



City of Lincoln Council

Affordable Warmth Strategy

2022-27

1 Foreword



Councillor Donald Nannestad
Deputy Leader and Portfolio
Holder for Quality Housing.

A basic requirement of life is a home that is both warm and dry. However some residents find themselves living in poorly insulated properties that have inefficient, ineffective heating systems that are expensive to run.

Couple this with low incomes and this can lead to people being forced to choose between heating their home and buying food. The consequences of cold damp homes is the deterioration of health especially amongst the vulnerable in our society, exacerbating conditions such as asthma, arthritis and mental health, while increasing the risk of heart disease and strokes.

Tackling fuel poverty can have far-reaching benefits, from reducing health risks and relieving pressure on health services, to cutting carbon emissions, contributing to our fight to tackle the climate emergency.

Our new strategy sets out what we will do over the next five years to ensure that all residents in Lincoln have a warm place to call home. I'm confident it can make a real difference to the lives of many of our residents.



Councillor Bob Bushell,
Portfolio Holder for Remarkable
Place and Climate Change.

Improving domestic energy efficiency is one of the most effective ways to tackle fuel poverty. It's shocking that the average annual fuel bill is three times higher for those living in the least efficient homes in comparison to those in the most efficient homes (Band A-C). Our residents are spending their hard-earned money heating inefficient homes that retain heat so poorly, or simply can't afford to do so and go without.

Not only does improving domestic energy efficiency help reduce fuel poverty, it also helps tackle the Climate Emergency by reducing domestic carbon emissions, which account for 35% of Lincoln's carbon emissions.

This is why we are prioritising domestic energy efficiency in both our fuel poverty strategy and our emerging Climate Emergency Strategy, which will be published in 2022.

With growing attention on the pressing issue of the Climate Emergency and the impact of domestic emissions, our strategy aims to ensure that we leverage as much Government funding as possible, focusing on reducing energy loss and installing renewable energy measures to support fuel poor households in Lincoln, whilst helping to tackle the Climate Emergency.

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2 Executive Summary

Ensuring quality housing for all our residents will be a key part of Lincoln's Vision 2025 strategic priorities. A home should be warm, comfortable and affordable, providing a healthy environment that encourages good health and well-being. When a household is unable to keep their home heated to an adequate temperature, they are said to be in fuel poverty. This is often the result of a combination of low income, high fuel prices and poor energy efficiency.

Fuel poverty is a considerable issue in Lincoln, with 15.4 per cent of residents living in fuel poverty in 2019, the most recent available open data. Since 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many consumers seeing reduced income and therefore an increased number of households may now be struggling with their energy bills, especially during Winter.¹ In addition evidence from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows that fuel poverty puts households at greater risk from the worst effects of Covid-19.²

Over recent years, the City of Lincoln council working with the Greater Lincolnshire Energy Efficiency Network (GLEEN) have been working to tackle fuel poverty in county. Since 2018 GLEEN have successfully bid for nearly £784,800 funding towards projects delivering gas connections and central heating to 200 fuel poor households as well as training and advice in health and housing issues.

We have also continued to fund the Big Energy Saving Network, currently held with YMCA Lincolnshire, which provides advice and outreach services to help reduce fuel bills and maximise income, as well as practical home improvement work to increase energy efficiency.

This Affordable Warmth strategy brings together the success of our partnership approach to ensure that all sectors are working together to tackle fuel poverty effectively. The strategy reflects the objective of the Council's Housing Strategy 2021 – 2026 to improve housing standards for all and contributes to the Council's ongoing work to achieve a net zero carbon target by 2030.

Key objectives of the Lincoln Affordable Warmth Strategy 2021 - 2026:

- To reduce the number of Lincoln residents that are in fuel poverty, targeting those with the highest fuel poverty gap.
- To improve our processes for identifying residents who are in fuel poverty or at risk of ill health due to a cold home.

¹ [Sustainable warmth: protecting vulnerable households in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

² [Public health annual report 2021: rising to the challenges of COVID-19 | Local Government Association](#)

- To increase the number of homes in Lincoln with domestic energy efficiency ratings of C, one of the key ways in which the City can tackle the Climate Emergency.

