

Broadland Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel

Agenda

Members of the Broadland Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel

Cllr Ken Kelly (Chairman)
Cllr David Britcher
Cllr Adrian Crotch
Cllr Jan Davis
Cllr John Fisher
Cllr Natasha Harpley

Cllr Nigel Brennan (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Karen Lawrence
Cllr Grant Nurden
Cllr Sue Prutton
Cllr John Ward

Date & Time:

Thursday, 8 December 2022 at 6.00 pm

Place:

Council Chamber - Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, NR7 0DU

Contact:

Jessica Hammond, tel 01508 505298
Email: committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/>

Public Attendance:

If a member of the public would like to attend to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk, no later than 5.00pm Monday, 5 December 2022.

AGENDA

1. **To receive declarations of Interest from Members (guidance attached)** (Pages 3 - 4)
2. **To report apologies for absence and to identify substitute members**
3. **To confirm the minutes from the meeting of the Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel held on 20 October 2022** (Pages 5 - 10)
4. **Warm Homes Programme Update** (Pages 11 - 18)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote.

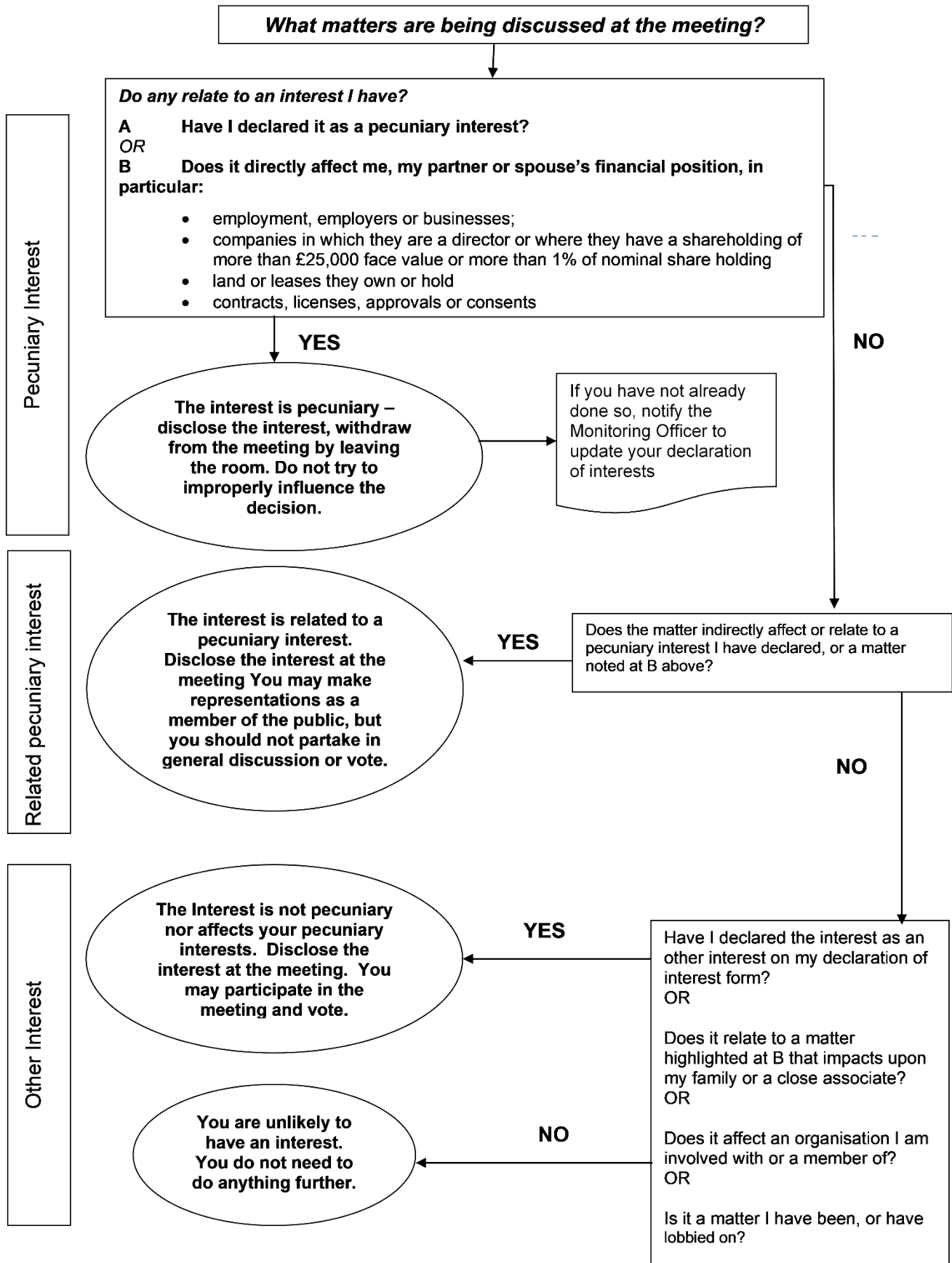
Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an other interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.

PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF





BROADLAND ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Broadland Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Thursday, 20 October 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: K Kelly (Chairman), N Brennan (Vice-Chair), A Crotch, J Davis, K Lawrence, G Nurden, S Prutton and J Ward

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: J Fisher

Substitute: Councillors: S Lawn (In place of J Fisher)

Cabinet Member in Attendance: Councillor: J Leggett

Officers in Attendance: N Howard (Assistant Director for Regulatory), A Sommazzi (Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager), K Burns (Environmental Coordinator) and J Hammond (Democratic Services Officer)

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from the following members:

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Cllr Davis	10 – Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan	Other Interest – Company Secretary for Norwich Community Solar
Cllr Nurden	10 – Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan	Other Interest – Accountant for an energy company

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Fisher, with Cllr S Lawn substituting.

8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Assistant Director for Regulatory introduced the report which presented to members the proposed new overarching Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Policy.

He explained that Housing Associations and the Police had been consulted as part of the development of the Policy and that both consultees were in support of the Policy. The Police had made three comments about operational working between the Council and the Police and, meetings had since been held to discuss these comments.

There was no legal or statutory obligation to put in place a formalised ASB Policy but as the primary agency responsible for dealing with ASB and exercising enforcement powers, it was felt that a formalised ASB Policy would clarify what communities could expect from the Council, and clarify how intervention/enforcement approaches would be pursued. In response to a query, the Assistant Director for Regulatory advised that there were currently two ASB and/or statutory nuisance cases being brought before the courts.

Members were advised that, if adopted, the proposed ASB Policy would:

- Be a new addition to the Council's broad policy framework.
- Set out the Council's principles and broad policy for ASB investigation, intervention and robust enforcement.
- Support both informal early intervention and efficient enforcement where it was needed.

A number of members raised concerns that the proposed policy and the Council's website were not clear on what residents could expect in terms of timescales and what action would be taken by the Council. The Assistant Director for Regulatory confirmed that officers were currently updating the Council's website with information covering these concerns. He further clarified that the early intervention approach meant the Council aimed to provide a doorstep response within 48 hours. It was noted that in a large number of cases, the expectation from residents was for the Council to talk to the offender as opposed to legal action such as enforcement notices or court cases.

In response to a query on the number of incidents reported, the Assistant Director for Regulatory explained that between the two Councils approximately 50 cases had progressed to enforcement. It was explained that officers had seen a 60-70% increase in the number of reported incidents compared to the previous year, which indicated that public tolerance was decreasing. The Assistant Director for Regulatory drew attention to the pilot scheme for an early intervention ASB officer and it was noted that the scheme had been effective with good levels of satisfaction from the public. However, as the pilot had only been funded for one year, the team was looking at how the scheme could be funded in the future.

One member queried whether there was a risk of the Council handling cases which should be dealt with by the Police. The Assistant Director for Regulatory advised that in reality, the Police were likely undertaking cases on behalf of the Council, especially in terms of out of hours calls. Members were informed that at present six Police officers were based within the Council's offices.

