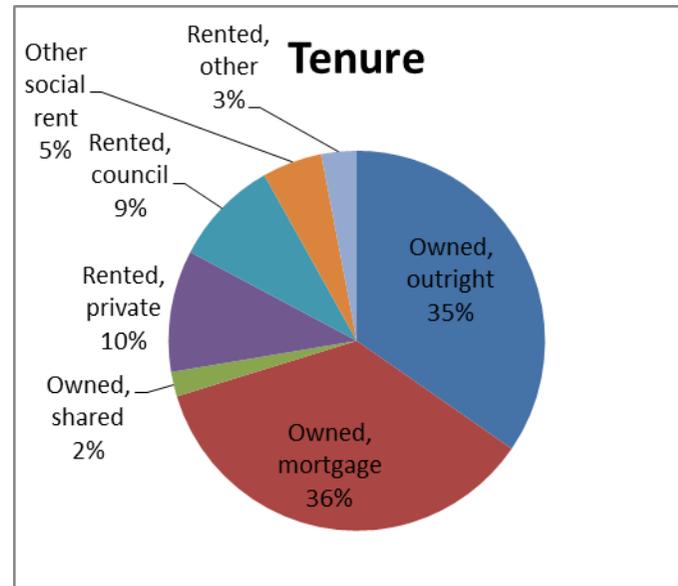
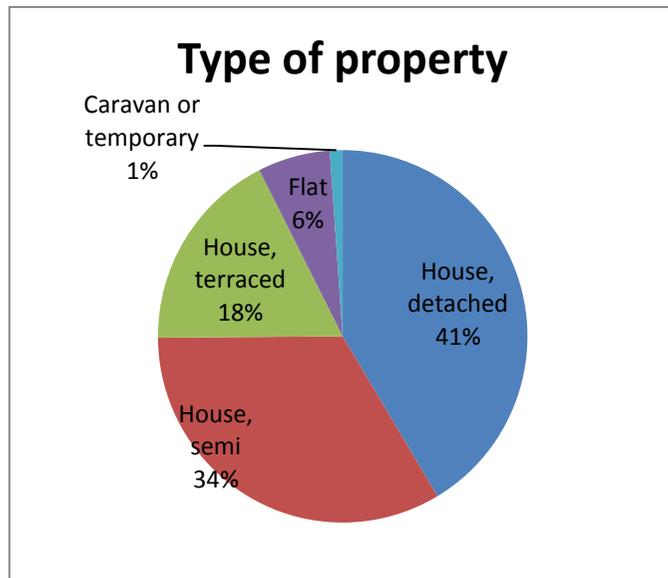
### The South Cambridgeshire Context

South Cambridgeshire is a mostly rural area, encircling Cambridge and including some of Cambridge's urban fringe. It comprises 105 village/parish-based settlements and covers 350 square miles of countryside.

It is an area of exceptionally high growth and prosperity with lower than average levels of deprivation, (ranked 316 out of 326 in the 2015 English Indices of Deprivation).

The population at mid-year 2015 was 154,900 and is projected to increase by almost 30% in the coming 20 years. (*Cambridgeshire County Council's 2015-based population forecasts by district is 200,480 by 2016*). The number of over 65s is projected to almost double from 24,800 in 2011 to 48,300 in 2036.

There are currently approximately 66,000 residential properties. The proportion of each type and tenure is shown in the tables below.