3 Introduction

The ability to live in comfortable warm surroundings is today taken for granted by most people, but for some, in particular those that are disadvantaged or the more vulnerable in the community it is a constant struggle to keep their home warm during the winter months. This is particularly relevant given the impact coronavirus (COVID-19) can have on respiratory systems, where symptoms may make individuals more vulnerable to cold exacerbated ill-health.

In September 2021 the wholesale rise in gas prices has led to the collapse of multiple energy suppliers and raised fears of increased bills over Winter. This is of particular concern for those households who find themselves on low incomes, unable to afford to heat their homes.

“The Covid19 pandemic has once again brought the connection between poor, overcrowded housing and health and wellbeing into stark relief. A legacy of the pandemic must be a renewed determination to ensure that everyone has access to a decent, affordable home.” John Bibby, Chief Executive of the Association of Retained Council Housing

What is Fuel Poverty?

Fuel poverty occurs when a household cannot keep its home warm, well-lit and with hot water at an acceptable cost. In 2013, the government adopted the new definition of fuel poverty, with the “Low Income High Costs” (LIHC) indicator, that categorises a household as fuel poor when it has:

- An income below the poverty line (including if meeting its required energy bill would push it below the poverty line); and
- Higher than typical energy costs (higher than the median).

Being on the poverty line, refers to household income below 60% of the average. Also, in terms of the median energy costs, according to Ofgem, the average dual fuel variable tariff is approximately £92 per month or £1,106 a year (as of September 2021).³

In practice, we recognise that some households do not meet these criteria but may still struggle to keep their home warm. Our strategy aims to support households in Lincoln that cannot afford to heat their home to an adequate temperature.

What causes Fuel Poverty?

³ [Retail market indicators | Ofgem](#)

Residents tend to be in fuel poverty as a result of one or more of the following three key drivers:

❖ Low income

Households experiencing fuel poverty earn less than half of the average UK household income, at just £10,325 a year.⁴ Households on a lower income are more likely to experience fuel poverty as they are required to spend a higher proportion of their income on keeping their home warm.

❖ High fuel prices

When national fuel prices go up, households are required to spend a higher proportion of their income on heating. Fuel price rises push more people into fuel poverty and increase the fuel poverty gap of those households that are already fuel poor.

The price a household pays for fuel can also vary based on how the energy supplier sets its tariffs and how households pay their bills. For example a fixed tariff sets the energy price for a fixed period, whilst a standard tariff can vary. Households tend to pay higher prices when paying by cash or cheque on receipt of a bill than those paying by direct debit.

For households with a pre payment meter they are able to pay small amounts often, but it's usually a more expensive way to pay for energy.⁵ Fuel poverty charity [National Energy Action \(NEA\)](#) warns that the average increase of £153 for prepayment customers and £139 from those paying by direct debit using a default tariff is likely to result in more utility debt, 500,000 extra households in fuel poverty and an increase in preventable deaths this winter.⁶

❖ Poor energy efficiency

The cost of heating a home can differ greatly depending on its energy efficiency. When a home is very inefficient, it costs a lot to keep it heated to a comfortable temperature as energy is wasted, normally due to an inefficient heating system or lack of insulation.

The energy efficiency of a home is measured by a SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) rating, numbered from 0 (low efficiency) – 100 (high efficiency) and banded from A-G. The SAP rating is shown on an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), which also includes estimated costs for heating the home and recommended measures for improving the home's energy efficiency.

All homes let or sold since 2008 must have an EPC, which remains valid for 10 years. Average annual fuel costs for the least efficient properties (Band G) were three times higher (£2,861) than costs for the most efficient properties (£939) (Band A-C) in 2017 in England.

Households living in homes with poor energy efficiency will spend more on fuel to keep their home adequately heated and are more likely to be fuel poor.

⁴ [What is fuel poverty? | usave.co.uk](#)

⁵ [Decide if prepayment is right for you - Citizens Advice](#)

⁶ [500,000 at risk of fuel poverty after tomorrow's price rises - NEA](#)

❖ Household behaviours

As well as these three key drivers, inefficient use of energy through particular behaviours can also increase fuel bills and increase the risk of fuel poverty. Examples include:

- Having the heating on whilst nobody is at home.
- Keeping windows open when the heating is on.
- Leaving household appliances on when they are not being used.

