

# HECA Report 2021 Questions

Submission deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Note: All questions have a 4000-character limit (Approx. 500 words)

## Introductory Questions

Name of Local Authority

Ryedale District Council

Type of Local Authority

District Council

Name, job title and email address of official submitting report

Serena Williams

Senior Environmental Health Officer

## Headline and Overview

**Does your Local Authority have a current strategy on carbon reduction and/or energy efficiency for domestic or non-domestic properties?**

No – our Private Sector Housing Action Plan, which covers carbon reduction and energy efficiency, has recently expired.

**If yes, please provide a link**

N/A

**If no, are you planning to develop one**

Yes – we are in the process of developing a new Private Sector Housing Action Plan and are currently working with neighbouring Councils to develop a North Yorkshire wide strategy covering carbon reduction and energy efficiency for the period 2021-24. RDC has also declared a Climate Emergency.

**What scheme(s) is your Local Authority planning to implement in support of energy saving/carbon reduction in residential accommodation properties in the next two years?**

Over the next two years RDC plans to deliver and/or support the following schemes:

Ryedale Energy Saver – blending ECO with Council grants to fund heating and insulation upgrades in fuel poor households.

North Yorks Warm Homes Fund – a targeted first time central heating scheme covering gas boiler systems and air source heat pumps in Ryedale, Scarborough, Hambleton and Richmondshire.

Ryedale LAD 2 (and 3) – helping low income households access fully subsidised insulation measures and low carbon heating.

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) – improving the energy efficiency of vulnerable off gas households.

Landlord loan and grant - financial support to help private sector landlords improve the energy efficiency of their housing stock.

Gas Safety Scheme - a tailored gas safety service to ensure vulnerable householders have a working and energy efficient gas boiler.

Choices4Energy - bespoke unbiased energy saving advice for residents across Ryedale and Scarborough.

Oil Buying Cooperative - working with Scarborough Borough Council to help residents in rural communities buy heating oil at competitive rates.

Collective Switch - helping residents switch their energy tariffs via the energy broker Ichoosr, who can source the cheapest deals through economies of scale.

**What has been, or will be, the cost(s) of running and administering the scheme(s), such as the value of grants and other support made available, plus any other costs incurred (such as administration) as desired.**

#### Administration

1.3 FTE officers support the delivery of our energy efficiency schemes (in partnership with Scarborough Borough Council) at an estimated cost of £45,000 per year. The Ryedale Energy Saver Scheme is managed by YES Energy Solutions, who take an annual project management fee of around £4,000. YES Energy Solutions also manage all the gas installations on the North Yorks Warm Homes Fund, whereas Communitas Energy CIC manage all heat pump installs. Both organisations claim an administration fee which is paid out of external funding.

#### Grants

Nearly £155,000 of funding was distributed from a variety of sources including ECO, the Ryedale Home Improvement Grant and the Warm Homes Fund.

Loans – Over £4,500 was provided to eligible households through the Council’s innovative borrowing facility

Energy advice – Around £26,000 was spent via our Choices4Energy and Warm & Well programmes.

Future schemes – the following capital will be made available over the next two years (subject to continued funding):

LAD2 funding: Just under £430,000 to spend by December 2021.

Home Improvement Grant: £72,000

Home Improvement Loan: £75,000

Landlord Grant and Loan: £120,000

£17,000 allocated to our Gas Safety Scheme alongside Scarborough Borough Council

£45,000 allocated to the Choices4Energy alongside Scarborough Borough Council

Around £100,000 allocated to the North Yorks Warm Homes Fund for gas central heating and £192,500 for heat pumps in Ryedale.