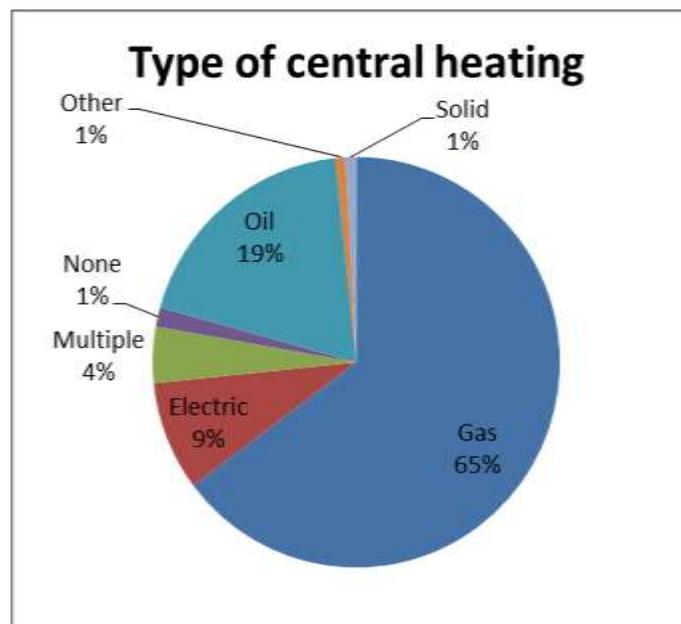
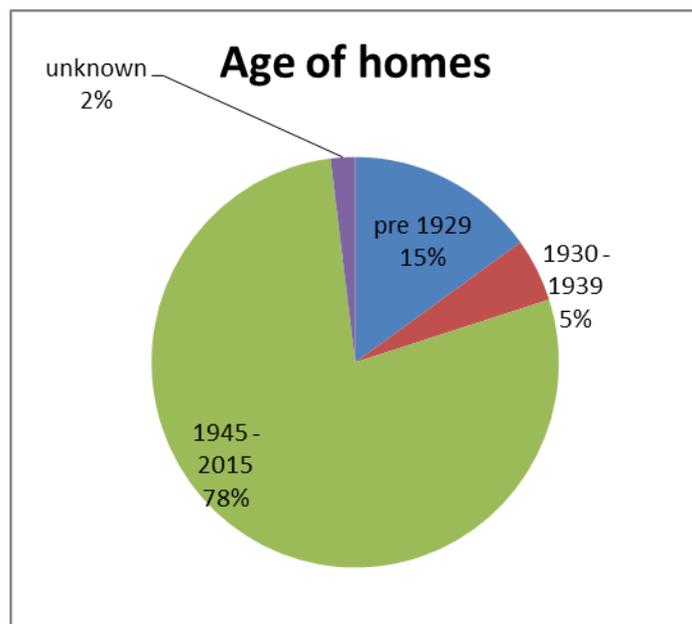


Source: ONS, taken from the Non gas map, created for Affordable Warmth Solutions in conjunction with BEIS.

South Cambridgeshire District Council owns and manages 5581 dwellings, including sheltered housing with communal facilities, flats with leaseholders and equity share properties. 292 of the properties are of non-traditional construction. There are also a further 104 properties owned by Ermine Street Housing, and 152 properties that are managed by Ermine Street Housing on behalf of the MoD.

The age profile of homes in South Cambridgeshire gives some information relating to energy performance, since it indicates likely wall construction. The heat retention of homes built with solid walls is typically significantly worse than that of homes built with cavity walls, especially where the cavities are insulated. Fifteen percent of homes in South Cambridgeshire were built before 1929 and these are likely to have solid walls. Five percent were built between 1930 and 1939, some of which are likely to have solid walls, and some cavity walls as increasing numbers of homes were built with cavity walls during this period. Seventy eight percent of homes were built since 1945 and are likely to have cavity walls (*source: Cambridgeshire Insight using data from the Valuation Office Agency*).

Heating costs are generally higher for homes not connected to the gas grid. Around one third of homes in South Cambridgeshire have no connection to the gas grid. The table below shows types of central heating (ONS 2011 census).



### Fuel Poverty in South Cambridgeshire

Households in fuel poverty face both lower incomes and higher energy needs compared to typical households. The current definition of a fuel poor household, (adopted by the government following the 2012 Hills Review), is one with