What are the consequences of Fuel Poverty?

Cold, damp homes, which are inadequately heated or ventilated, have been repeatedly linked to ill health and early deaths amongst the most vulnerable. This link gives rise to, and exacerbates, several medical conditions including hypothermia, cardiovascular disease, and respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis, childhood asthma and pneumonia etc. Cold homes also impact on conditions such as rheumatism, arthritis and those people with poor mobility, thus increasing the risk of falls and other household accidents.

The effect of cold, damp homes can also have a negative effect on people's mental health, leading to stress and anxiety which may be compounded by high bills, fuel debt and other related factors. Poor living conditions will impact on a householder's sense of wellbeing and their perception of quality of life.

Other compounding factors must also be brought into the equation as these may contribute to or exacerbate fuel poverty. For example, those households that contain one or more individuals that require higher indoor temperature levels due to health conditions or because they are more sedentary and spend longer periods in the home. This might be a household that includes very young children, pensioners, or those with long-term illnesses or disabilities.

Although not necessarily in receipt of benefit, these households tend to be on lower incomes and have less capital to improve their homes. In terms of fuel poverty these households are deemed to be 'vulnerable'.

The City of Lincoln Affordable Warmth Strategy aims to assist its residents move out of fuel poverty and will facilitate support and actions to improve the health and well-being of the city's more vulnerable households.

4 The National Context

The UK Sustainable Warmth Strategy 2021

In February 2021 the Government published the Sustainable Warmth Strategy⁷ which outlines Government support for vulnerable households in England. The Strategy sets out its ambition to work towards homes being EPC Band C by 2030, with interim milestones (contained in the 2015 fuel poverty strategy):

- As many fuel-poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band E by 2020.
- As many fuel-poor homes as is reasonably practicable to Band D by 2025.

Key actions contained in the strategy (some of which have already been announced) include:

- Investment of £60m to retrofit social housing, and £150m invested in the Home Upgrade Grant.
- A review of the Decent Homes Standard.
- Expand the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) – a requirement for larger domestic energy suppliers to install heating, insulation or other energy efficiency measures in the homes of people who are low income and vulnerable or fuel poor.
- Invest in energy efficiency of households through the £2bn Green Homes Grant, with a renewed focus on low income households to install energy efficient and low carbon heating measures in their homes.

Decent Homes Standards

The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper published on 17 November 2020 announced a review of the Decent Homes Standard to understand if it is right for the social housing sector today. [A decent home: definition and guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92424/charter-social-housing-residents-social-housing-white-paper.pdf)

The Government have commenced a review of the Decent Homes Standard which is being conducted in two parts.

Part 1 will run from Spring to Autumn 2021 and will seek to understand the case for change to criteria within the Decent Homes Standard. If the case for change is made, part 2 will run from Autumn 2021 to Summer 2022 and will consider how decency should be defined.

It is anticipated that the Government's main outcome will be a refreshed Decent Homes Standard.

⁷ [Sustainable Warmth – Protecting Vulnerable Households in England.](#)

Minimum Energy Efficiency standards (MEES)

The Energy Efficiency Regulations 2015, (as amended most recently by the Energy Efficiency Regulations 2019) introduced a minimum energy efficiency standard for the private rented sector.

- Since 01 April 2018, landlords of relevant domestic private rented properties must not grant a tenancy to new or existing tenants if their property has an EPC rating of F or G (as shown on a valid EPC for the property)
- Since April 2020, landlords must not continue letting a relevant domestic property which is already let if that property has an EPC rating F or G (as shown on a valid EPC for the property). Landlords were encouraged to take action to ensure that their properties reached EPC E by the deadline of 01 April 2020.

The Government has committed to upgrade as many private rented sector homes as possible to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Band C by 2030, where practical, cost-effective and affordable.⁸ In September 2020 the Government consulted on a suite of policy proposals towards achieving this target and we are awaiting the outcome of the consultation.

