



Our vision  
**to protect,  
care and invest**



**Telford & Wrekin's Action Plan  
for Affordable Warmth**

April 2021

Protect  
Care and Invest  
to create a  
better borough



# Affordable Warmth Strategy Action Plan

Strategic Objective	Status	Priority	Actions /Progress	Target Date	Partners
Overarching	Ongoing	Reduce the number of fuel poor households in Telford & Wrekin Local Authority area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with 2018 baseline figure of 9.4%</li> <li>Work in areas in the borough with high levels of fuel poverty to close the gap on inequalities</li> <li>Report bi-annually to Secretary of State through the HECA report on progress made and outside factors we are unable to influence</li> <li>All actions to follow support this priority</li> </ul>	2025	All
Overarching	New	Have a positive impact on improving the health and well-being of the most vulnerable people in Telford & Wrekin by providing a warm and comfortable home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Public Health and Social Care to meet the aims of the JSNA and Health&amp; Wellbeing Strategy</li> <li>Report on savings to health services across the borough</li> </ul>	From April 22	Health and Social Care providers Telford & Wrekin Integrated Place Partnership (TWIPP) Marches Energy Agency(MEA)
Overarching	New	Close the gap addressing those areas of the borough with the highest levels of fuel poverty reducing inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise opportunities for grant funding and support for residents into the Safer Stronger Communities Programme priority areas</li> <li>Target opportunities from existing and new grant programmes to key communities and groups of residents in greatest fuel poverty</li> </ul>	April 2021	All
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Promote a single hotline for residents to access streamlined support and advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with MEA to increase the visibility and promotion of the existing hotline</li> </ul>	April 21	MEA

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Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	Existing	Continue to provide TEA free service that refers and advises residents into all energy efficiency schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently funded by Redress Money until June 2022</li> <li>Source alternative funding to continue the service</li> </ul>	June 22	MEA
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	Existing	Provide grant assistance for fuel poor homes to become warm and comfortable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to refer into ECHO/CfW/HEART</li> </ul>	March 2022	MEA AgilityECO
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Provide a 'top up' grant to support access to existing grant support for vulnerable residents where household contributions are required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the criteria established under the Council's Eco Flex, provide a top up grant to enable vulnerable residents to access existing grant schemes</li> </ul>	April 2021	MEA
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Develop and Deliver a TWC Affordable Warmth Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore TWC and partner funding to support and replace above grants</li> <li>Ensure any regional or national funding is utilised to support</li> <li>Work with local partners to ensure criteria meets the needs of the most vulnerable</li> <li>Set-up delivery partners/ processes and monitoring system to deliver</li> <li>Procure to ensure local installers are appointed to support local economy</li> </ul>	April 2022	Health and Social Care MEA Local Installers Procurement ECO Funders
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Refer into and support new national initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Homes Upgrade Fund announced November 2020</li> </ul>	April 21	MEA AgilityECO

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Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	Ongoing	Ensure ECO funding is available to ALL vulnerable groups identified in TWC area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Statement of Intent on council web-site</li> <li>• Inform BEIS of link</li> <li>• Publicise to local installers</li> </ul>	From Jan 21	Communications Team Web Team
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	Ongoing/New	Design and develop communications plan to raise profile of all schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podcasts and live broadcasts</li> <li>• Our Voice newsletter</li> <li>• Up-date Web-site</li> <li>• Information to go out with Council Tax reminders</li> <li>• Flu Jab campaign</li> <li>• Create digital leaflet</li> <li>• Create diary of events to attend in conjunction with other council services and public health</li> </ul>	Start date Oct 21	Communications Team Public Health MEA
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Create and deliver a bespoke training package to increase referrals and raise awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify groups to be trained including health &amp; social care</li> <li>• Develop training material</li> <li>• Timetable in sessions to deliver</li> </ul>	From April 21	MEA Public Health Social Care TWIPP CAB Volunteer groups
Raising Energy Awareness and Providing Support	New	Establish post to work with health staff to reduce hospital admissions and “bed- blocking” by ensuring patients have access to reliable heating and hot water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore option of post with health partners</li> <li>• Apply for redress funding</li> </ul>	April 21	MEA leading

