

Summary of Data and Links regarding Warm Homes

– Nationally, Regionally and Locally

1. Background / Context

HCA intends to join the Friends of the Earth **United for Warm Homes** campaign (see further details and links at end of this document). The campaign aims to help get better support for the potentially thousands of residents across Harborough facing **fuel poverty** this winter, by calling for:

- **Urgent additional financial support to keep people warm.** Even with the government's price freeze, too many people will be pushed into rationing their energy use this winter and living in cold, damp homes. We need more targeted support to keep people warm and well.
- **A nationwide insulation programme.** We need the government to roll out an emergency programme of insulation and energy saving measures now - starting in neighbourhoods where fuel poverty is highest.
- **Permanent fixes to our failed energy system.** Our energy system currently prioritises massive fossil fuel company profits over meeting people's basic needs. By powering our homes with cheap and clean renewables and guaranteeing everyone the energy they need to live comfortably, we can ensure no one is left in the cold.

This will involve HCA volunteer members locating and engaging with a range of local organisations - so we need to be clearer on **two key aspects**:

- **DATA / ANALYSIS** - what is fuel poverty, how much does it and will it impact residents across Harborough, how does this compare to the regional and national situation / forecast?
- **ORGANISATION / DELIVERY** - who are the key local organisations, how can we help them and what action can / should we take together (communications, activities, etc)?

This note is designed to **address the data aspect** and assist those working on the organisation part.

2. Definitions

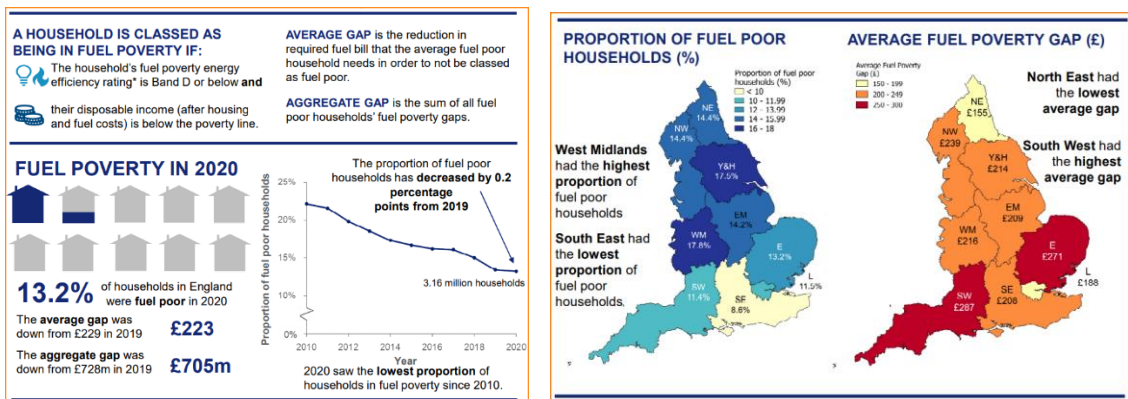
- **'Population'** – number of people (recorded, estimated, average or on a given day!)
- **'Resident'** – person who lives there most of the time; **'Household'** – one or more usual residents in the same property
- **'National'** – some data is for 'England', 'England & Wales' or may be for the 'UK'
- **'Regional'** – depends on the data source but we are in 'East Midlands'
- **'Local'** – not just **Market Harborough Town ('MH')** but the **whole of Harborough District ('Harborough')** whose population is **now** at around **97k**. Based on the old **2011 Census figures**, we had 85k in total across the district with MH at 22k, Lutterworth 10k, Broughton Astley 9k, Kibworth 6k, Fleckney 5k, Great Glen 4k – with another 29k in the smaller towns and villages.
- **'Fuel Poverty'**
 - **National Energy Action (NEA)** the fuel poverty charity, define this as a household that needs to spend 10% or more of its income on energy in order to maintain a satisfactory heating regime.
 - **UK GOV** use 'Low Income Low Energy Efficiency (LILEE)' for fuel poverty in England. A household is considered to be fuel poor if:
 - they are living in a property with an **energy efficiency rating of band D or below**
 - *and* when they spend the required amount to heat their home, they are left with a **residual income below the official poverty line.**

3. Data

- The data should come from clearly referenced ‘trusted’ sources (like UK Gov, ONS, NEA) but is seldom recent (eg the UK GOV Fuel Poverty Factsheet 2022 is based on data from 2020). Unfortunately, it can often be quite selective and may take considerable expertise to analyse and put into a meaningful context for our purposes!
- The key data we are trying to find is:
 - What is the level of Fuel Poverty across Harborough?
 - How does this compare with the regional / national averages?
 - What will both these look like by the start / end of this winter?

