

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

# Dorset Councils Draft Combined Progress Report March 2015

Progress Report for the Housing Authorities of Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council, and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, prepared pursuant to a request by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change using powers contained in Section 5 (1) (b) of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

## 1. Introduction

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) recognises local authorities' ability to use their position to significantly improve the energy efficiency of all the residential accommodation, including owner-occupied, privately rented and social housing, in their areas.

In July 2012 the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) published a request under HECA for all local authorities in England to report on the measures they propose to take to achieve this aim.

The guidance accompanying the request recognises that reports may have some commonality, and therefore a consortium of authorities may produce combined reports. Since Dorset District and Borough councils have been working together with local partners to improve the energy efficiency of local housing stock for a number of years, this is a logical and cost effective way to report on plans and progress.

The first of these reports, known as a Further Report, was published in March 2013 and is available at [www.dorsetforyou.com/.../Home-Energy-ConservationAct.../Dorset Councils Energy conservation Report March 2013.pdf](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/.../Home-Energy-ConservationAct.../Dorset_Councils_Energy_conservation_Report_March_2013.pdf) Progress Reports are to be published at two-year intervals after publication of the Further Report. This is the first Progress Report.

## 2. Recent progress

All Dorset Councils have endorsed the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan: This is being updated and the fuel poverty targets will be aligned with the new national targets and timescales. Home energy efficiency features in each authority's housing strategies and private sector housing survey reports. Dorset Councils' shared website, [dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com), features information on energy efficiency, fuel poverty, and sustainable energy, and provides links to other relevant organisations (see <http://www.dorsetforyou.com/energy>). Dorset councils have been actively promoting subsidised insulation offered by fuel suppliers, and have used match funding to enable the most cost-effective types of insulation to be installed free of charge in the homes of Dorset's most vulnerable residents, especially older residents and those with health issues exacerbated by cold and damp housing. Dorset Councils have successfully bid for funding from Foundations Independent Living Trust, Public Health Dorset, the National Lottery to supplement their own funding to develop and expand this work. Dorset councils Progress Report for the Housing Authorities of Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council, and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council, prepared pursuant to a request by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change using powers contained in Section 5 (1) (b) of the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

have also been at the heart of closer working and cooperation between the Housing Authorities, Public Health Authorities, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and Public Health England, and look forward to building on progress made to date.

## **2.1. Energy efficiency progress**

The average energy efficiency of Dorset homes is improving due to several factors. The most significant of these are:

- The construction of new homes, which are by law built to ever higher standards of energy efficiency, and to a lesser extent the demolition of older homes, which tend to be less energy efficient.
- Home improvements, such as double glazing and efficient new boilers. These are generally paid for by residents, landlords, or the Affordable Warmth element of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding.
- Insulation measures: The most cost effective measures are the installation of cavity wall insulation and loft insulation. Fuel suppliers have been subsidising insulation for a number of years to fulfil legal obligations placed on them, and Dorset councils have encouraged residents to take up the offer of subsidised insulation, and have match funded projects aimed at specific groups of residents, types of housing and tenure, and areas. The recent changes to ECO have ensured funding for these measures continues.

Table 2.1: Dorset homes insulated 2008-2012

Dorset Council	Homes in Location	Homes with Cavity Wall Insulation Installed 2008-2012	Percentage	Homes with loft insulation installed 2008-12012	Percentage
Christchurch	23,005	2,595	11%	2,729	12%
East Dorset	38,730	4,028	10%	4,879	13%
North Dorset	29,814	2,196	7%	2,504	8%
Purbeck	21,568	1,521	7%	1,948	9%
West Dorset	48,109	5,006	10%	5,066	11%
Weymouth and Portland	29,747	2,154	7%	2,035	7%
Total	190,973	17,500	9%	19,161	10%

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## Where are we now?

Although significant progress has been made in improving home energy efficiency, much remains to be done.

### 2.2. Fuel Poverty

From 2012, a new national indicator of fuel poverty is in use, the Low Income/High cost (LIHC) model, replacing the previous 10% income fuel poverty definition.