Discussion turned to the range of unacceptable activities which would be covered in the ASB Policy. It was noted that activities relating to bonfires and green fires was not covered within the policy. The Assistant Director for Regulatory explained that in the majority of cases it was the smell of the fire which impacted on residents in the first instance, and so cases would be dealt with under statutory nuisance powers.

Cllr J Davis left the meeting for the remainder of this item.

After further discussion, it was

RESOLVED

To recommend that Cabinet recommends to Council that it agree the adoption of the proposed Anti-social Behaviour Policy

10. ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN

Cllr J Davis returned to the meeting before the consideration of this item.

The Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager presented the report which outlined the changes made to the Environmental Strategy and invited the Committee to recommend to Cabinet the approval and adoption of the updated Environmental Strategy and associated Delivery Plan.

Members were reminded that the current strategy had been adopted in 2020. The strategy had been revised to include two new key commitments which were, the 2030 Net-Zero target for organisational emissions and a commitment to align to the Government's 2050 target for wider district decarbonisation.

Officers explained that a delivery plan had been created as a companion document to outline the activities which would take place over the next two years to support the two new commitments. The Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager informed members that the delivery plan would be published on the Council's website and continue to be updated regularly in line with local and national changes/requirements. In response to a question, officers explained that the delivery plan would be brought before the Committee twice a year to update members on specific measures and highlight any changes made.

Discussion turned to the objectives outlined within the strategy and delivery plan and the Environmental Coordinator explained that the Council intended to switch its energy supply to a certified renewable electricity tariff, which would help the Council to reach net zero by 2030 as it would enable the Council to remove electricity emissions from its carbon footprint.

One member requested clarification on Energy Performance Certificates (EPC). The Environmental Coordinator clarified that EPCs had to be obtained when a property was sold, rented out or when energy efficiency works were carried out. In Broadland 48% of properties held an EPC, 37% of which were rated as C or above. Members noted that the number of properties with an EPC would continue to increase year by year.

A question was raised as to how the NzC3 objective – *to embed a 'whole Council' approach to reducing carbon emissions by ensuring that all decisions take into consideration the issues presented by climate change*, would impact on planning decisions. The Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager advised that the Council would create a carbon literacy training board to ensure that service areas and decision making processes were onboard with the target to reach net zero by 2023.

The Committee discussed measures which could be put into place to promote sustainable travel planning and it was suggested that the Council investigate the reinstatement of rural bus routes and support the business case for the Postwick park-and-ride to be offered year-round as opposed to the current seasonal service. The Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager added that the Council would be implementing a lift-share scheme for officers.

A number of additions and alterations to the Environmental Strategy and Delivery Plan were suggested by the Committee, these included:

- The expected Nutrient Neutrality Strategy should be referenced within the plan;
- Inclusion of water meadows alongside wetlands, as these added value to flood defence measures, but were vulnerable to planning developments;
- Green roofs should be mentioned within the plan and highlighted as an option for residents and developers;
- Rainwater harvesting and wildlife gardens should be clearly referenced and promoted;
- The timescale for the 5% increase in the area of re-wilding on Council owned amenity land should be amended to 2024 in line with the timescale of similar measures.
- Officers were requested to consider the removal of references to the development of a financial package on page 76 of the report, as it was felt that the package would be a finance support measure not an environmental measure

After further in-depth discussion, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

That subject to the amendments requested at the meeting, the Environmental Excellence Policy Development Panel recommends to Cabinet that it:

1. Approve and adopt an updated Environmental Strategy (Appendix 1)
2. Approve and adopt the Delivery Plan (Appendix 2)

(The meeting concluded at 7.24 pm)

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda Item: 4
Environment Excellence Policy Development Panel
8 December 2022

Warm Homes Programme Update

Report Author(s): Karen Strandoo
Warm Homes Programme Manager
01603 430102
Karen.Strandoo@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Portfolio: Environmental Excellence

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of the Report:

This report provides the Panel with an overview of activities and outputs delivered by the Norfolk Warm Homes Programme lead by Broadland District Council (the Council) working in partnership with Norfolk Authorities, Clarion Housing and Saffron Housing Trust. Opportunities for further grant funding are also highlighted.