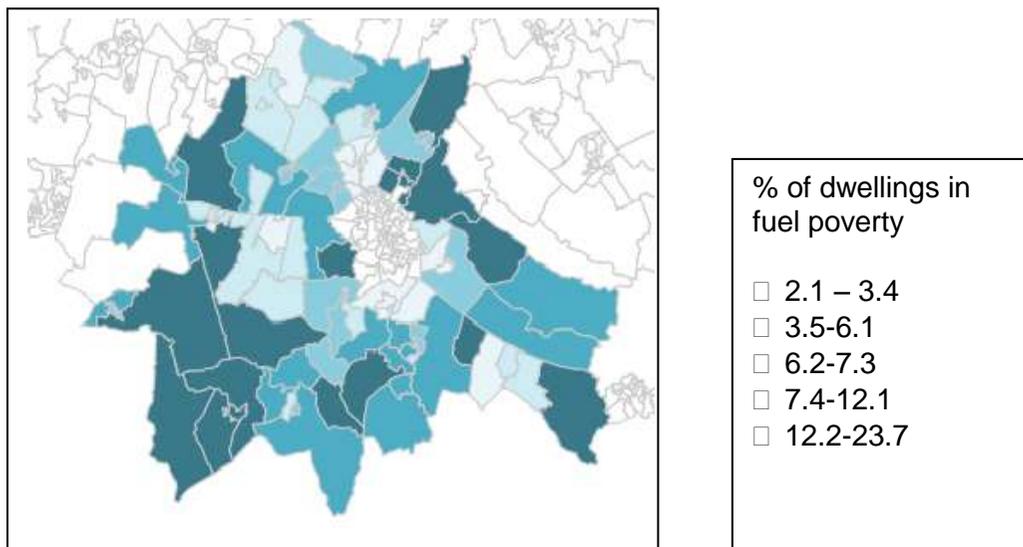
- An income below the poverty line (including if meeting its required energy bill would push it below the poverty line), and
- Higher than typical energy costs

Fuel poverty statistics are modelled by the government using data from the English Housing Survey (published annually) and other sources, eg the

2011 census. The table below shows figures for South Cambridgeshire from 2011 to 2014, with national figures included for comparison. (All figures have been calculated using the Low Income, High Costs definition of fuel poverty).

Year	South Cambridgeshire		England	
	Estimated number of fuel poor households	Proportion of households in fuel poverty	Estimated number of fuel poor households (000's)	Proportion of households in fuel poverty
2011	5,602	9.3%	2,390	11.2%
2012	4,326	7.3%	2,282	10.7%
2013	4,393	7.1%	2,346	10.6%
2014	4,870	7.9%	2,379	10.8%
2015	4,484	7.2%	2,502	11%

The figure below shows a spatial analysis of the fuel poverty rates in each LSOA (lower super output area) in South Cambridgeshire. The darker the area, the higher the proportion of fuel poor households. *Source: Cambridgeshire Atlas, Fuel Poverty*



## B: Local energy efficiency ambitions and priorities

### Ambitions and Priorities 2017 - 2019

#### Improvements to energy rating of Council owned residential accommodation

- The Council aims to improve its housing stock to the maximum possible energy rating through the use of efficient heating and effective insulation.
- In recent years, full advantage has been taken of funding streams for energy conservation measures, and the Council has installed a number of measures such as heat pumps, external wall insulation and solar photovoltaics with resulting improvement to the average SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) energy rating of Council properties from 60 in 2010 to the current level of 73. This compares with the average SAP rating for an existing dwelling nationally of 70 (June 2015).
- The breakdown of SAP ratings for the Council's housing stock is shown in the table below:

SAP	Total	%
11 - 20	4	0.08%
21 - 30	5	0.09%
31 - 40	15	0.28%
41 - 50	81	1.54%
51 - 60	606	11.51%
61 - 70	1655	31.42%
71 - 80	1309	24.85%
81 - 90	997	18.93%
91 - 100	592	11.24%
100+	3	0.06%
	5267	

- Unless other funding streams become available future programmes of work to improve energy performance will be undertaken as part of planned maintenance programmes. Work will include:
  - Increasing loft insulation to 300mm where it is currently below this level
  - Providing A rated energy efficient boilers when replacing boilers

- Replacement of old electric storage heating and underfloor heating with high heat retention storage heating systems and improved controls
- Providing triple glazed replacement windows
- Providing highly insulated composite front and rear doors
- Installing cavity wall insulation
- Installing external or internal insulation to solid walls

### **Support for owners of private sector accommodation to improve energy efficiency**

The Council will continue to participate in the cross county partnership, Action on Energy, and through this partnership, seek opportunities for county wide work to improve the energy efficiency of housing stock. This will include working up bids for funding from central government and other sources.