Table 3.1: Fuel poverty 2011/12

Dorset Council	Estimated number of households 2011	Estimated number of households in fuel poverty (10% indicator)	% of households fuel poor	Estimated number of households 2012	Estimated number of households in fuel poverty (Low Income High Cost indicator)	% of households fuel poor
Christchurch	21,365	3,181	14.9%	22,139	1,456	6.6%
East Dorset	37,300	5,098	13.7%	38,744	2,397	6.2%
North Dorset	28,229	4,656	16.5%	29,582	2,497	8.4%
Purbeck	19,512	3,149	16.1%	20,207	1,694	8.4%
West Dorset	43,910	7,603	17.3%	45,782	4,233	9.2%
Weymouth and Portland	28,930	4,154	14.4%	29,435	2,775	9.4%
Total	179,246	27,841	15.5%	185,889	15,052	8.1%

### 2.3. Public Health: Excess Winter Deaths

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Cold housing is a key contributing factor to excess winter deaths, which are mainly from respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Although the number of excess winter deaths varies widely from year to year depending on the severity of the winter weather and the severity of seasonal flu, the overall trend over the past few years is a gradual decline.

Table 3.2: Excess Winter Deaths 2008-2013

Dorset Council	Number of Excess Winter Deaths 2008-2009	Number of Excess Winter Deaths 2009-2010	Number of Excess Winter Deaths 2010-2011	Number of Excess Winter Deaths 2011-2012	Number of Excess Winter Deaths 2012-2013
Christchurch	10	30	30	10	40
East Dorset	60	50	40	50	90
North Dorset	60	70	10	20	30
Purbeck	30	30	20	40	10
West Dorset	110	70	10	90	130
Weymouth and Portland	80	30	20	60	30
Total	350	280	130	270	330

## **2.4. Domestic energy use**

Usage of gas and to a lesser extent electricity fluctuates depending on the need for heating in winter, but there is an overall trend for gradually decreasing levels of gas use, due to improvements in home insulation and heating systems.

Home gas bills cost Dorset residents approximately £100 million a year, electricity bills are similar.

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Table 3.3: Domestic gas use in 2005, 2010, and 2013

Dorset Council	Homes in Location	Average 2005 gas use per home (kWh)	Average 2010 gas use per home (kWh)	Average 2013 gas use per home (kWh)
Christchurch	23,005	17,467	13,830	12,571
East Dorset	38,730	20,536	16,268	15,061
North Dorset	29,814	17,707	14,011	12,811
Purbeck	21,568	17,247	13,575	12,276
West Dorset	48,109	16,636	13,249	11,808
Weymouth and Portland	29,747	15,985	12,263	10,955

Table 3.3: Domestic electricity use in 2005, 2010, and 2013

Dorset Council	Homes in Location	Average 2005 electricity use per home (kWh)	Average 2010 electricity use per home (kWh)	Average 2013 electricity use per home (kWh)
Christchurch	23,005	4,364	3,934	3,736
East Dorset	38,730	5,053	4,640	4,389
North Dorset	29,814	5,307	4,758	4,486
Purbeck	21,568	4,745	4,220	3,968
West Dorset	48,109	5,270	4,728	4,428
Weymouth and Portland	29,747	4,194	3,764	3,527

## 2.5. *Housing stock characteristics*

There are many types of housing across Dorset, most of which are found throughout England. There are three types of housing to which special consideration should be given:

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### **2.5.1. Early cavity wall construction**

Cavity wall construction was adopted relatively early in many parts of Dorset. This is important, as many organisations offering and advising on cavity wall insulation operate using a national “rule of thumb” that homes built before 1919 (and in some cases 1930) must have solid walls and therefore cannot have cavity wall insulation installed. This means that Dorset residents may be living in un-insulated homes because they have been incorrectly advised that their home has solid walls when it does in fact have cavity walls that can be cost-effectively insulated.

### **2.5.2. Park homes**

Park homes are found in several areas of Dorset, and pose special challenges. Recent fuel supplier-funded schemes have not usually covered park homes, although some work has been carried out by Dorset councils. Differences between park homes and conventional “bricks and mortar” homes include the legal status of park homes as “chattels” rather than real estate, the construction of the homes, and the distribution of gas and electricity to the homes frequently being in the hands of a licensed site owner rather than a regulated fuel supplier.

### **2.5.3. Vulnerable buildings**

Dorset has a rich heritage of historic buildings, including many which are listed.. Buildings of special character need special consideration to ensure that improvements in energy efficiency do not damage the building fabric or character. Some energy efficiency measures are inappropriate, although in many cases alternatives are available.