Recommendation:

1. Panel to note and support the ongoing activities of the Norfolk Warm Homes Programme with the aim of supporting residents living in fuel poverty through grant assisted improvements to increase thermal efficiency and provide renewable heating solutions to homes.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the outputs of the grant funded schemes delivered by the Warm Homes Programme and follows on from the report presented to the Committee on 14th April 2022.

1.2 The opportunity to apply for further government grant schemes aimed at improving the thermal efficiency and installing low carbon heating in low income households is also presented.

2. Background

2.1 The recent cost of living crisis, specifically the enormous rise in the costs of energy, has resulted in increasing numbers of people struggling to afford to keep their homes warm in winter. National Energy Action has reported that with average household energy bills reaching over £3,000 a year a predicted 8.2 million UK households will be in fuel poverty.

2.2 Data from the Government's published fuel poverty statistics reports that in 2020 an estimated 6,700 Broadland households were living in fuel poverty. In the context of increasing energy costs, rising inflation and wage stagnation this figure is predicated to significantly increase this winter to over 11,000 households rising still further into 2023 in line with national projections. See Figure 1

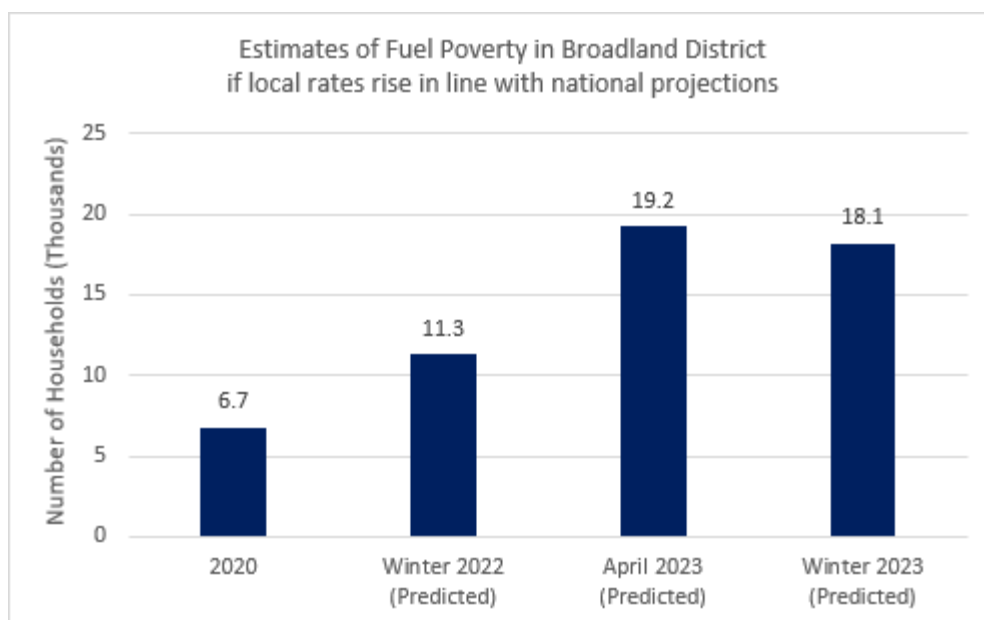


Figure 1 Estimates of fuel poverty

2.3 Living in cold homes can cause and worsen respiratory conditions, cardiovascular disease and dementia, as well as contribute to poor mental health and increased risk of hypothermia (Institute of Health Equity, 2022). Older people are particularly at risk and as 26% of Broadland residents are aged 65 or over, which is higher than average at both county and national levels (ONS, 2021) this cohort is likely to present increased risks from cold or damp homes, especially since and 9 out of 10 COPD-related deaths fall into this age category (British Lung Foundation, 2012).

2.4 The Building Research Establishment has estimated that the detrimental health effects of living in a cold homes costs the NHS over £857 million annually. (BRE *The Cost of Poor Housing in England*, November 2021).

