

# **The developing role of local authorities**

**Ed Kingsley  
Principal Housing Strategy Officer  
Regeneration & Environment**



# Local authority drivers

- Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) 1995
- Public Health
- Child poverty
- Climate Local and climate change strategies
- Economic

# When seas were plentiful...

- Installations under Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT), Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) and Warm Front 2008-2012.
- Estimated at £198 million worth of investment.

Area	CERT measures	% Homes treated under CERT	CESP measures	Warm Front assisted households
Halton	18,211	27.8%	1,338	3,109
Knowsley	12,146	17.0%	8,447	5,796
Liverpool	48,415	20.9%	4,313	18,397
St Helens	21,151	21.8%	2,087	4,260
Sefton	41,035	27.2%	3,049	9,007
Wirral	51,692	30.1%	2,844	8,634
LCR	192,650	24.3%	22,078	49,203

# Along came ECO

- Installations under Energy Company Obligation (ECO) January 2013 – June 2014 (provisional)

Area	Affordable Warmth measures	CSC0 measures	Total ECO measures	ECO measures per 1,000 households
Halton	1,115	860	3,057	57.3
Knowsley	2,472	1,460	5,020	81.9
Liverpool	7,201	4,354	13,861	67.1
St Helens	1,710	749	4,516	59.6
Sefton	3,750	981	9,355	79.3
Wirral	4,264	2,327	9,540	67.9
LCR	20,512	10,731	45,349	69.2
GM	27,259	17,791	69,754	61.8



Source: Department of Energy & Climate Change

# The result:

- Acceleration in the increase of energy efficiency ratings in privately owned and rented homes:

Area	Before	After	
			(92+) <b>A</b>
Halton	Band E (2008)	Band D (2013)	(81-91) <b>B</b>
Knowsley	Band E (2006)	Band D (2013)	(69-80) <b>C</b>
Liverpool	Low Band D (2008)	Band D (2013)	(55-68) <b>D</b>
St Helens	Band E (2009)	Band D (2014)	(39-54) <b>E</b>
Sefton	Low Band D (2008)	High Band D (2013)	(21-38) <b>F</b>
Wirral	Band E (2008)	High Band D (2013)	(1-20) <b>G</b>

# Warmer Wirral

- Wirral Council Cabinet budget decision in 2010 to offer free loft and cavity wall insulation to privately owned and rented homes in Wirral.
  - Around £5m (two thirds) of the funding was from BG CERT.
  - 20,000 homes reached until the end of CERT in 2013;
- Partnership led to £20m CESP (and then ECO) scheme focussed on solid wall insulation in Seacombe, Egremont and Liscard from Jan 12 – Jul 14.
- Although insulation scheme closed in early 2013, Council committed to continue to support advice and sign-posting for fuel poverty and provides £60,000 / year budget.
- Magenta Living capitalised on funding from EEC and CERT to ensure all properties with cavity walls (easy-to-treat) were insulated and that all lofts were insulated.
  - Subsequently set aside budget for solid wall insulation, maximised through CESP, ECO & GD Home Improvement Fund, 1,000 properties insulated and Building Services division trained and qualified in external wall insulation.
  - Future programme £1m for EWI, mostly self-funded with ECO where possible.



# Threats

- Local authority budget cuts:
  - Wirral - £145m savings between 2013 and 2018 – 57% of budget;
  - Liverpool - £329m savings between 2012 and 2018 – 58% of budget;
- Reduction in dedicated strategic home energy officers in the LCR;
- National politics;
- Unknown consequences of Universal Credit on housing associations' ability to fund energy efficiency improvements.

# Opportunities

- Local political will to reduce fuel poverty remains;
- Much of the LCR qualifies for the revised CSCO (25% most deprived);
- Where budgets become available, maximise outputs;
- Take advantage of short-term funding opportunities;
- Continue to explore ways to work collaboratively, e.g. collective energy switch;
- Work with and support community and voluntary sector and communities in their increasing role in fuel poverty alleviation;
- Work closely with Registered Providers of social housing to align activity where feasible, e.g. Viridis Partnership;
- Use two-yearly HECA progress reports to highlight nationally as well as locally the positive activity to have taken place.



# **The developing role of local authorities**

**Ed Kingsley  
Principal Housing Strategy Officer  
Regeneration & Environment**

**edwardkingsley@wirral.gov.uk  
0151 691 8243**