Heat and Buildings Strategy 2021

In October 2021 the Government published the Heat and Buildings Strategy⁹ The strategy sets out the government's plan to significantly cut carbon emissions from the UK's 30 million homes and workplaces in a simple, low-cost and green way whilst ensuring this remains affordable and fair for households across the country.

The strategy builds on the commitments made in Clean growth: transforming heating¹⁰, our Energy white paper¹¹ and the Prime Minister's 10 point plan¹². The strategy aims to provide a clear direction of travel for the 2020s, set out the strategic decisions that need to be taken this decade, and demonstrate how the Government plan to meet our carbon targets and remain on track for net zero by 2050.

Government sets out plan to drive down the cost of low carbon heating technologies like heat pumps, working with industry to ensure that in future they are no more expensive to buy and run for consumers as fossil fuel boilers households to benefit from £5,000 government grants through £450 million Boiler Upgrade Scheme to help install low-carbon heating systems, part of more than £3.9 billion of new funding to decarbonise heat and buildings £60 million innovation fund launched to make clean heat systems smaller and easier to install and cheaper to run funding supports

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⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-decarbonisation-overview-of-current-evidence-base>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future>

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution/title>

government's confirmed ambition for all new heating systems installed in UK homes from 2035 to be low carbon.

UK Net Zero Strategy 2021

In October 2021 the Government published the Net Zero Strategy¹³ which commits to providing £3.9 billion of new funding for decarbonising heat and buildings, including the new £450 million 3-year Boiler Upgrade Scheme, so homes and buildings are warmer, cheaper to heat and cleaner to run.

Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) requires all 326 local authorities in England to submit reports to the Secretary of State demonstrating what energy conservation measures they have adopted to improve the energy efficiency of residential accommodation within that LA's area. This covers measures to improve properties in the owner-occupier, private rented sector, and social rented sector. The Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) uses data submitted through Local Authority's HECA returns to inform policy thinking on energy efficiency, and to build an ongoing picture of local and national energy efficiency policy delivery. Since 2013 the City of Lincoln Council has submitted a bi-annual progress report.

The Care Act 2014

A fundamental component of the Care Act is the 'suitability of accommodation' in meeting the at home care and support needs of older and vulnerable people. The Act and the accompanying regulations and guidance outline how housing can support a more integrated approach. Of particular note:

- A general duty to promote wellbeing makes reference to suitable accommodation.
- Housing is not just the 'bricks and mortar', also includes housing related support or services.
- Housing must be considered as part of an assessment process that may prevent, reduce or delay an adult social care need.
- Information and advice should reflect housing options, as part of a universal service offer.
- Care and support delivered in an integrated way with cooperation with partner bodies, including housing.

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-path-to-net-zero-set-out-in-landmark-strategy>

5 The Local Context

Lincoln is a city with huge ambitions. The vision for the city is

'Homes are sustainable and fuel efficient, fuel poverty is a thing of the past.'

The Council's Vision 2025 sets out a range of projects that focus on improving the health of residents of Lincoln and ensuring they have and can live the best quality of life. [vision-2025-strategic-plan \(lincoln.gov.uk\)](https://lincoln.gov.uk/vision-2025-strategic-plan)

The Affordable Warmth Strategy will complement the Council's existing policies and strategies to support our most vulnerable residents.

Local Policies to address fuel poverty.

The Council produces strategies that set the housing priorities for Lincoln, and what we are going to do to address them. On 22 February 2021 the Council formally adopted the Lincoln Housing Strategy 2020-25. This Housing Strategy sets out how we will work together with our partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors to meet housing demand and improve standards across all tenures.

The Housing Strategy seeks to deliver quality housing through three objectives:

- Providing housing which meets the varied needs of our residents;
- Building sustainable communities;
- Improving housing standards for all.

Improving the housing condition is important because we know that living in a cold, damp home can have a detrimental effect on the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages. The City of Lincoln Council through this Affordable Warmth Strategy and its key partnerships intend to fulfil this ambition by raising living standards across the City through improving energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty.