- 2.5 As well as having detrimental effects on health and wellbeing cold leaky homes contribute to our carbon emissions through poor insulation and energy inefficient heating. About 30 million buildings in the UK are responsible for around 30% of our national emissions and the vast majority of these emissions result from heating. In 2019, the UK government set out a target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across the whole UK by 2050 and decarbonising buildings is central to that challenge and in order to support reaching our national targets we must look to insulating our homes and installing low carbon heating.
- 2.6 Initial grant funding from National Grid (Warm Homes Fund) enabled the Council to establish the Warm Homes Programme working in partnership with Norfolk Councils, to deliver insulation and first-time central heating (oil, LPG, gas and Air source heat pumps) to fuel poor Norfolk residents with no central heating. The funding also enabled the Council to provide one to one support to vulnerable households to help with income maximisation, fuel debt advice and information on saving energy and money.
- 2.7 Building on the establishment of the Warm Homes Programme, the Council, on behalf of Norfolk Councils, has been successful in securing three new tranches of grant funding through the Local Authority Delivery (LAD 1a and 1b) and the Sustainable Warmth (SW) Competition from Government. The aim of the funding is to deliver insulation and renewable heating solutions (Air Source Heat Pumps) to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, helping to reduce fuel poverty, phase out high carbon fossil fuel heating, and deliver progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.

3. Current position/findings

- 2.8 The Warm Homes Fund grant from National Grid ended in August 2022 with a total of 591 first time central heating systems installed with £2,230,491 of grant funding and an additional contributions of £2,524,196 from social housing partners, landlord contributions, local authority discretionary funds, Energy Company Obligation funds and charity contributions. The total amount of investment was £4,754,687. In addition a separate hardship grant of £165,000 was awarded to 80 low income private sector residents for boiler and central heating repairs and replacements.
- 2.9 At the end of August 2022, as part of the one to one support funded by National Grid, the Council has realised over £2m of financial benefits and savings to support over 600 low income/fuel poor households. In total the Council assisted over 2,800 households with heating, insulation, financial and energy saving advice and support.
- 2.10 A breakdown of the distribution of first time central heating across Norfolk local authorities is presented in Figures 1 and 2, Appendix 1.
- 2.11 Unlike National Grid funding which could support individuals on benefits, grant funding through the government funded schemes can only be awarded to households evidencing a total household income (gross) of less than £30,000 and

is focused on the poorest energy efficient household's with an Energy Performance Rating of D, E, F or G with the objective of raising the EPC by 2 bands. Therefore, in order to be eligible for grant funding the household must meet the income criteria and the fabric of the house has to be suitable for the measures.

- 2.12 The focus of both the LAD and the SW schemes is a fabric first approach meaning that homes must be suitably insulated before renewable heating solutions can be installed and so multiple measures for every home is often required to meet the grant criteria which also includes a cost cap per household.
- 2.13 The LAD 1a and 1b schemes have now closed with 188 measures, including loft, cavity wall and external wall insulation, high retention storage heaters and air source heat pumps being installed in 166 Norfolk homes. In total £1,228,590 of grant funding was awarded. This has prevented 300 tonnes of carbon emissions being emitted into the atmosphere which equates to 180 return flights from London to New York.
- 2.14 The Council is still delivering energy efficiency measures through the Sustainable Warmth scheme that is due to end on 31st March 2023. At the end of October 2022, £169,251 of grant funding has been spent for the installation of retrofit energy efficient measures in 40 homes.
- 2.15 In addition to the grant streams described above the Council, is working in partnership with Saffron Housing, to deliver £1.9m of grant funding through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund SHDF to install insulation and air source heat pumps in 126 social houses. The project started in February 2022 and will end March 2023.
- 2.16 The delivery of the short term Government grants has proved challenging with constraints in the supply of materials for insulation and renewable heating units and shortages of skilled labour. The Council has sought to mitigate these problems by accessing more installers through national and local frameworks.
- 2.17 In total across all funding streams, the Council has invested over £6.1 m in improving 795 residents' homes of which £1.6m has been invested in 106 private sector homes in Broadland. See below:

Total Spend Across All Funding Streams (All Districts)	
Warm Homes	£4,754,687
LAD 1a & 1b	£1,228,590
Sustainable Warmth	£169,251
Total	£6,152,528