**What businesses, charities, third sector organisations or other stakeholders do you work with to deliver the scheme(s)?**

- Age UK
- Carers Resource
- Carter Jonas
- City of York Council
- Community First Yorkshire
- Elder Persons Forum
- E.ON
- Hambleton District Council
- Ichoosr
- Margaret Davies Estate Agents
- Mid-North Yorkshire Citizen Advice (Warm & Well Team)
- National Energy Action (NEA)
- North Yorkshire County Council
- Northern Gas Networks
- R Yates & Sons Ltd
- Richmondshire District Council
- Scarborough Borough Council
- Whitby, Scarborough & Ryedale Disability Action Group
- YES Energy Solutions
- Yorkshire Housing

**What has been, or will be, the outcome of the scheme(s)? These outcomes could include energy savings, carbon savings, economic impacts such as job creation and/or increased business competitiveness or societal impacts such as alleviation of fuel poverty and/or improved health outcomes etc.**

Ryedale Energy Saver – 31 energy efficiency measures were funded over the last two years with average fuel bills savings of £250 per property. We estimate similar results for the next two years.

North Yorks Warm Homes Fund – 21 households in Ryedale have receive gas central heating with estimated savings of around £12,400 per property over the lifetime of the measures. We anticipate that a further 40 properties will receive support.

Ex Forces Discretionary Repair Scheme – 6 households received an energy saving home improvement. This scheme has now closed.

Gas Safety Scheme – 6 households received gas safety work including boiler services, upgrades and replacements.

Warm and Well North Yorkshire – 31 households received energy advice and referrals to wider support groups. This scheme has now closed.

Health Through Warmth – 5 households received a heating measure part funded by Npower. This scheme has now closed.

Choices4Energy – 122 residents received energy saving advice.

Oil Buying Cooperative – 154 households registered on the scheme, accessing heating oil at a lower rate.

Collective Switch – 5,139 households registered on the scheme and received energy saving advice, with approximately 30% switching to a lower energy tariff as a group.

Forthcoming schemes:

Ryedale LAD 2 – we intent to upgrade a minimum of 35 energy inefficient homes through our LAD2 allocation.

Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) – we intent to use this funding stream to further support our fuel poverty alleviation drive.

Landlord loan and grant – we anticipate that around 5-10 landlords will access support and improve their homes to band D or above.

## Communications

**Does your Local Authority provide any advisory services to customers on how to save energy?**

Yes

**If yes, please briefly outline how this is undertaken.**

An Energy Advisor from White Rose Home Improvement Agency is employed to provide tailored energy efficiency advice to residents across Ryedale and Scarborough as part of our Choices4Energy service.

YES Energy Solutions, who manage the Ryedale Energy Saver Scheme, have a team of advisors who have undertaken specialist training to provide bespoke energy saving advice over the phone, via homes visits and at events.

Energy tips and scheme information is also disseminated to residents via the environmental section of our website, social media channels, printed leaflets and via display screens in the waiting area of our head office.

**How do you communicate or encourage energy saving amongst domestic consumers and/or local businesses?**

RDC communicates the benefits of energy efficiency to householders and local businesses by:

Working with specialist external organisations (e.g. YES Energy Solutions) who undertake a range of targeted marketing activity.

Running forums and events, engaging householders, landlords and small businesses.

Emailing key stakeholders and highlighting the latest funding opportunities.

Distributing press releases and newsletters.

Providing relevant information in the environmental section of the Council's website.

Social media updates.

Encouraging front line staff and other public sector service providers to share information on our energy saving schemes.

### Local Green Supply Chain

**Have you made any assessment, or undertaken any analysis of the existing capacity in your local energy efficiency retrofit supply chain to support the decarbonisation of buildings by 2050? If Yes, please summarise the outcomes.**

Although no formal assessment has taken place, RDC works closely with neighbouring authorities and North Yorkshire County Council to analyse the local supply chain. The capacity of local installers is discussed at our regular consortium meetings where we review current and future energy efficiency schemes. We know that there are barriers to procure accredited contractors in a fair and timely manner, and this has become more prevalent since the announcement of LAD funding where the swift mobilisation of contractors is essential to meet delivery deadlines.

**What actions are you taking, if any, to upskill and/or grow the local energy efficiency installer supply chain? This could include the facilitation of training, and local installer networking opportunities.**

We are in discussions with North Yorkshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities in regards to developing a North Yorkshire installer framework. If implemented, the framework will enable Councils to procure quality contractors and delivery partners quickly and efficiently. Should a framework be established, we would promote the opportunity to current partners and across the wider installer market. This would include inviting local contractors based in and around Ryedale to register and submit a tender response.