4. Basic Data

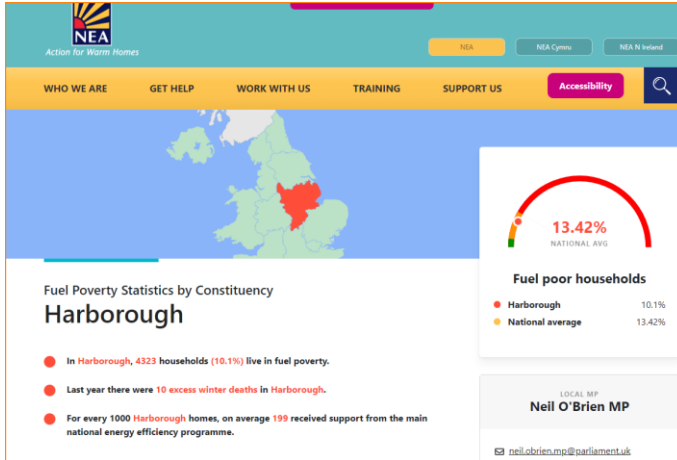
- According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), there were an **estimated 28.1 million households in UK** in 2021, and increase of 6.3% over the previous 10 years.
- The government’s energy price cap freeze (from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023) means the average annual bill will be around £2,500. However, if you use more, you’ll pay more.
- National Energy Action *predicts* that even with this support, **6.7 million UK households could be in fuel poverty**, unable to afford to heat their homes to the temperature needed to keep warm and healthy. That’s approx. **24% of all households** and an increase of 2.2 million from NEA’s previous estimate of 16% (2020) when UK GOV showed ~ 13% of the UK was in poverty.
- UK GOV Annual Factsheet** (published in February 2022 using **2020 data**) shows the baseline:



- UK Census 2021 shows that in Harborough**, the population size had increased by 14%, from around 85,400 in 2011 to **97,600 in 2021**. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.
- ‘In Your Area’ Households in Fuel Poverty (2020 data)** shows Harborough at 8-10% on average:



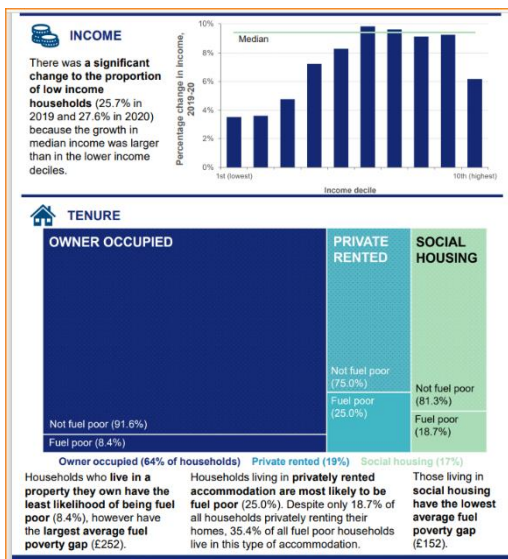
- **National Energy Action Fuel Poverty by Constituency Map** is also based on the same BEIS 2020 data as 'In My Area' and shows Harborough has 4,323 households in fuel poverty (10% of all households):



- This undated **End Fuel Poverty Map (England)** shows Harborough at ~ 10% of 37,494 households:



- **UK GOV Fuel Poverty by Income and Household (2020 data)** shows how **Tenure** impacts:

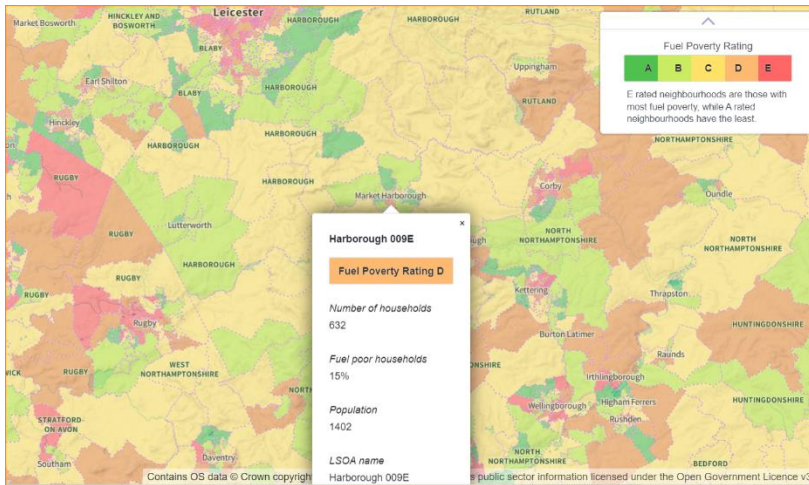


Note: There were 3.2 million fuel-poor households in England in 2020, according to 'recent' government data.

The data also shows that **fuel poverty was proportionately more prevalent in rural areas** because rural homes are typically less energy efficient and may rely more on expensive heating fuels.

The energy efficiency of a property is measured using the **Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER)**. In 2020, rural households with the poorest FPEER rating of F or G had an average fuel poverty gap of £1,095 compared with an average fuel poverty gap of £971 for urban households of the same energy rating.

- **Friend of the Earth Fuel Poverty Map** shows Harborough is generally below other nearby areas (eg Leicester, Rugby) but can be as high as **15% of households** in some parts (eg LSOA 009E):



Note: Friends of the Earth has ranked England's neighbourhoods from A (being the lowest levels of fuel poverty) to E (being the highest levels of fuel poverty). In the worst, E-rated neighbourhoods, accounting for 20% of those in England, the proportion of fuel poor households ranges from 18-44% with an average of 23%.