The City of Lincoln Council's Private Housing Health Assistance Policy¹⁴ seeks to:

- To provide advice, information and support on repair, maintenance and adaptation of properties across the City.
- To offer a health based framework of assistance to vulnerable groups & households, including those with a long term health condition.
- Whilst it is recognised that it is the home owner's responsibility to maintain their own properties the Council will target limited resources to those that are most vulnerable or have a health condition and are not able to maintain their own properties which could impact on their independent living.
- Private landlords will not be eligible for any grants under this policy. Landlords have a duty to maintain their properties free from hazards and the Council will exercise their enforcement powers as appropriate to ensure that safe and healthy standards are attained in the private rented sector. In

¹⁴ [private-housing-health-assistance-policy-2018-22 \(lincoln.gov.uk\)](https://lincoln.gov.uk/private-housing-health-assistance-policy-2018-22)

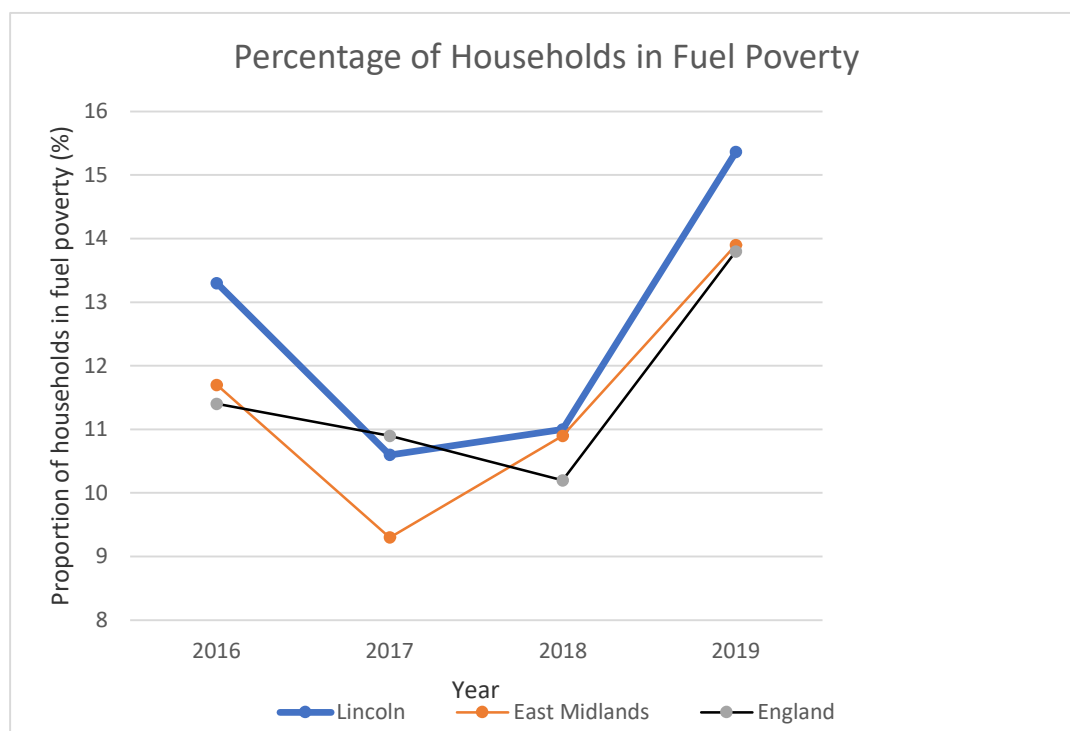


certain circumstances the tenant maybe eligible to apply for a grant under this policy, this will be considered on a case by case basis.

- To contribute to the aims of the Better Care Fund, principally to reduce delayed transfers of care, minimise avoidable hospital admission and facilitate early or timely discharge from hospital by tackling housing related matters.
- To facilitate an increase in the number of vulnerable households able to heat their homes at reasonable cost.
- To assist disabled people with adaptations to facilitate their movement in and around their home thereby improving their quality of life.
- In offering assistance the Council will promote relevant services offered by other organisations.
- To treat individuals fairly as required by the Equality Act 2010 and ensure that an individual's rights under Data Protection and human rights legislation are protected.