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Maximising Income & Benefitting the Local Economy	On-going	Support partners to deliver advice on fuel debt and best deals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with CAB/MEA, Wrekin Housing Group and all Registered Providers (RP) to ensure residents are receiving consistent advice</li> <li>• Ensure income maximisation checks are being carried out</li> <li>• Work with energy companies to ensure clients can access Priority Services Register and hardship funds</li> </ul>	Current	CAB MEA Registered Providers Energy Companies
Maximising Income & Benefitting the Local Economy	On-going	Ensure residents have access to national funding if they qualify	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on Winter Fuel Payment, Warm Homes Discount and Cold Weather Payment on web-site and included in advice from partners</li> </ul>	Feb 22	Communications team Web team MEA CAB
Maximising Income & Benefitting the Local Economy	On-going	Encourage residents to regularly compare and switch energy suppliers to ensure value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively promote Switch Telford</li> </ul>	Current	TWC Commercial Services Team
Maximising Income & Benefitting the Local Economy	New	Support local trades and businesses to benefit and support the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote opportunities for local businesses to deliver retrofit/home improvement schemes, wherever possible</li> <li>• Support work to promote the green energy sector</li> <li>• Work with Job Box to promote any resultant job opportunities</li> </ul>	April 21	TWC Business Support & Inward Investment Team Marches LEP Local businesses

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Improving Energy Efficiency & Raising Standards	New	Establish opportunities for retrofit programmes to improve insulation standards and reduce fossil fuel heating - in line with Zero Carbon target of 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for Local Authority Delivery funding (LAD)</li> <li>Explore options to use Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding</li> <li>Be actively involved with WMCA/SHAP Warm Homes Save Lives</li> <li>Review business case for TWC Capital investment to deliver schemes</li> </ul>	From May 21	Midlands Energy Hub Shropshire & Herefordshire Council (Marches partners) SHAP WMCA Local Supply Chain Local Installers
Improving Energy Efficiency & Raising Standards	New	Consider options to enable residents able to pay to improve homes through the use of loans and private investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore in light of forthcoming national Green Homes Finance consultation</li> </ul>	2021	WMCA / SHAP
Improving Energy Efficiency & Raising Standards	New	Enable a group buying scheme for domestic solar PV and battery storage e.g. Solar Together or local alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, to explore the options around a group buying scheme</li> </ul>	2023-2025	Climate Change Officer Commercial Services Team Local businesses
Improving Energy Efficiency & Raising Standards	New	Assess the potential to establish a Virtual Power Plant (VPP) linking proposals for solar and battery systems for new build housing schemes, which would operate as part of a Virtual Power Plant (VPP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, to explore the options for VPP</li> <li>Work with Wolverhampton University and Wrekin Housing Group on potential for battery systems</li> </ul>	2021-2025	Climate Change Officer Local businesses Wolverhampton University Wrekin Housing Group

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Improving Energy Efficiency	On-going /New	To educate, encourage and enforce private landlords to meet Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements (MEES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify least fuel efficient properties across this sector</li> <li>Develop schemes to assist landlords to improve energy efficiency and improve property standards</li> <li>Through Better Homes for All work on education and enforcement where energy performance falls below minimum standards</li> <li>Respond to anticipated Government consultation</li> </ul>	Ongoing	BEIS Private Sector Housing Team
Improving Energy Efficiency & Raising Standards	On-going/New	Ensure temporary accommodation, managed by TWC, meets or exceeds minimum energy efficiency standards where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess baseline position</li> <li>Acquire EPC's for all accommodation</li> <li>Establish investment proposals linked to Climate Change Action Plan to make improvements where needed</li> </ul>	On-going and April 2023	TWC Housing Solutions Team
Evidence, Monitoring & Reporting	New	Publish an Annual Report on progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report annually through Cabinet updating on progress and development of the Action Plan</li> </ul>	From April 22 Annually	All
Evidence, Monitoring & Reporting	New	Partners to provide quarterly and annual up-dates on all areas of work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive/monitor delivery of actions sitting with partners</li> </ul>	From October 20	All
Evidence, Monitoring & Reporting	New	Report to Secretary of State on Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and publish bi-annual HECA report</li> </ul>	May 21 and bi-annually	All
Evidence, Monitoring & Reporting	New	Ensure that this strategy compliments and supports partners aims and objectives where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain links with key strategies and policy areas including JSNA/ Climate Change Action Plan/ Better Homes for All and all connected national legislation</li> </ul>	On-going	All

\* We will work with all partners to ensure delivery of actions and where delivery is not possible to lead on re-evaluating the scheme in question. As a non-stock owning authority, we act as an enabler for partners to maximise delivery and investment into the borough to benefit our residents.



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COUNCIL