**What actions are you taking, if any, to promote energy efficiency and the installer supply chain to consumers, and encourage households to consider energy retrofit?**

RDC promotes all active energy efficiency schemes through a variety of communication channels including our website, social media platforms and written media. These communications also promote the delivery partners and installers we work with. We also endorse the marketing of our delivery partners when driving activity in our area (providing the use of the materials has been authorised by the Council ahead of distribution).

**If no action is taking place in either of these two areas, please let us know of any barriers you have encountered.**

N/A

**How effectively is your LA able to engage (Trustmark/PAS2035/PAS2030 certified) installers?**

The majority of the energy efficiency schemes we are involved in require installers to be PAS and Trustmark accredited, such as LAD and ECO. Therefore, for the delivery of these schemes we are only working with organisations that hold these accreditations. RDC has established strong working relationships with a small group of industry accredited delivery partners. Over the last two years there has not been a requirement to source any additional contractors. However, with the introduction of new funding streams such as LAD, we are now looking at the wider market. This includes utilising portals such as Fusion21 to source installers. We are also an advocate for a new North Yorkshire installer framework to support future schemes which will hopefully be implemented later in the year.

**Do you have any plans to develop policies or initiatives in this space over the next five years as part of supporting your local decarbonisation efforts?**

Yes – we are working with North Yorkshire County Council to design and implement a new Energy Efficiency and Climate Change strategy which will include engaging and motivating the local supply chain. RDC is also in the process of producing a new Private Sector Housing Action Plan which will also address decarbonisation and developing local green supply chains.

## Social Housing

**What action, if any, has your LA taken to install energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures in social housing? Have these been installed to a satisfactory quality? What actions (if any) have your social housing partners taken?**

Historically RDC has focussed mainly on improving the energy efficiency of private sector properties. This is because RDC is not a Social Landlord and does not own or let out any domestic properties. There are Social Housing providers with properties in Ryedale, but we do not have any direct involvement in their retrofit activities. We do however have links to these Housing Associations and are able to discuss energy efficiency opportunities with them as and when they arise. For example, we are likely to engage more with Social Landlords once further details of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund have been released.

**Do you have easy access to the information/knowledge within your organisation that you would expect to need for social housing retrofit projects? (e.g. stock condition; property data; approach to procurement; alignment with existing internal maintenance/upgrade plans; tenant engagement and management plans; costings)**

No – but this could potentially be collected from Social Landlords if there was ever a requirement to do so.

**If no, would it be easy/difficult to obtain this information?**

This would depend on how willing each Social Landlord is to share data with RDC and if they wanted to take part in a Council backed energy efficiency scheme.

**Have you experienced any challenges to retrofit, including during any previous government schemes you have taken part in (e.g. supply chain, funding, tenant cooperation, mixed tenure, split incentive, policy clarity, etc)? Please provide some detail. Have social housing partners reported any challenges to retrofit?**

The majority of the funding streams we manage or incorporate into our projects relate to private sector properties, so there have been limited opportunities to involve Social Housing providers to further our energy efficiency drive. However, there has been occasions where we have approached Housing Associations to discuss potential schemes (such as when we were designing a proposal for the Warm Homes Fund) but no formal relationship was ever established. The scope of our future involvement with Social Housing providers will be governed by what is set out in the forthcoming North Yorkshire Housing Strategy.

**How does your LA currently/how will your LA in future plan to go about identifying suitable housing stock and measures for retrofit? How do social housing partners identify suitable stock? By the same measures or via a different method?**

RDC work with specialist delivery partners to help identify suitable housing stock that require retrofit measures. These organisations use a variety of techniques to locate suitable properties including analysing EPC data, using mapping software and reviewing housing surveys and reports. We are unsure to what methods Social Housing providers in our area use when identifying retrofit upgrades, but would imagine they take a similar approach.

