



CASH 'Cities Action for Sustainable Housing'

Energy Efficiency for Social Housing

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH



LOCAL ACTION PLAN 'ZERO DRAFT' DECEMBER 2010

1. PREFACE

1.1 BASELINE STUDY

This was undertaken in March 2010 and forms part of the study published by Urbact. This Study document provides much of the context for Bridgend together with the strategy and policy documents referred to within the Study, and is supplemented by the Private Sector House Stock Condition Survey 2009 prepared for Bridgend County Borough Council.

1.2 LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP

The Local Support Group (LSG) held its inaugural meeting in March 2010 at the time of the Baseline Review visit.

The LSG has since met on 2 November 2010 and 25 November 2010. The LSG is scheduled to meet on 19 January 2011 in preparation for the first thematic Seminar in Utrecht on the subject of Technological Development at the end of January 2011.

Both meetings in November provided opportunities to introduce the CASH Project to a range of persons, many of whom were not able to be present at both meetings. The CD-Rom presentation prepared by the Lead City Echirrolles and the Lead Partner for the meeting of all partners in Echirrolles, France, on 29 September/1 October 2010 provided the basis for the discussions.

It is considered that the membership of the LSG should as broad as possible whilst remaining manageable and relevant to the matter in hand.

The LSG considered the proposed schedule of meetings for the 30-month Implementation Phase and were of the view that it may be more appropriate to use the same LSG meeting to receive the de-briefing from a completed Seminar and the preparation for the forthcoming Seminar. This will be the approach to be taken after the first Thematic Seminar.

A photographic record was taken so that the Lead Partner is provided with evidence that the meetings are taking place.

1.3 LOCAL PARTNERS

The Cabinet Member for Communities, with the portfolio responsibility of housing and sustainable development, has agreed to chair the meetings of the LSG. A 'strategic group', to which the LSG could report, has been proposed and if agreed would be the Bridgend Housing Partnership comprising the Chief Executives of the 4 main housing associations together with the City's Corporate Director Communities, Head of Regeneration & Development and Group Manager Housing & Community Regeneration. It has also been proposed that the progress of the LSG and any decision and/or recommendations that are required of the LSG be reported to Cabinet. This would include the adoption locally of the Final Local Action Plan in autumn 2012.

1.4 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A photographic record has been kept of the LSG meetings for use in any local or Project-wide publicity /press releases.

A copy of the Baseline Study, with a covering letter from the Leader of the Council has been sent to the two local Members of Parliament (MPs) and the two local Members of the National Assembly for Wales (AMs). A copy of the A5-sized CASH Leaflet provided by the Lead City has been sent to all Elected Members of Bridgend County Borough Council, also with a covering letter from the Leader of the Council.

The Cabinet of the Council accepted a report on the CASH Project on 6 April 2010. A Press Release was issued at that time.

Communication is considered by the LSG as a vital element in action taken locally so that awareness of energy efficiency issues and opportunities for individuals and organisations to take action are universally understood.

1.5 PURPOSE OF ACTIVITIES

A draft Partnership Agreement / Charter for Bridgend was presented to both meetings of the LSG. This will broadly identify the purpose of the activities to be undertaken by the LSG.

2.0 LOCAL ACTION PLAN

The 'zero' Local Action Plan (LAP) was discussed at both LSG meetings in November 2010, with the second meeting having the benefit of first draft. At the second meeting the Local Coordinator was tasked with finalising the draft and submitting it to the Lead City.

The LAP has been prepared in tabular form, as below, which in part adopts the LAP template from the CD-Rom provided to partner cities in September 2010.

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Context & Evidence - Baseline Study and other sources	Problems identified in the Baseline Study March 2010	Problems identified by Private Sector House Stock Condition Survey December 2009	Stakeholder Issues - main concerns from Local Support Group 2 November 2010	Problem Analysis - what is working and what is not	Strategic lines of action; goals and objectives; outputs and activities
Age & construction of housing stock: 30% pre-1919; 21% post 1980; solid walls	Ageing housing stock, especially that built in terraces for coal miners	Category 1 hazard of excess cold in over 5000 dwellings, with an estimated cost to remedy of £7M;	Age of population; Affordability; Traditional stock (excluding energy efficiency measures)	Data collection good, but is full use being made of the data to identify gaps in provision and to plan accordingly?	Need for a clear mission statement and/or long-term strategy. *Mission statement by September 2011; *LSG/BCBC; *Output: clear line of travel.
Tenure of housing stock: 76% owner-occupied; 14% social rented; 10% private rented.	Former Council tenants who exercised the Right to Buy, & who may have insufficient income &/or are ineligible for grant support.	Category 1 hazard of excess cold occurs in 24% of pre-1919 dwellings.	Quality of life improvements and how measure; Cost savings; Future maintenance / upgrading of works & equipment, therefore sustainability	Potential gaps in eligibility and therefore provision. Are these understood or re they being explored?	Understand where coordination of energy efficiency activity working/not working: *Start Feb 2011 / complete Jun 2011. *LSG/BCBC undertake; *Output: know strengths, gaps in communication.
Population - 135,000 residents; 59,000 households; 8,500 social rented; ageing population.	No solutions for households in fuel poverty without sufficient income &/or ineligible for grant support	Over 6,800 private sector households in fuel poverty, representing 13% of these households; private rented more likely at 30%.	Ensure residents know how to benefit from the works; Local economy & labour to benefit from the works; Coordinate all agencies	Social rented stock being attended to, particularly with Housing Stock transfer in 2003. Therefore is the challenge the private rented and owner-occupied sectors?	Understand eligibility gaps: *Start Feb 2011 / complete Jun 2011; *LSB/BCBC/External agencies; *Output: know where to target.

<p>Lack of long-term strategy / clear mission statement.</p>	<p>No real awareness of the changing legislation re energy efficiency among builders, architects and project developers.</p>	<p>73.0% private sector dwellings have cavity walls, of which 63.9% insulated. 15,080 pre-1919 stocks, of which 18.6% do not have cavity walls 93.5% dwellings have loft insulation (3.8% have no loft). 90.6% of dwellings have 100mm or more; 28.8% have over 200mm. (Excludes RSL properties.)</p>	<p>Energy poverty; Everyone included; Feasibility of undertaking the works (how they are to be done).</p>		<p>Education and awareness: *Start Feb 2011 / complete Sept 2011; *LSG *Output: accurate targeting and universal awareness.</p>
<p>Other external factors, notably energy price rises to pay for a revised energy infrastructure in the United Kingdom. Bridgend energy sources: gas 66%, oil 5%, coal 1%, nuclear 0%, biomass 1%, other renewable 1%, electricity 27%.</p>	<p>External factors not generally included in Baseline Study, for example, the proposed price rises for a new energy infrastructure announced in December 2010.</p>	<p>External factors not identified in the Stock Condition Survey.</p>	<p>External factors not considered by LSG.</p>	<p>How can and should rising energy costs be factored into any strategic consideration of energy efficiency?</p>	<p>National Assembly for Wales to consider within the energy framework for Wales.</p>

20 December 2010

Peter Green, Local Coordinator, Bridgend

