

<p>Tackling Fuel Poverty</p>	<p>Fuel poverty in Test Valley area decreased from 10.1% in 2010 to 6.6% in 2013, but has increased in 2014 to 8.4%, in line with national trends. Test Valley Borough Council has an ambition to continue to reduce fuel poverty in the Test Valley borough, and are signed up to and actively support the Hampshire fuel poverty service Hitting the Cold Spots.</p> <p>Test Valley Private Sector Housing Team offer grants and loans for eligible owner occupiers on a low income or in receipt of means-tested benefits. In addition to making good a property's health and safety standard, adaptations for independent living and for improving security, the grants and loans can also be used for additional energy efficiency works not covered by a national funding scheme. The scope of these packages were changed in 2017 to allow for more energy efficiency works to be included. Energy efficiency work can include insulation for lofts, hot water tanks, pipes and cavity walls. Grants and loans are available for up to 100% of the cost of eligible works, including VAT and for energy efficiency works the maximum grant available is £5,000 and maximum loan £10,000. Interest is payable on the loan, fixed at the Bank of England base rate at the date the application is made. For more information see the grants webpage: http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/grants/home-improvement-grants/ and loans webpage: http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/loans/home-improvement-loans/</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Private Sector Housing Renewal strategy will be updated in 2017-18 and will incorporate methods of reducing fuel poverty and improving energy efficiency of domestic buildings. • Hitting the Cold Spots (HTCS) is the Hampshire County Council service designed to alleviate fuel poverty, focusing on owner occupiers and private tenants in the region. The service is delivered by the Environment Centre (tEC) and households are supported through a Freephone advice line, home visits and events, to access help for reducing energy bills and funding for home energy efficiency works. Test Valley is engaged with national schemes such as Energy Company Obligation (ECO) through the HTCS service for private tenure households. Fuel poor households are targeted through HTCS service via trusted referral agents, promoting the service at community groups, providing training for frontline staff and the use of data and mapping. Service evaluation is completed by the HTCS team on behalf of Hampshire County Council, and disseminated to the local authorities involved. • Test Valley Borough Council will investigate opportunities to support the targets in the Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations 2014 to bring properties up to Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) bands E by 	<p>Review in 2019</p> <p>Strategy to be adopted by April 2018</p> <p>Hitting the Cold Spots funding secured for 2017/18</p> <p>Further</p>
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	<p>2020, D by 2025 and C by 2030. tEC's EPC report indicates that 6.1% of properties in Test Valley have an EPC rating below an E, 19.8% have an EPC rating below a D and 58.7% have an EPC below a C rating. One of the challenges in the Test Valley borough is a much higher proportion of off-gas properties compared to regionally and nationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council will work with HTCS to use EPC data to identify the most poorly performing properties, cross referenced with other data sets and local knowledge, and use this information to target specific areas and raise awareness of opportunities for improving energy efficiency e.g. ECO. The initiative will specifically focus on solid wall insulation, first-time central heating systems and storage heater upgrades, which will have the greatest potential impact on EPC bands. Increasing engagement with health-led and social care services will help to better target and support vulnerable and fuel poor households locally. 	<p>targeting 2017/18 EPC Band E by 2020</p>
<p>ii) the measures that take advantage of financial assistance and other benefits offered from central Government initiatives, to help result in significant energy efficiency improvements of residential accommodation</p>		
<p>Heating and hot water</p>	<p>The Hitting the Cold Spots service is able to take advantage of other local and national funding for boiler replacements and first-time installation of central heating systems in addition to existing government schemes, for private tenure properties. Heating and hot water works through the service are carried out by Buy with Confidence accredited heating engineers, who (where necessary) are Gas Safe registered. HTCS Advisors talk through quotes with clients, give guidance on what to expect from an installation and check that the boilers installed are condensing, have a high energy efficiency rating and a warranty. HTCS also work with SGN Assisted Connections for eligible clients who are off-gas.</p> <p>According to the tEC EPC report, there are 4080 properties without distributed heating, which includes storage heaters and portable room heaters. Though these figures may have reduced, if the EPCs were carried out prior to work being completed, EPC coverage does not cover all of the properties in Test Valley, which might make the overall figure higher.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council provides financial assistance to help owner occupiers on low incomes who do not qualify for government funding. Contractors must be Gas Safe registered, if working on gas systems Test Valley Borough Council's Building Control service ensure that notified installations are carried out in accordance with the Competent Person Scheme.