**What considerations would make you more or less likely to apply for government funding? If known, what is the opinion of your social housing partners?**

RDC's internal capacity to support a Social Housing scheme would be the main consideration to whether or not we would apply for any government funding. We would need to fully understand our role and responsibilities before agreeing to partake in any such venture. We would also need to fully understand the level of funding, the criteria involved and how viable a Social Housing scheme would be. This would include the appetite and commitment of Social Housing providers in the area. It is likely that RDC will continue to focus on support for private sector households, but we would still highlight any suitable funding opportunities to Housing Associations as and when they are announced.

**To what extent are social housing tenants willing or unwilling to undergo retrofit, and what are the barriers and facilitators to their participation? If known, is this the same opinion across all social housing tenants or is it different with HA and ALMO tenants?**

We do not hold any relevant data on the uptake of retrofit measures in Social Housing. This is mainly because we do not own any housing stock and our policies are tailored to supporting vulnerable residents in private sector accommodation.

**Does the approach to retrofit change for leaseholders in mixed tenure blocks? What encourages them to co-operate?**

We have not supported any Social Housing schemes over the last two years, so have no data to enable us to answer this question.

**Domestic Private Rented Sector (PRS) Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards**  
**Is your authority aware of the PRS Minimum Efficiency Standards regulations requiring private rentals in England and Wales to meet a minimum energy performance rating of EPC Band E as of April 2020, unless a valid exemption applies?**

Yes

**Which team within your authority is responsible for, leading on enforcement of the PRS minimum standard? Please provide the contact details of the person leading this team.**

Housing Services

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**What method or methods does your authority use to communicate with landlords and tenants about the standards and other related issues?**

RDC maintain a full contact list covering landlords, estate agents and letting agents. We disseminate information to these businesses on a regular basis. We also host an annual landlord forum, which includes presentations on the latest legislation as well as our landlord energy efficiency loan programme. Training events are also implemented throughout the year, helping landlords to understand their duty of care and rights under MEES. Information relevant to landlords is also displayed on our website.

**What barriers, if any, does your local authority face enforcing these regulations (e.g. identifying non-compliant properties/landlords, budgeting/resourcing, any legal issues)?**

The main barrier is our limited internal capacity to engage non-compliant landlords and enforce the regulations. We only have a small team that is responsible for all aspects of housing services including MEES. Conflicting priorities make it increasingly difficult to police landlords properly.

**Do you directly target landlords of EPC F and G rated properties to enforce these regulations? If yes, how? If no, please explain.**

No - all landlords, regardless of the standard of their housing stock, are provided with information on energy efficiency options and their legislative requirements. We don't just focus on the worse cases. We do however, put enforcements in place when we have identified a private rented property that does not meet MEES criteria.

Some active targeting is carried out. For example, some of our projects include private rented accommodation and focus on properties in lower EPC bands (i.e. North Yorks Warm Homes Fund).



## Financial Support for Energy Efficiency

*Where possible, please set out your answers to the following questions by tenure (owner occupied, privately rented, or social housing).*

**What financial programmes, if any, do you have to promote domestic energy efficiency or energy saving? If applicable please outline the budget (and % of the budget that is used), where such funding is sourced and where it is targeted.**

Owner occupied financial support:

Ryedale Energy Efficiency Grant

Annual Council fund dedicated to reducing fuel poverty

Budget 19-21: £72,000

Utilised: 64% - Around £46,500 distributed

Fund continuing with a budget of £72,000

Ryedale Home Improvement Loan

A low cost Council backed finance package

Budget 19-21: £150,000

Utilised: 1.5% - Around £2,500 distributed

Fund continuing with a budget of £150,000

Gas Safe Hardship Fund (for boiler services and upgrades)

Secured through the gas safety charity FILT

Budget 19-21: £19,000

Utilised: 100% (alongside Scarborough Borough Council) – around £1,300 allocated in Ryedale

Fund continuing with a budget of £17,000

ECO funding

Sourced through YES Energy Solutions who have contracts with a range of obligated Energy Companies

Around £44,000 allocated to homeowners

Fund continuing

Choices4Energy (energy advice and home visits)

Funded through Ryedale District Council and Scarborough Borough Council

Budget 19/21: £52,700

Utilised: 100% (alongside Scarborough Borough Council) – around £17,500 allocated in Ryedale

Fund continuing

Disabled Facility Grants (Ex Forces Discretionary Repair Scheme)