### 3. Action Plan

Action	Example	Timing	March 2015 Progress Update
i. Local Energy Efficiency Ambitions and Priorities			
	<p>Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council, and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council (Dorset Councils) have all endorsed and are working towards delivering the targets in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Energy Efficiency Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To achieve a 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020, relative to 2005, in line with national targets.</li> <li>• To seek to eliminate fuel poverty in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by 2016, specifically:</li> <li>• To work in partnership to achieve an average SAP rating of 65-70 in the housing stock by 2016</li> <li>• To ensure that there will be no dwelling with a SAP rating of 35 or less in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole by 2016</li> </ul> <p>Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council, and Weymouth and Portland Borough</p>	<p>2020</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2016</p>	<p>On track</p> <p>The Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan is to receive a five-year refresh in 2015. The refreshed fuel poverty targets will be based on the new national fuel poverty strategy, targets, and metrics</p>

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	<p>Council have also endorsed the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Renewable Energy Strategy, and Christchurch Borough Council, East Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council, and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council are working toward the target of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum of 7.5% of Dorset's energy needs (electricity, heat and transport) to be met from local renewable energy resources by 2020</li> </ul> <p>The Housing Authorities of Dorset, supported by Dorset County Council and local Health and Wellbeing Boards will work through the Dorset Energy Partnership and affordable warmth partnerships to meet these aims.</p>	2020	3.4% of total energy now comes from renewable sources, up from 0.95% in 2011.
ii. Measures we are taking to result in significant energy efficiency improvements of our residential accommodation			
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	<p>In order to maximise benefit to local residents and enable ECO delivery organisations to deliver the ECO as effectively as possible, partner local authorities will:</p> <p>Make access to all relevant housing data that is not personal data as simple and cost effective as possible. As a rule it will be made available free of charge on dorsetforyou.com and partner websites.</p> <p>Provide regularly updated information on home energy efficiency and central government initiatives including ECO Affordable Warmth, Carbon Saving Communities, and Carbon Saving</p> <p>Raise awareness of central and local government initiatives through local authority communications,</p>	<p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2013</p>	<p>All private sector house condition surveys available free of charge</p> <p>Relevant pages on dorsetforyou.com are regularly updated</p> <p>Articles regularly publish in both in-house publications and space</p>

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	<p>Signpost local residents to sources of ECO-funded energy efficiency measures</p> <p>Ensure competitive ECO-funded measures are available to local residents</p> <p>Signpost to relevant local and national sources of independent advice, such as Dorset Energy Advice Centre and the Energy Saving Advice Service</p> <p>Conduct regular reviews of the most suitable sources of signposting relevant advice</p>	2013 Annual ly	<p>in local magazines</p> <p>Online and offline resources signpost Dorset Energy Advice Centre and the Energy Saving Advice Service.</p>
Feed-in tariff (FIT)	<p>In order to maximise benefit to local residents and renewable energy businesses, partner local authorities will :</p> <p>Provide regularly updated information on domestic renewable energy and central government initiatives</p> <p>Signpost local residents to local and national sources of information</p>	2013  2013	<p>Printed and online information available</p> <p>Online and offline resources signpost Dorset Energy Advice Centre and the Energy Saving Advice Service</p>
Green Deal	<p>In order to maximise benefit to local residents and enable Green Deal Providers to deliver the Green Deal as effectively as possible, partner local authorities will:</p> <p>Make access to all relevant housing data that is not personal data as simple and cost effective as possible. As a rule it will be made available free of charge on dorsetforyou.com and partner websites.</p> <p>Provide regularly updated information on the Green Deal and alternatives for financing energy efficiency improvements.</p>	2013  2013 2013 2013	<p>All private sector house condition surveys available free of charge</p>