Fuel Poverty in Lincoln

The latest available data for Lincoln, shows that the City has the second highest level of fuel poverty of all districts in Lincolnshire. Between 2016 and 2019, the proportion of Lincoln households in fuel poverty from 13.3% in 2016 to 15.4% in 2019. This is proportionally higher than the England and East Midlands percentage figures. In 2019 the total estimated number of households meeting the government's fuel poverty criteria was 6568.¹⁵



[Sub-regional fuel poverty data 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/981910/2021-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-tables.xlsx)

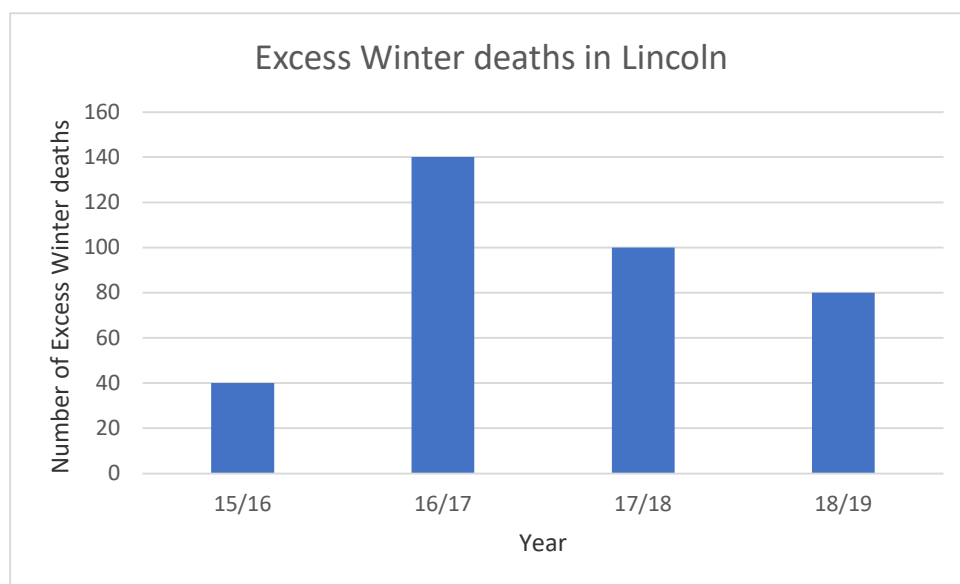
The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 30 per cent of excess Winter Deaths are attributable to cold homes. The following chart shows that in Lincoln

¹⁵

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/981910/2021-sub-regional-fuel-poverty-tables.xlsx



there are on average 73 excess winter deaths per year. Therefore the average number of cold related excess winter deaths in Lincoln is 27. The Department of Health in 2009 estimated that for every cold-related death there are eight non-fatal hospital admissions.¹⁶ For Lincoln, this means that for the 27 cold-related deaths that occur each winter, there are at least 216 hospital admissions.



The National fuel poverty charity NEA highlighted that millions of people in cold homes are at greater risk this winter, as COVID-19 intensifies seasonal stresses for those on lowest incomes and in the least efficient homes.¹⁷

The energy efficiency of homes in Lincoln has improved since the introduction of the Energy Performance Certificate in 2008. A programme of investment in Lincoln's council homes has raised the average SAP from 61.37 in 2016 to 70.31 in 2021.