The Council will participate in the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Help to Heat flexible eligibility scheme which targets fuel poor households, especially those who are not in receipt of ECO eligible benefits or indeed, any benefits; and low income households that are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home. The Council will publish the Statement of Intent required by the scheme in which the Council will set out the criteria it intends to use to identify households meeting the eligibility criteria for flexible eligibility and will work with local installers to target appropriate households.

### **Support for community based action**

The Council will continue to develop and support community action on sustainable energy through a programme of work with partners in the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership (SPEP). This Partnership was established by the Council in 2009 and comprises parish councils and volunteer groups across the district. The current programme of work includes a Thermal Imaging Camera loan scheme to be relaunched in October 2017 and support for village based Open Eco Homes events.

### **Collective switching**

The Council will continue to promote Cambridgeshire Energy Switch using communication channels including the SouthCambs magazine, bi-monthly parish e-bulletin and social media accounts. Cambridgeshire Energy Switch is part of the Big Community Switch, an independent collective energy switching scheme allowing households to sign up without obligation, and energy suppliers to bid to supply the collective in reverse auctions held at regular intervals. Thirty one South Cambridgeshire residents switched following the auction in October 2016 and a further 11 switched following the auction in February 2017. The next auction is due to take place in October 2017.

### **Planning policies for new developments**

The Council is committed to ensuring that development delivered in South Cambridgeshire reduces greenhouse gas emissions and has the following policies in the emerging Local Plan to this end:

### **CC/3: Renewable and low carbon energy in new developments**

1. Proposals for new dwellings and new non-residential buildings of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more will be required to reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 10% (to be calculated by reference to a baseline for the anticipated carbon emissions for the property as defined by the Building Regulations) through the use of on-site renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
2. This could be provided through the installation of an integrated system or site wide solutions involving the installation of a system that is not integrated within the new building. For a site wide solution, evidence must be submitted demonstrating that the installation is technically feasible and is capable of being installed.
3. For growth and new settlements, site wide renewable and low carbon energy solutions that maximise on-site generation from these sources will be sought, such as renewable and low carbon district heating systems.

### **CC/5: Sustainable show homes**

1. On developments where a show home is being provided, a sustainable show home must be provided (either separately or instead of the show home) demonstrating environmentally sustainable alternatives beyond those provided to achieve the standard agreed for the development.
2. The sustainable alternatives can be purchased when a dwelling is bought off-plan and must be fully functional in the show home and positively marketed. Purchasers should be clear on where alternatives are available, why it is more sustainable and the cost of including the alternative.
3. It must be as practical as possible for the purchaser to buy the sustainable alternatives as to purchase the standard options and the environmentally friendly options must be offered at a price (including the cost of delivery and/or installation) that reflects the same profit margin to the developer as other standard buyer's options or extras.

## **C: Measures in South Cambridgeshire that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy improvements of residential accommodation**