Sourced through the MoD Aged Veterans Fund

Budget 19-21: £6,000

Utilised: 100% (alongside Scarborough Borough Council) – around £1,000 allocated in Ryedale

Fund concluded

Health Through Warmth

Provided by Npower where 50% of central heating install costs are covered

Around £3,500 allocated

Fund concluded

Warm and Well North Yorkshire (single point of contact for energy and wellbeing services)  
Secured through North Yorkshire County Council  
Budget 19-21: £25,000  
Utilised: 100% (alongside Scarborough Borough Council) – around £9,000 allocated in Ryedale  
Fund concluded

Private rented financial support:

ECO funding  
Sourced through YES Energy Solutions who have contracts with a range of obligated Energy  
Companies  
Around £3,000 allocated to private renters  
Fund continuing

Landlord Grant and Loan  
Budget 19-21: £120,000  
Utilised: 0% for energy efficiency measures / 12% on home adaptations  
Fund continuing with a budget of £120,000

Social housing financial support:

None

**What future investment for energy efficiency or low carbon heat measures do you have planned, and when are these investments planned for?**

RDC plans to invest or secure further funding for energy efficiency schemes:

Ryedale Energy Efficiency Grant - £72,000 of Council capital has been ring-fenced for the next two years. We estimate that this will support around 50 energy efficiency measures.

Ryedale Home Improvement Loan - £150,000 has been allocated to support owner occupiers who do not meet our energy efficiency grant criteria. This is likely to support heating system upgrades.

Landlord Grant / Loan – £120,000 is available to eligible landlords in Ryedale for property upgrades including energy efficiency measures.

ECO – we plan to work with YES Energy Solutions to enable eligible householders to access ECO funding which can be blended with our Council grants and loans. We envision that around 100 households in Ryedale will benefit from ECO funding over the next two years.

LAD 2 – Around £430,000 has been allocation for Ryedale of which we plan to use to improve a minimum of 35 energy inefficient households with insulation and low carbon heating measures.

**Fuel Poverty**

**Does your Local Authority have a Fuel Poverty Strategy?**

No – our former Private Sector Action Plan covered our strategy for fuel poverty, but this expired in April 2021. We are in the process of developing a new 4 year plan.

**What steps have you taken to identify residents/properties in fuel poverty? What blockers, if any, have there been in identifying households in fuel poverty?**

Fuel poverty alleviation is our primary focus and is at the heart of all of our energy efficiency schemes. The eligibility criteria for every scheme is tailored around residents with low household incomes and high energy costs.

RDC work with specialist delivery partners to identify fuel poor households. They do this by analysing and comparing a range of data sets including EPCs and fuel poverty statistics at a Council and LSOA level.

The main blocker we have encountered is locating fuel poor households in more isolated communities. Ryedale is predominately rural with villages spread-out across a large geographical area. It can be difficult to drive fuel poverty schemes when eligible households are sparsely space out as this prevents economies of scale.

**How does fuel poverty interlink with your local authority's overall Carbon Reduction Strategy?**

Fuel poverty alleviation will be at the centre of our forthcoming Private Sector Action Plan and will fully interlink with our strategy for reducing carbon emissions in Ryedale. It will also be the primary consideration for the North Yorkshire Housing Strategy which will continue to priorities vulnerable residents as part of any approaches to domestic carbon reduction.

Almost all of our energy saving schemes are aimed at supporting vulnerable householders who struggle to afford to heat their homes to an acceptable temperature.

The White Rose Home Improvement Agency, that covers both Ryedale and Scarborough, is completely focussed on supporting the fuel poor - maximising health and wellbeing benefits through energy efficiency advice and interventions.

Our drive to alleviate fuel poverty prompted us to work with specialist external partners such as YES Energy Solutions, who are now an integral part of our engagement strategy, where we utilise their expertise to effectively locate and support the most vulnerable residents.

**Please highlight any fuel poverty issues specific to your area.**

Although Ryedale could be considered an affluent area compared to more urban Local Authorities in Yorkshire, there are still pockets of fuel poverty. This tends to be in our urban centres and in private rented accommodation. However, Ryedale still has high levels of rural fuel poverty with many low income residents residing in older properties passed down family lines. We also have an older population with a high proportion of retired residents.