</p>	<p>Hitting the Cold Spots funding secured for 2017/18</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Insulation</p>	<p>Through Hitting the Cold Spots, Test Valley residents can get advice and signposting for improving the insulation of their property, from national schemes where available. HTCS Advisors recommend residents use National Insulation Association or Buy with Confidence accredited insulation installers and PAS2030 installers for ECO work and that work is guaranteed (such as CIGA for cavity wall insulation) and lodged with Building Control where necessary. They also discuss cost effectiveness and pay back times and give guidance on what to expect from the installation.</p> <p>tEC's EPC report shows 5282 uninsulated or partially insulated cavity wall properties, as well as 1909 uninsulated or partially insulated solid brick, system build, timber frame and other solid wall properties. For loft insulation there are 1862 properties with uninsulated flat roof, room-in-roof or pitched roofs with less than 100mm insulation, and there are an additional 12,753 properties with less than the recommended level of insulation (270mm). Again these figures may have reduced, if the EPCs were carried out prior to work being completed, but EPC coverage does not cover all of the properties in Test Valley, which might make the overall figure higher.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough Council's Building Control service ensures that where appropriate installations are carried out in accordance with the Competent Person scheme.</p> <p>Reports from the Council's Building Control service show that in 2015/16 174 properties across the Borough received cavity wall insulation, and a further 103 properties were completed in 2016/17</p>	<p>Hitting the Cold Spots funding secured for 2017/18</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Smart Meters</p>	<p>Test Valley Borough Council will seek out opportunities to encourage the uptake of smart meters in both private tenure properties and social housing by 2020. Test Valley residents can find information about smart meters on the Environment Centre website: http://www.environmentcentre.com/advice/energy-efficiency/smart-meters Hitting the Cold Spots Advisors have been trained on the smart meter rollout, through the NEA and Smart Energy GB programme with a particular focus on priority vulnerable groups. Test Valley residents with questions or concerns about smart meters can be referred as usual to the HTCS Freephone advice line.</p> <p>Information relating to smart meters was publicised in the Spring 2017 edition of Test Valley News, a publication delivered to all householders and published online, and will be available on Test Valley Borough Council's website.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Council's website on energy efficiency measures to include smart meters. 	<p>2020</p> <p>Hitting the Cold Spots funding secured for 2017/18</p> <p>March 2018</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is potential to work with local and community groups in Test Valley borough to encourage the uptake of smart meters and the associated benefits, particularly supporting vulnerable priority groups and linking up with Smart Energy GB promotional activities. Priority groups relevant to Test Valley might be: people with memory impairment, people with a learning disability, people with severe or profound deafness, people lacking basic digital skills, people with no personal internet access, off-gas grid customers and social housing tenants. • The smart meter rollout provides an opportunity to link into wider energy efficiency awareness, which meets the Borough Council aims of reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency and tackling fuel poverty. The Environment Centre (tEC) website can be used as a resource for this advice. 	
Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards in the Private Rented Sector	<p>Test Valley Borough Council Private Sector Housing team is responsible for ensuring local landlords and tenants are aware of these standards and the upcoming 2018 deadline. This is raised with landlords at the bi-annual Private Landlords and Letting Agents forums held at Test Valley Borough Council, and is raised on contact with landlords regarding specific properties for example in Houses of Multiple Occupation inspections, or on service requests from tenants.</p> <p>The Council's Private Sector Housing Conditions Survey 2010 indicated that the mean SAP rating for all stock was 56 (D rating) compared to 48 (E rating) nationally, and that the proportion of properties that had a SAP rating of less than 30 (F and G rating) was 4.7%. tEC's most recent EPC report indicates the number of properties with an EPC below an E in Test Valley is 6.1%, which includes all tenure types not just private rentals.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further contact will be made with landlords, via the Private Landlords and Letting Agents Forum and use of targeted data. The Council's website will be updated to reflect these regulations. • The Council will ensure that information to tenants and landlords is available through the Environment Centre (tEC) and other local organisations such as Citizens Advice. We will update our website to signpost to these organisations. tEC will signpost landlords and tenants to energy efficiency schemes they may be able to access and Citizens Advice Test Valley can advise tenants on their rights. 	<p>2018</p> <p>Review in 2018</p> <p>April 2019</p>