4. Future Activity

- 2.18 The Government has recognised the need for longer term more sustainable funding in order to accelerate the rate of improving the energy efficiency of our homes. As a result the government has recently announced a new wave of Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding for off gas properties with delivery running from April 2023 until March 2025. Two application windows have been announced with deadlines of 18th November 2022 and 27th January 2023.
- 2.19 Key policy changes have also been made to the grant compared with previous Government schemes. The major changes are:
- Transition of grant allocation model from a competition to a challenge fund
 - Ring fencing 60% of funding for rural Local Authorities
 - Introduction of additional resident eligibility criteria
 - Introduction of a space heating demand consideration
 - Introduction of 2 assessment rounds –November and January
 - Government will approve the measures per property in batches prior to install and release of funds.
- 4.3 The additional requirement for the Government to approve the measures to be installed in each house prior to release of funds and installation may further delay the process for residents which currently is about 3-4 months from application to completed install.
- 4.4 We are planning to submit a request for further grant funding to meet the January 2023 window. All Norfolk Councils except for Great Yarmouth Borough Council have agreed to join as a consortium to continue to support the Warm Homes Programme.

5. Issues and risks

- 2.20 **Resource Implications** – Resources for the delivery of activities under Norfolk Warm Homes are covered by external grant funding. However current grant funding streams are due to end 31st March 2023. Further applications for funding will be made in January 2023 and if successful will enable to continuation of the Warm Homes Programme.
- 2.21 **Legal Implications** – None
- 2.22 **Equality Implications** – The activities contained within this report are designed to have a positive impact on the community including for those who may have one, or more, of the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- 2.23 **Environmental Impact** – In improving heating systems and insulating cold homes the council is supporting the UK Government climate change targets by cutting carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

2.24 **Crime and Disorder – NA**

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 With the recent announcement in the autumn statement that the Energy Price Guarantee will reduce at the end of April it is expected that the number of households facing fuel poverty will significantly increase. Therefore, the ability to support households that are eligible through these government grant-assisted programmes becomes more imperative. As well as reducing energy costs, the installation of energy efficiency measures will also contribute to the UK's carbon reduction targets.
- 3.2 The Warm Homes Programme will be applying for future grant funding in January 2023 in order to continue to deliver energy efficiency measures and heating to low income households.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Panel to note and support the ongoing activities of the Warm Homes Programme with the aim of supporting residents living in fuel poverty through grant assisted improvements to increase thermal efficiency and provide renewable heating solutions to homes.