**What measures or initiatives have you taken to promote fuel cost reduction for those in fuel poverty? Include information on partnerships with local businesses or energy providers you have.**

The majority of our schemes are fuel poverty alleviation initiatives. When promoting these schemes we focus heavily on the benefits of energy efficiency including fuel cost reduction. This involves highlighting likely bill savings for different measures using reputable sources such as the Energy Saving Trust. This information is displayed on project webpages, leaflets, letters and social media posts.

Residents that enquire about our schemes are signposted to our delivery partners that offer bespoke advice on indicative bill savings and pay back periods for different energy efficiency measures. All external advisors have completed specialist training such as the City and Guilds Level 3 Award in Energy Awareness.

We also help residents find the best energy deals. Our Collective Switching and Oil Buying schemes with Scarborough Borough Council are key examples of specific activity focussed on helping vulnerable residents reduce their energy bills through the best tariffs.

### **Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery**

*Of the £2bn Green Homes Grant scheme introduced in summer 2020, £500m was assigned for Local Authority Delivery (LAD). LAD enables Local Authorities to bid for grant funding to support low income households in their area with energy efficiency and low carbon heating upgrades. £200m was made available through Local Authority grant competitions in 2020, known as phases 1A and 1B and £300m was allocated under Phase 2 between the five regional Local Energy Hubs.*

#### **Has your Local Authority Participated in GHG: LAD?**

LAD 2

#### **If yes, please indicate which phase you participated in and briefly outline the project.**

We will be participating in LAD 2 and are working with North Yorkshire County Council and other neighbouring authorities on a joint scheme. Our funding proposal has recently been accepted by the North East Energy Hub and we have procured a new deliver partner.

#### **If no, please indicate what barriers prevented you from participation in the scheme.**

Procurement was the main barrier which prevented us from partaking in LAD 1A and 1B. We did not have the time or infrastructure to run a procurement exercise and source a delivery partner through fair competition, despite having similar contracts in place with organisations that could have supported a LAD scheme. This continued to be an issue for our LAD 2 proposal. We resorted to using an external framework to source a delivery partner. We will be collaborating with neighbouring Councils to deliver LAD schemes and share resources accordingly. This was another factor to why we didn't partake in LAD1A and 1B, as we didn't have the infrastructure set up in time.

#### **Would your Local Authority be in a position to manage the delivery of upgrades through a scheme such as LAD in 2022?**

Yes – but we would need to work closely with a delivery partner to manage the project and potentially interlink with other Councils in North Yorkshire.

#### **If yes, please indicate the anticipated number of homes that could be upgraded per year.**

This would depend on the capacity of our appointed delivery partner and contractors. We estimate that around 60 homes could be improved (based on initial conversations with relevant organisations).

**If no, please indicate what barriers would prevent you from delivering upgrades in your area.**

N/A

## **The Energy Company Obligation (ECO)**

*The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is an obligation on energy suppliers aimed at helping households cut their energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by installing energy saving measures. Following the Spring 2018 consultation, the Government set out in its response that ECO3 will fully focus on Affordable Warmth – low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households.*

*The ECO “Local Authority flexible eligibility” (LA Flex) programme allows LAs to make declarations determining that certain households in fuel poverty or with occupants on low incomes and vulnerable to the effects of cold homes, are referred to ECO obligated suppliers for support under the Affordable Warmth element of ECO.*

*LAs involved in the LA Flex programme are required to issue a Statement of Intent that they are going to identify households as eligible, and the criteria they are going to use; and a declaration that the LA has been consulted on the installation of measures in a home.*

**Has your local authority published a Statement of Intent (Sol) for ECO flexibility eligibility? (Y/N)**

Yes

***Please answer the following questions to help us to understand LA Flex delivery in more detail:***

**How many declarations were issued for low income vulnerable households?**

24 declarations have been issued (we are unable to breakdown by ‘low income / vulnerable’ and ‘fuel poor’).