Energy Company Obligation (ECO)	<p>There has been limited uptake of ECO schemes in the TVBC area, compared to regional and national totals, and the number of households accessing CERO and CSCO was highest in 2014/15 and accessing HHCRO was highest in 2013/14 but all have decreased since then. Up to the end of March 2017, just under 1790 ECO measures had been installed in the Borough.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Valley Borough Council will investigate options for securing ECO funding for residents, through the ECO2 transition period and beyond, with a specific focus on solid wall, first-time central heating systems and storage heater upgrades. This could include setting up agreements with energy suppliers for ECO HHCRO funding and/or submitting a Statement of Intent for 'flexible eligibility' funding, either locally or as part of a wider Hampshire scheme. 	ECO2 Transition April 2017-Sept 2018 and ECO3 2018-2022
Renewables	<p>The tEC EPC report shows domestic properties with renewable technologies installed, including 110 solar thermal, 87 solar PV and 11 with wind turbines. Government data indicated that as of the end of June 2017, 1950 installations had been registered for the feed-in-tariffs (FIT) within the Borough; and at the end of July 2017, 215 installations had been accredited for Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI); both figures include non-domestic installations).</p> <p>Test Valley residents can get advice on renewable energy and heating, including Feed-in-Tariffs and the Renewable Heat Incentive from the Environment Centre (tEC) via the Freephone advice line or website.</p>	
<p><i>(iii) the measures which an authority 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 (e.g. social housing partners, voluntary organisations and town/parish councils, wider partnerships/innovation and procurement).</i></p>		
Council/ Social housing	<p>Aster is the largest social housing provider within the Borough with stock of varying age. The other Registered Providers have more modern stock and built to higher energy efficiency standards.</p> <p>Aster has an Energy and Carbon Reduction Policy which was adopted in 2014 and is currently being updated in line with Government energy policy changes. The Company's targets are, based on 1990 levels, an 80% reduction in its carbon footprint by 2050 and improved SAP ratings including particular attention to off-gas properties.</p>	

	Aster has developed specific projects concerning photo voltaic panel installations, external wall insulation and renewable heat incentives. In the first year of the project, Aster completed 134 installations within Test Valley enabling tenants to benefit from reduced electricity bills.	
New Housing	All housing in Test Valley is required to be built to Building Regulations.	
Local organisations	There are two Transition Town groups in Test Valley: Transition Towns Romsey www.transitiontownromsey.co.uk and Transition Town Andover www.transitiontownandover.org.uk committed to reducing carbon emissions and reliance on fossil fuels through community initiatives.	Ongoing
Promotion/ Media/ Advice/ Education	<p>Test Valley Borough Council has an energy efficiency webpage, providing advice and signposting to organisations that can assist with improving the energy efficiency of properties, reducing energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions, promoting renewable energy options and encouraging people to shop around and switch to cheaper tariffs or suppliers: www.testvalley.gov.uk/resident/housingandenvironmentalhealth/housing/private-sector-housing/energyefficiency</p> <p>Private sector housing deliver Disabled Facilities Grants and home improvement work across the Borough and officers ensure that where appropriate householders are signposted to, or referred on to Hitting the Cold Spots for further guidance.</p> <p>Test Valley Borough residents can access the Environment Centre (tEC) Freephone advice line and information on their website: www.environmentcentre.com/advice, including guides for energy saving, renewables, sustainable living and downloadable pdfs.</p> <p>The Hitting the Cold Spots project is promoted on a variety of different platforms accessible to Test Valley residents including on social media, the Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council websites, Hampshire Now and Discover magazine, as well as council staff bulletins.</p> <p>Articles have been included in Test Valley News, which is circulated to all households</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of publicity in Test Valley News and on the Test Valley website 	Ongoing