Appendix 1

Figure 1: First Time Gas Installations by Local Authority

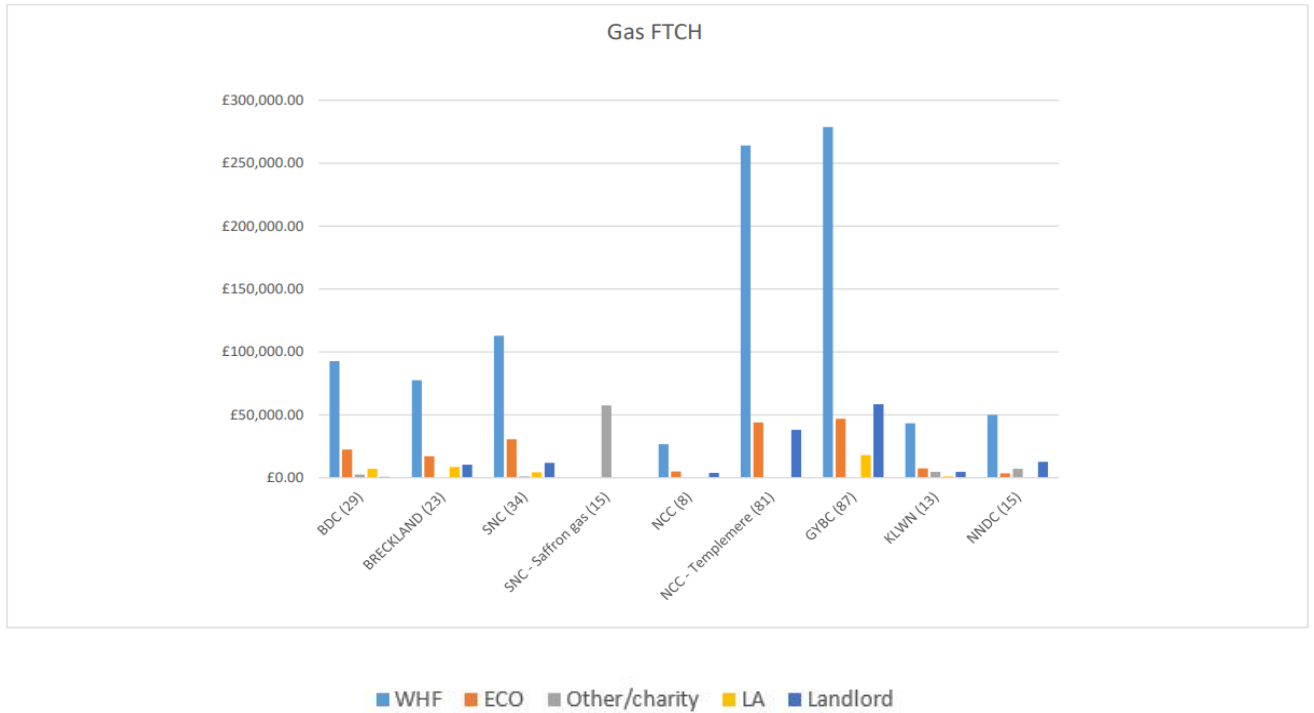
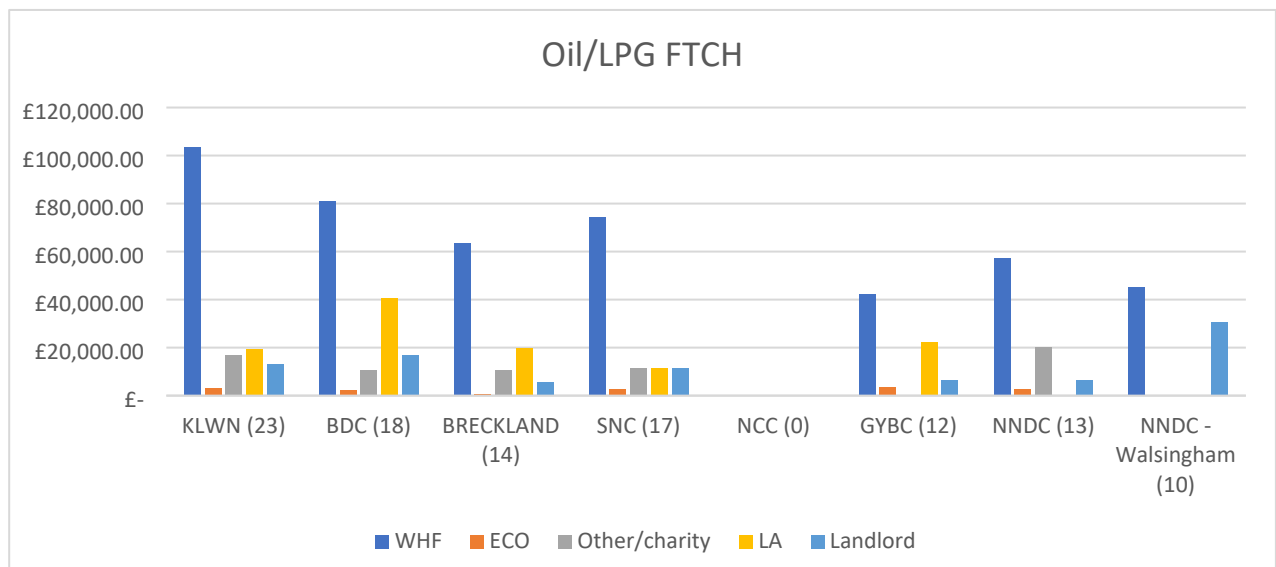


Figure 2: First Time Oil/LPG Installations by Local Authority



This page is intentionally left blank