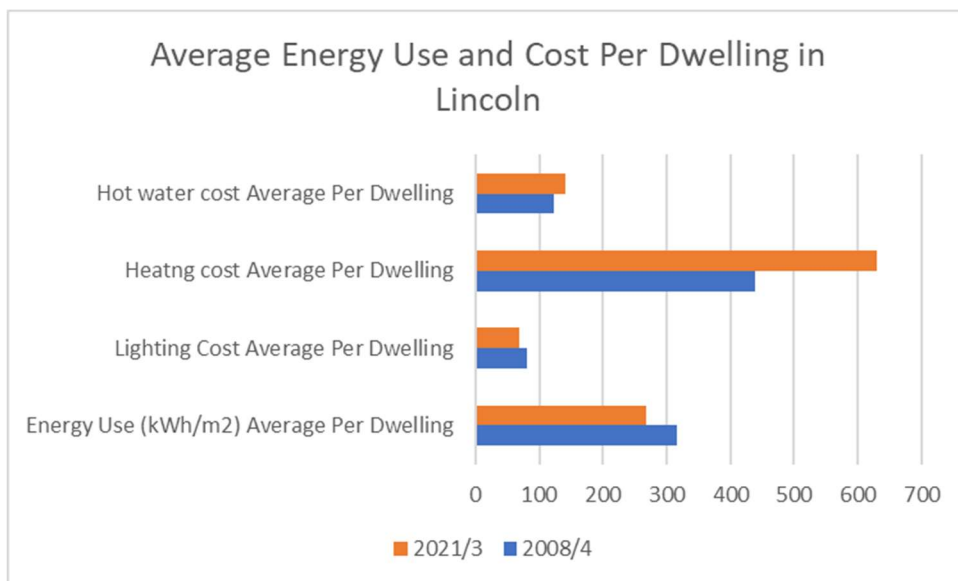
The average SAP for all homes in Lincoln, in the table below, shows that privately owned and rented homes in Lincoln are more energy inefficient. It is therefore a priority in this Affordable Warmth Strategy to work with households and landlords to improve the average SAP for Lincoln properties over the next 5 years.

	Average SAP
Council Stock:	70.3
Private Sector:	48
Owner Occupier:	47
Housing Association:	66
Private Rented:	49

¹⁶ [the-health-impacts-of-cold-homes-and-fuel-poverty.pdf \(instituteofhealthequity.org\)](#)

¹⁷ [New ONS figures reveal cold homes death toll - NEA](#)

The average household energy consumption in Lincoln has also reduced since 2012, however as the graph below shows the average cost of energy has increase by 22%.



[Energy Performance of Buildings Certificates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-performance-of-buildings-certificates)

The rise in energy cost is due to the rise in whole sale energy process leading to higher costs to the consumer for heating and hot water. The cost of lighting has actually reduced by 6% due to the availability of more energy efficient lighting appliances. The UK began phasing out the sale of higher-energy halogen lightbulbs in 2018 under EU-wide rules.

6 Progress So Far



Greater Lincolnshire Energy Efficiency Network (GLEEN)

The Greater Lincolnshire Energy Efficiency Network (GLEEN) brings together the main parties involved in the development of strategies and initiatives to tackle fuel poverty through improving the energy efficiency of homes and reducing energy costs.

The remit and main purpose of GLEEN is to coordinate home energy efficiency advice and affordable warmth schemes across the Greater Lincolnshire area and collaborate to fulfil statutory Home Energy Conservation Act (**HECA**) duties.

In October 2020 GLEEN published an Energy Company Obligation Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (SOI) signed by all Local Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire.¹⁸ The purpose of the SOI is to extend eligibility for Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding from people who are in receipt of qualifying means tested and disability benefits to:

1. People who are fuel poor (FP) – living on a low income and in a home with high heating costs; and
2. People who are living on a low income and are vulnerable to the effects of living in a cold home.

In March 2020 GLEEN set up the Lincs 4 Warmer Homes (L4WH) Scheme through a Partnership Agreement with Local Authorities in Greater Lincolnshire. The scheme is managed by North East Lincolnshire Council and supports residents to access ECO and Warm Homes funding and appoint accredited installers from the L4WH framework. More information about the scheme available on the Council's website [Green and sustainable living – City of Lincoln Council](#)

Safe Warm and Well

The Council has a statutory duty for the provision of mandatory Disabled Facilities Grants under the provisions of the Housing Grants, Construction & Regeneration Act 1996. In addition, the Council has the discretion to provide flexible assistance to help improve living conditions as determined by the

¹⁸ [Energy Company Obligation Local Authority Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Council in adopting Article 3 of the Regulatory Reform Order (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002.

The discretionary scheme provides support to owner occupiers over the age of 65, or those with chronic or severe health conditions affected by poor housing conditions who need to undertake essential repairs to their home to remain safe and healthy.

Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme

In 2021 the Council received £479,600 from the Midlands Energy Hub to deliver a trial of the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD1). LAD 1 funding can be used to help cover the cost of a wide range of retrofit measures, including roof and wall insulation, double glazing windows and other low carbon heating solutions. The scheme is available to owner occupiers or tenants with a household income of less than £30 000 per year.