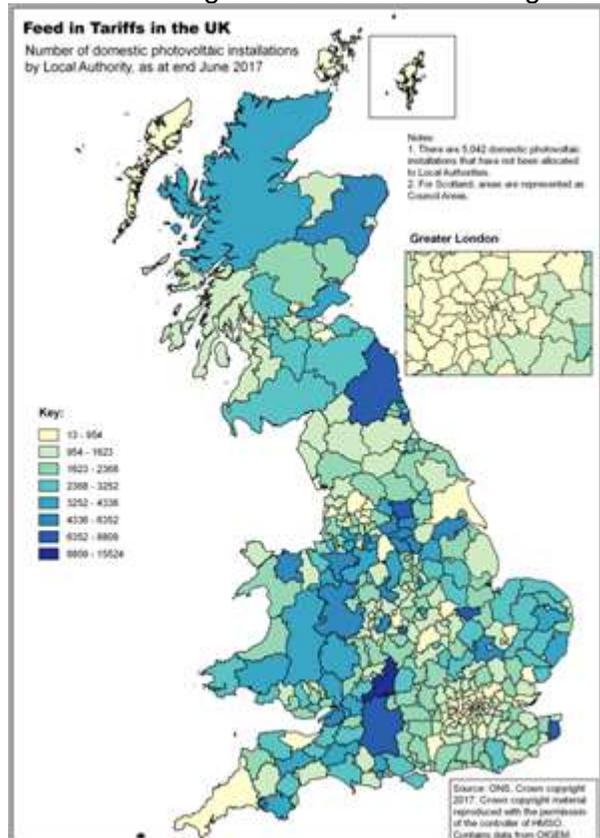
<b>Government initiative</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Green Deal Communities Fund</b>	<p>The Council is part of the cross county Action on Energy Cambridgeshire partnership, and through this partnership were successful in securing funding from the government's Green Deal Communities fund in March 2014. The funding comprised £5.6 million for part-funding and take up incentives for solid wall insulation, £2 million for other energy efficiency measures and incentives for the private rented sector, and £99,000 for training and other support for local SMEs and installer organisations with the aim of increasing local capacity to install solid wall insulation.</p> <p>The Action on Energy partnership had procured the services of a commercial partner, Climate Energy Ltd, prior to the successful bid. The</p>

Government initiative	Details																										
	<p>work was carried out initially by this company. However, in September 2015 Climate Energy Ltd went into insolvency and thereafter the work was carried out by a number of installer companies approved by the Action on Energy partnership.</p> <p><b>Fuel Poverty scheme</b></p> <p>In 2016 the government allowed the partnership to use some of the funding previously awarded for fully funded installations to households in fuel poverty. Unfortunately, despite concerted effort including letters and fliers to targeted households only one suitable household was recruited to the scheme. Reasons for poor take up included the short window of opportunity to apply to the scheme (12 weeks) and the fact that this was during the summer months.</p> <p>Outcomes:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 564 1189 948"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="2">Outcomes</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Overall</th> <th>S Cambs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of homes helped</td> <td>1200</td> <td>187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of measures installed</td> <td>1292</td> <td>195</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of solid wall insulation installations</td> <td>1093</td> <td>174</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of private rented properties helped</td> <td>205</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of fuel poor households helped</td> <td>51</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Value of Green Deal Communities funding spent (all costs)</td> <td>£6,209,846</td> <td>£987,406.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Value of household contribution</td> <td>£3,362,796</td> <td>£601,775.38</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Outcomes		Overall	S Cambs	Number of homes helped	1200	187	Number of measures installed	1292	195	Number of solid wall insulation installations	1093	174	Number of private rented properties helped	205	12	Number of fuel poor households helped	51	1	Value of Green Deal Communities funding spent (all costs)	£6,209,846	£987,406.66	Value of household contribution	£3,362,796	£601,775.38
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<p><b>Energy Company Obligation (ECO)</b></p>	<p>The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an energy efficiency scheme, introduced by the government in April 2013 to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. The scheme has been amended a number of times; currently the main obligations are the Carbon Emissions Reduction Obligation (CERO) under which, obligated energy suppliers must promote 'primary measures' including roof and wall insulation and connections to district heating systems; and the Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation (HHCRO), under which, obligated energy suppliers must promote measures which improve the ability of low income and vulnerable households to heat their homes. This includes actions that result in heating savings, such as the replacement or repair of a boiler. Between 2015 and March 2017, suppliers also delivered against an obligation called the Carbon Saving Community Obligation (CSCO) which required them to install insulation measures in properties in areas of low income households.</p> <p>The tables below shows the number of households in South Cambridgeshire who have benefited from energy efficiency measures supported by ECO funding as of the end of March 2017, and the number of measures installed, including by type of obligation. Figures from the other Cambridgeshire districts and for England are included for comparison.</p>																										