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	<p>Raise awareness of central and local government initiatives through local authority communications, Signpost local residents to local Green Deal providers and alternatives</p> <p>Produce clear planning guidance to local residents, especially concerning external wall insulation</p> <p>Consider a partnership with a Green Deal Provider if likely to be:</p> <p>Good for residents, leading to increased uptake of energy efficient home improvements</p> <p>Good for the local economy and businesses, leading to more local employment and economic activity</p> <p>Good for the partners, polishing the partners' reputations and contributing to the partners' resources.</p> <p>And unlikely to:</p> <p>Distort the market, leading to higher prices for residents and less work for local business,</p> <p>Damage the local economy, particularly local SMEs</p> <p>Damage the partner local authorities' reputations</p>	2014	<p>Online and offline resources signpost Dorset Energy Advice Centre and the Energy Saving Advice Service.</p> <p>Considered in 2013: Officers did not consider entering a formal partnership would be beneficial for Dorset councils or residents at that time. As of 31/12/2014 there were two live Green Deal Plans in Dorset. Residents are signposted to information on the Green Deal and cashback schemes.</p>
Renewable Heat Incentive and Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHI and RHPP)	<p>In order to maximise benefit to local residents and renewable energy businesses, partner local authorities will :</p> <p>Provide regularly updated information on domestic renewable energy and central government initiatives</p> <p>Signpost local residents to local and national sources of information</p>	2013 2014	<p>Printed and online information available</p> <p>Online and offline resources signpost Dorset Energy Advice Centre and the Energy Saving Advice Service</p>
Zero Carbon Homes	<p>In order to maximise benefit to local communities, partner local authorities will:</p> <p>Research the potential for partner or community-led</p>	2014	"Allowable Solutions" framework

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	“Allowable Solution” renewable energy projects Develop appropriate projects Implement appropriate projects	2015 2016	is not yet clear, councils are actively monitoring the evolving situation
EPCs	Partner local authorities will develop a business case for acquiring bulk EPC data	2014	Bulk EPC data acquired in 2013. An updated set may be acquired in 2015.
Private rented sector	In order to improve thermal comfort and energy efficiency for local residents in private sector rented homes, partner local authorities will continue to encourage private sector landlords to improve insulation and heating, especially by taking advantage of central and local government initiatives	2013	Dorset Councils encourage and signpost landlords on an on-going basis. Targeted match funded projects and enforcement action also improve energy efficiency.
iii. Measures we propose to cost effectively deliver energy efficiency improvements in residential accommodation by using area based/street by street rollout:			
	In order to maximise benefit to local residents, partner local authorities will: Evaluate potential for “free” insulation schemes in ECO Carbon Saving Communities areas Pilot potential schemes with delivery partner(s) Evaluate results and refine future projects based on learning	2013 2013 2014	Area-based approaches have proved no more cost effective than other approaches: Fuel poverty affects people, not areas. Latest DECC Fuel poverty strategy makes no reference to them.
iv. Timeframe for delivery and local and national partners:			
	Working with other Local Authorities: Share knowledge, experience, and best practice through Carbon Action Network (formerly HECA UK), National Energy Action, and Energy Efficiency Partnership for Buildings Explore opportunities for working more closely with neighbouring authorities	2013 2014	Dorset Councils attend and participate in regional and national networks on an on-going basis and are closely involved in the ever closer working between DECC and

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			Public Health England at national level, and between Public Health Dorset and Environmental health and Housing at a local level.
	Local partners: Continue to raise awareness of economic, social and health benefits of warm homes among partners including NHS and Local Economic Partnership	2013	Public Health Dorset is seeking to build on learning from previous Department of Health funded projects in Dorset, and work with Public Health England and DECC to ensure on-going projects contribute to the national knowledge base.
	Value of work: Investment needed from ECO Carbon Saving Communities: c.£60,000,000 Investment needed from ECO Affordable Warmth: c.£1,000,000 Investment needed from ECO Carbon Saving: c.£4,000,000		Data is not available on spend per administrative area but by 31/12/2014: 1,035 CSCO measures installed 1,628 Affordable Warmth measures installed 2,670 Carbon Saving measures installed

Review date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

Submission of progress report due: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015

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For Christchurch Borough Council and East Dorset District Council:

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SWH', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Name: Sean Whitney

Position: Public Health and Protection Manager

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015

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For West Dorset District Council, Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and North Dorset District Council:

Signature:  .....

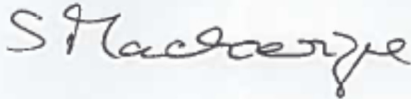
Name: Matt Prosser

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 8 JULY 2015 .....

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For Purbeck District Council:

Signature: 

Name: Steven Mackenzie

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 21.5.15

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