The scheme is currently underway and has identified 40 homes in Lincoln and is working with the residents and installers to improve the energy efficiency of their homes to PAS 2035 standard. The scheme is due to be completed by March 2022.

In November 2021 the Council secured an additional £2.8 million from the Government's Sustainable Warmth Fund to improve the energy efficiency of an additional 250 homes by April 2023. The council will continue to seek to secure funding to raise the average SAP of private sector homes and reduce fuel poverty wherever possible.

7 Priorities Going Forward

Raise Awareness of Affordable Warmth

The efforts to combat fuel poverty in the UK have often been hampered by the poor knowledge that residents have of affordable warmth and its potential benefits. Homeowners have not prioritised spending on insulation measures and have only requested advice after serious problems have occurred. The importance of affordable warmth is now beginning to be recognised through schemes such as the Home Information Packs, but this is still only a catalyst for action when people come to move house.

This priority focuses on the need to ensure the profile of fuel poverty and the Affordable Warmth Strategy are raised through promotions and training to allow better cross partnership commitment and fuel poverty awareness between agencies, stakeholders and partners.

Improving the Energy Efficiency of All Housing in Lincoln

To successfully tackle fuel poverty, it is important that the housing stock across all tenures is brought up to a minimum standard. This priority focuses on ensuring a better standard of housing is available and that where possible those properties are future proofed against fuel poverty and climate change.

Deliver a Co-ordinated approach to Affordable Warmth

This priority centres on the need to ensure high-level awareness, resource and information sharing across all agencies to address fuel poverty in the community. A well-coordinated approach is characterised by clear identification of need, planned and effective use of resources and the utilising of innovative solutions to ensure everyone benefits from affordable warmth measures.

The City of Lincoln Council will continue to work with the Greater Lincolnshire Energy efficiency Network to deliver a joined up approach to address fuel poverty. We will seek to collaborate with our neighbouring councils within central Lincolnshire, wherever possible, to improve the efficiency of services to our residents.

8 Affordable Warmth Action Plan

No.	Action	Priority	Responsibility	Delivery
1	To carry out appropriate housing energy advice and support activities on how to achieve affordable warmth through lifestyles changes, accessing cheaper energy tariffs, and taking advantage of government and energy company grants to improve the energy efficiency of people's homes.	Raise Awareness of Affordable Warmth	Climate Change Manager	Ongoing throughout the Strategy
2.	To develop further collaborative working with the Greater Lincolnshire Energy Efficiency Network to raise awareness of the health impact of living in cold homes	Deliver a Co-ordinated approach to Affordable Warmth	Climate Change Manager/Private Sector Housing Team Leader	Ongoing throughout the Strategy

		Improving Health and Well-Being		
3.	To identify homes where an excess cold hazard exists and to take appropriate action to reduce the hazard. This may include the use of external grant funding or enforcement action in the case of privately-rented accommodation and internal and external financial assistance for vulnerable owner occupiers.	Improving Health and Well-Being	Private Sector Housing Team	Ongoing throughout the Strategy
	To review and implement the Council's Statement of Intent on delivering ECO Flexible Eligibility to reach as many vulnerable households as possible.	Improving the Energy Efficiency of All Housing in Lincoln	Private Sector Housing Team Leader/ Climate Change Manager	September 2023
	To continue to utilise discretionary funding to expediate the discharge from hospital, of vulnerable residents into a warm and safe home environment.	Improving Health and Well-Being	Private Sector Housing Team	Ongoing throughout the Strategy
	To deliver the Sustainable Warmth Programme to improve the energy performance of fuel poor homes.	Improving the Energy Efficiency of All Housing in Lincoln	Climate Change Manager	Ongoing throughout the Strategy
	To continue to identify external sources of funding that could be accessed to support affordable warmth work e.g. Sustainable Warmth,	Improving Health and Well-Being Improving the Energy Efficiency of All Housing in Lincoln	Climate Change Manager	Spring 2022 Social Housing decarbonisation Fund. August 2022 Sustainable Warmth Fund for 2023/24