Government initiative	Details					
		Households in receipt of ECO measures				Households in receipt of ECO measures per 1,000 households
England	1,381,023				60.1	
Cambridgeshire	10,030				38.0	
Cambridge	1,397				28.4	
East Cambridgeshire	1,176				32.4	
Fenland	2,298				54.2	
Huntingdonshire	2,863				39.3	
South Cambridgeshire	2,296				36.3	
	Carbon Saving Target (CERO)	Carbon Savings Community (CSCO)	Affordable Warmth (HHCRO)	ECO measures installed	ECO measures per 1,000 households	
ENGLAND	731271	406,646	610,452	1,748,369	76.1	
Cambridgeshire	8532	1,058	2,385	11,975	45.3	
Cambridge	1127	276	172	1,575	32	
East Cambridgeshire	1103	62	212	1,377	37.9	
Fenland	1132	611	1,105	2,848	67.1	
Huntingdonshire	2737	105	699	3,541	48.6	
South Cambridgeshire	2433	4	197	2,634	41.6	
<b>Feed in tariffs</b>	<p>Feed-in tariffs is a scheme introduced by the government in 2010 to encourage uptake of a range of small-scale renewable and low-carbon electricity generation technologies.</p> <p>The table below shows the cumulative number of installations at end of June 2017 by installation type in South Cambridgeshire.</p>					

Photovoltaics		Wind		Hydro		Anaerobic Digestion		MicroCHP		Total Domestic	Total Non-Domestic	Total
Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total	Domestic	Total			
5488	5613	4	11	0	0	0	1	1	1	5493	133	5626

South Cambridgeshire has one of the highest levels of domestic photovoltaic installations per local authority, as seen on the map below:



Solar photovoltaic panels have been installed on the roofs of 2,086 Council owned homes to date allowing tenants in these homes to benefit from free electricity generated from the panels. The Council is open to opportunities to install panels on the remaining roofs. However,

Government initiative	Details												
	<p>following reductions to the feed in tariff there is currently no viable business model which would enable this.</p> <p><b>Community Solar Panels Bulk Purchase schemes</b>  Volunteers from the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership, which was initiated and is supported by the Council, have organised two schemes for the bulk purchase of solar panels. A total of over 100 households purchased solar panels through the two schemes.</p>												
<b>Renewable Heat Incentive</b>	<p>The domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) was introduced in April 2014 to encourage a switch to renewable heating systems in the domestic sector. It followed the earlier introduction of the non-domestic RHI in November 2011.</p> <p>The table below shows the cumulative total of installations supported by the RHI in South Cambridgeshire as of July 2017. Figures for other districts in Cambridgeshire are included for comparison.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="344 603 1547 815"> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Cambridgeshire</b></td> <td>976</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cambridge</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Cambridgeshire</td> <td>127</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fenland</td> <td>164</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Huntingdonshire</td> <td>173</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Cambridgeshire</td> <td>472</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Council has worked with volunteers in the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership to promote renewable heating systems. A public meeting to this end was held in April 2015.</p>	<b>Cambridgeshire</b>	976	Cambridge	40	East Cambridgeshire	127	Fenland	164	Huntingdonshire	173	South Cambridgeshire	472
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<b>Warmer Homes, Healthy People Fund</b>	<p>The Council worked with Cambridgeshire County Council, other local councils and voluntary organisations in 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 to deliver energy efficiency advice and replacement boilers for owner occupiers over the age of 65, funded through the government's Warm Homes Healthy People fund.</p> <p>This government fund has been discontinued. However, the Council continues to work with Cambridgeshire County Council, other district councils and local voluntary organisations to promote staying warm and well in winter. The Council is represented on the Stay Well Steering Group which runs a Stay Well information campaign and oversees grants of up to £300 for vulnerable individuals/families living in Cambridgeshire facing fuel poverty to contribute towards future heating costs. (Individuals must be referred by an organisation (voluntary sector or local authority) that has assessed the individual's circumstances and can verify that they are in need of immediate assistance). In 2016/17 grants from the fund were awarded to 46 households in South Cambridgeshire.</p>												

**D:** Measures the Council 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 (eg social housing partners, voluntary organisations and town/parish councils)

**E:** A timeframe for delivery and national and local partners