- **Harborough District Council (HDC)** stated in their **Harborough District Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report May 2019:**
 - Although Harborough District has a lower percentage of homes in fuel poverty than neighbouring authorities, the number is still **around 1 in 10 of all households and affects over 3,000 homes**. Harborough is a very rural district and there are many homes off the gas grid, which has been identified as a major contributor to the risk of fuel poverty. In addition, many rural homes are both harder to heat and harder to treat for energy efficiency improvements.
 - Harborough District has a very high proportion of detached homes, almost 50%. Many of the homes are also of older construction, as identified in the Housing Survey completed in 2010. In addition, there are a large number of homes that rely on oil or electricity for their heating needs. **Over 20% of homes have no gas central heating**. This is due to the rural nature of the district, with many villages having little or no access to the national gas grid ... and lack of access to gas can increase the risk of fuel poverty.

5. United for Warm Homes Campaign

- **Urgent additional financial support to keep people warm.** Even with the government's price freeze, energy bills are still far too high for millions of us. As the price of food and other essentials continues to rise, too many people will be pushed into rationing their energy use this winter and living in cold homes. We need more targeted support to keep people warm and well.
- **A nationwide insulation programme.** Upgrading homes with insulation is the cheapest and easiest way to permanently reduce our bills. But most people can't afford it. We need governments across the UK to roll out an emergency programme of insulation and energy saving measures now, starting in neighbourhoods where fuel poverty is highest.
- **Permanent fixes to our failed energy system.** Our energy system currently prioritises massive fossil fuel company profits over meeting people's basic needs. Everyone deserves a warm home, and there's no good reason we can't all have one. By powering our homes with cheap and clean renewables and guaranteeing everyone the energy they need to live comfortably, we can ensure no one is left in the cold.

6. Useful Web Links

- Friends of the Earth United for Warm Homes - <https://unitedforwarmhomes.uk/>
- National Energy Action - <https://www.nea.org.uk/>
- Office for National Statistics (ONS) - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity>
- UK GOV Fuel Poverty Factsheet / Report 2022 (using 2020 data) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fuel-poverty-factsheet-2022>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/annual-fuel-poverty-statistics-report-2022>
- UK GOV Guides to the BEIS fuel poverty statistics - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-statistics-methodology-handbook>
- Poverty definitions and thresholds - <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/data/poverty-thresholds/>
- FullFact.Org Poverty in the UK: a guide to the facts and figures (Sep 2019) - <https://fullfact.org/economy/poverty-uk-guide-facts-and-figures/>
- Harborough District Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Report May 2019 – https://www.harborough.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3330/home_energy_conservation_act_report.pdf
- UK GOV Census (2021) Population - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/census-2021-first-results-england-and-wales/population-and-household-estimates-england-and-wales-census-2021>
- In Your Area Households in Fuel Poverty - <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/the-regions-and-local-authorities-with/>
- Energy Support and Advice UK (FB) - <https://www.facebook.com/EnergySupportAndAdviceUK/>

7. Interactive Maps

- NEA Fuel Poverty by Constituency Map - <https://www.nea.org.uk/constituencies/harborough/>
- End Fuel Poverty Map (England):
– <https://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/english-fuel-poverty-index-2021/>
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/david.southgate8053/viz/EnglishFuelPovertyIndexTechnicalDetail/Sheet1?publish=yes>
- Friend of the Earth Fuel Poverty Map:
<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/fuel-poverty-mapped-regional-differences-across-england>
<https://mapst.ac/foe/fuel-poverty#9.23/52.4387/-1.0452>
- How the population changed in Harborough: Census 2021 - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E07000131/>

CAN YOU SUGGEST ANY MORE RECENT READILY UNDERSTOOD (LOCAL) DATA SOURCES?

- UK Poverty Line – Poverty definitions and thresholds (2020):

Household types	Minimum Income Standard - Inner London (AHC), 2020	Minimum Income Standard - Outer London (AHC), 2020	UK poverty line - After Housing Costs, 2020	Destitution, 2020
Single, working-age	£276	£253	£141	£70
Couple, working-age	£379	£408	£244	£105
Single, pensioner	£212	£188	£141	NA
Couple, pensioner	£393	£325	£244	NA
Lone parent, one child (aged one)	£297	£315	£190	£95
Couple with two children (aged three and seven)	£514	£532	£346	£145

Note: MIS figures are updated to reflect the report produced by Loughborough University for TL in 2020. For family types where updates are not available we have carried forward the 2016/17 data and adjusted for inflation by CPIH. Destitution is defined by the JRF as people who went without 2 or more essentials in the past month because they couldn't afford them, or their income is extremely low.

Data source: Poverty thresholds are from Households Below Average Income 2019/20, Department for Work and Pensions. Minimum Income Standard thresholds are based on the Minimum Income Standard (MIS) for London, Trust for London 2020. Destitution in the UK 2020, JRF