**How many declarations were issued for Fuel Poor households?**

See above

**How many declarations were issued for in-fill?**

0

**What is the highest income cap published in your Sol?**

£30,000 (GROSS) in line with LAD criteria.

**If you have used an income over £30k gross, what reason have you given?**

N/A

**Do you charge for declarations to be signed? If so, please state how much?**

No – all declarations are processed through our delivery partner YES Energy Solutions.

## **Smart Metering**

**Please provide a brief statement outlining your current or planned approach to promote smart meter take up and supporting residents to achieve benefits.**

Despite recent improvements to Smart Meters, we have not actively encouraged residents to take them up. It is unlikely that any Council support will be allocated to the roll out of Smart Meters in our forthcoming Private Sector Housing Action Plan. This is mainly due to limited resources and other housing priorities. However, our delivery partners offer residents bespoke energy saving advice when qualifying them for our energy saving schemes. This not only involves discussing appropriate retrofit measures, but covers other elements of fuel reduction including the benefits of Smart Metering.

**Please provide further information on activities relating to smart metering, including but not limited to:**

- a. Integrating approaches to delivering energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation**
- b. Arranging for smart meters to be installed by energy suppliers in vacant social housing premises**
- c. Using social landlords to promote smart meter uptake**
- d. Including smart meters in landlord licencing schemes**
- e. Supporting residents who have had appliances condemned for safety reasons**
- f. Other supporting activities**

As highlighted above, prompting the roll out of Smart Meters is unlikely to be a priority in our forthcoming Action Plan. Therefore our activities in relation to this area will be limited.

However, we may support energy companies who are in the process of targeting and switching households to Smart Meters should we feel there are key benefits for our residents. This may include endorsing promotions and informing the public of the activity via our website and social media channels.

Furthermore, if our current delivery partners want to promote the roll out of Smart Meters in relation to any of our energy saving schemes, we will not oppose the activity and may lend our support, in a limited capacity, should it fit the objectives of our forthcoming Action Plan. This may involve integrated approaches when assessing households for measures (i.e. referrals for Smart Meter upgrades).

It is unlikely that we will get involved in any Smart Meter initiatives in Social Housing due to our limited involvement in the Social rented sector.

Private landlords will continue to be encouraged to make improvements to their rented properties through our MEES operation which may include offering advice on the benefits of Smart Meters.

## Future Schemes and Wider Incentives

**Please outline any further schemes or wider initiatives not covered above that your local authority has carried out or is planning to undertake to improve energy efficiency in residential accommodation.**

RDC is a key player in the promotion of energy efficiency throughout North Yorkshire and has helped bring other Local Authorities together under a common purpose. We were instrumental in helping set up the North Yorkshire joint Statement of Intent and Warm Homes Fund Scheme, introducing key stakeholders and encouraging neighbouring Councils to participate.

We are members of the North Yorkshire Winter Health Partnership - a group of proactive organisations including community groups, businesses and Local Authorities, with a shared drive to reduce fuel poverty and promote affordable warmth. Through regular meetings and idea sharing, we have strengthened our approach to energy efficiency (including the production of the North Yorkshire Winter Health Strategy) whilst tapping into the skills of experienced external partners that can add value to the Councils' collective offerings.

We are firm believers in 'strength in numbers' and know that the best results come through proactive collaborations. Being part of county wide programmes with multiple partners, such as LAD and the North Yorks Warm Homes Fund, not only helps us effectively identify households that can benefit from energy efficiency upgrades, but provides vulnerable residents with access to a host of other, valuable wellbeing services to help them improve their health and maximise their income.

The Energy Company Obligation scheme has been a core focus for Ryedale and we were one of early innovators to release a Statement of Intent to take advantage of the Flexible Eligibility mechanism. According to the latest Government statistics (Household Energy Efficiency National Statistics), 1,795 measures were delivered through the ECO programme in Ryedale up to the end of December 2020.

We plan to continue to collaborate with neighbouring Councils as well as external experts to maximise funding opportunities that support the reduction of fuel poverty across the whole district. We are also keen to review and improve the energy efficiency of our public assets and access funding to help reduce the Council's overall carbon footprint. This may include exploring the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.