|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |  |  |  |  | **Timescales** |  |  | **FUEL POVERTY ACTION PLAN** |
| **Category** | **Action** | **Responsibility** | **Available to** | Short1-3 months | Medium4 - 9 months | Long9+ months | **Key themes** | **UPDATE ON ACTIVITY****31 January 2024** |
| **Property** | Order and obtain programme of works for pipeline infrastructure for viable connections | Falkirk Council | Falkirk Council Tenants |  |  |  | Avonbridge, California, Slamannan Whitecross & Letham to be taken forward with gas infrastructure programme followed by individual property connections. | **Ongoing** Scottish Gas Network (SGN) are undergoing their own procurement exercise to appoint contractors to deliver this project.SGN have completed their tender process, a stand still period to conclude the award process is due to complete, with the successful contractor now confirmed.SGN have provided an indicative proposed programme as below: -**Project 1 (California to Slamannan)** * California site start Oct 23, gas on April 24
* Avonbridge site start May 24, gas on July 24
* Slamannan site start July 24, gas on to be targeted for end of 2024, however, may take until April 25

**Project 2 (Whitecross)*** Site start Sept/Oct 23, gas on May 24

**Project 3 (Letham)*** Site start Sept/Oct 23, gas on March 24

Further detailed information will be confirmed from SGN once the contracts are let. The successful contractor is likely to have a significant mobilisation period to obtain the necessary road and other consents and carry out ground investigation surveys prior to starting work. Gas supply will be available to progress to installations after each individual area is completed.SGN have a dedicated comms team who are in the process of issuing letters to all residents advising of the upcoming works and the dates drop-in centres will be available prior to the works starting to allow residents to pop in, get info and ask questions. When all is available the intention is for information regarding location of works, temporary traffic lights, and roads closures to be accessible to residents to allow them to plan and be aware of what is happening when. |
| **Property** | Further assessment of options for the remaining villages including renewable technologies  | Falkirk Council | Falkirk Council Tenants |  |  |  | Blackness; Standburn; South Alloa, Torwood and Limerigg covers all areas with no gas infrastructure. | **Ongoing** **Phase 1**Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) installations to properties included in Phase 1 are complete except for one property in a communal block where consultation with owners is ongoing. A follow up survey took place with 13/27 tenants, 6 months after the installation date of the new heating. Taking the pre and post survey results into consideration it is clear to see that a combination of the new heating, solar pv’s, battery storage and the new windows and doors has made a real difference to the thermal comfort of these homes. The reduction in the need for temporary heaters, the improvement in damp and condensation and the reduction in fuel bills has meant a big difference to the lives of the tenants involved.To date, 3 tenants refused the proposed change of heating.**Phase 2** Scottish Government (SG) Funding was approved for Phase 2 and this work is now progressing.The Energy Officer has installed internal temperature and humidity monitoring devices in 1 property in Limerigg and 1 property in Whitecross prior to the new heating being installed in Phase 2. This will provide comparative data and assess the impact on the thermal comfort of the new heating.88 ASHP/ PV installations have been completed under Phase 2 in Slamannan, California, Whitecross and Avonbridge. A small number of installations have been delayed due to access issues, refusals and essential remedial works.  |

**General Updates**

From 1st February 2023 – 31st December 2023 we have completed:

Installations

* Replacement boilers 26
* Refurbished boilers 4
* Full new systems – 2

427 boiler services have been completed.

131 Thermaflows heating systems have been removed and replaced with Air Source Heat Pumps.

* Year 3 of the current window and door programme is progressing well with Year 4 addresses now being issued for survey works to start. As year 4 signifies the end of the current contract, we are now starting the procurement process for the new contract which will incorporate Years 5-8. This is planned to start in 2025 as Year 4 of the current contract comes to an end.
* There is now a link on the Falkirk Council web site with financial assistance information and more: - [Benefits & support - Energy grants | Falkirk Council](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/benefits-support/energy-grants.aspx)

427 off-gas households have been referred for a payment through the Household Support Fund. 365 households (85%) have received this support to date. This fund has been set up to support low-income households struggling with the rising cost of living.