EPCs	Test Valley Borough Council commissioned the Environment Centre (tEC) to undertake mapping of EPCs in the Borough to identify poorly performing properties, best target resources and gain an understanding of potential for improvements. The mapping identified a number properties rated E-G, uninsulated properties, properties with no central heating and off-gas properties. These findings were cross-referenced with local knowledge from the Private Sector Housing Team to draw up a list of priority areas for targeting. With the EPC data set now publicly available, this mapping is being updated with the latest figures.	2017/18
<i>(iv) [a timeframe for delivery] and national and local partners – this includes Combined Authorities.</i>		
Hitting the Cold Spots	<p>Hitting the Cold Spots is a local partnership between Hampshire County Council, the Environment Centre (tEC) and local authorities including Test Valley Borough Council. Test Valley work with this partnership to deliver work in the Test Valley area and signpost or refer Test Valley Borough residents to the scheme.</p> <p>Action: The Council's aim is to improve promotion of Hitting the Cold Spots and dedicate capital funding from the Housing Renewals Budget for this initiative targeting those who are in fuel poverty. This additional funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Hitting the Cold Spots to enable a larger number of cases to be assisted resulting from heightened publicity, promotion and direct targeting of low income households in Test Valley occupying homes needing improvement. • Offer loans and grants to low income owners of mobile homes to provide external insulation to the home. The likely homes would be identified and targeted through the ongoing programme of mobile homes site licensing inspections being carried out in 2016, working with an external organisation to carry out these improvements. • Investigation into offering a larger number of loans to improve the least energy efficient private rented homes in line with the forthcoming legislation which will prevent the renting of properties with a low EPC rating (F or below) • Fund further research concerning the condition of the private sector housing stock in view of the previous stock condition report carried out in 2010 and now becoming rapidly out of date. This will inform an updated private sector housing policy and help target future actions to encourage residents to improve housing stock and identify areas and types of property that are needed to be improved 	<p>Hitting the Cold Spots funding secured for 2017/18</p> <p>Additional projects to be identified and set up in 2017/18</p>

	These measures will in partnership help facilitate Test Valley Borough Council aims and ambitions on reducing energy use, decreasing carbon emissions and alleviating fuel poverty. Through this partnership, Test Valley has been able to work with national partners including SGN Assisted Connections, energy suppliers and installers.	
HEEP	<p>Test Valley Borough Council is a member of the Hampshire Energy Efficiency Partnership (HEEP), a consortium of local authority representatives from across the Hampshire County Council area, with a remit for energy efficiency and private sector housing.</p> <p>A representative from Test Valley Borough Council regularly attends HEEP meetings to share best practice and explore opportunities for energy efficiency projects with counterparts from other local authorities. Discussions have included accessing Green Deal and ECO, Green Deal Communities, Central Heating Fund and investigating a local energy company, energy efficiency finance opportunities, renewables, network constraints etc.</p>	Ongoing
LEPs and Future South	<p>Test Valley is a member of Local Enterprise Partnerships: Enterprise M3 and Solent LEP. Through the new Local Energy Team at BEIS there may be an opportunity to develop partnerships, collectively tackle barriers, link up local energy efficiency projects with funding and gain support from national government.</p> <p>There is a potential for Test Valley to work with the Solent LEP and Future South on future energy projects through their Local Energy Strategy.</p>	Review in 2019
Local Devolution	Test Valley Borough Council is aware of local devolution discussions in the area, but with no decisions or strategy agreed, currently this won't influence HECA work or collaborations.	N/A

Signature:

Signed off by: _____

Position: _____