

Motion for consideration by Council on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Proposed by: Councillor John Milne

This Council believes that the need to reduce domestic energy use has never been greater, both for environmental reasons and to help alleviate fuel poverty.

To help achieve this, all housing in our area should be insulated to a minimum of EPC C standard with good quality loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, double-glazing and draught exclusion. Council notes the Government target to upgrade all housing to this standard by 2030.

Steps have been taken to upgrade council owned properties but this is a very small number overall.

Council appreciates the scale of this challenge but at the same time makes a commitment to end fuel poverty and excess carbon emissions from poorly insulated homes and develop a strategy to achieve this.

This Council therefore commits to:

- Strengthen its procedures to enforce minimum standards of energy efficiency in the private rented sector – making sure landlords without an EPC certificate for their properties are fined, and properties with an inadequate EPC rating are prevented from being rented.
- Publish a statement of intent and set locally appropriate eligibility criteria to access Energy Company Obligation funding via Local Authority Flexibility arrangements – allowing more vulnerable and low-income households in our area to access funding to better insulate their homes.
- Ensure new housing is built to the highest possible energy efficiency standards through reviewing Local Plan policies and introducing additional Supplementary Planning Guidance to ensure the use of low-carbon materials, heat pumps rather than gas heating systems, and renewable energy as much as possible.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking that the Government adopt the recommendations relating to retrofitting homes and buildings in the Blueprint for a Green Recovery report published in January 2021.

Council finally instructs the Chief Executive and Cabinet Members with responsibility for housing, communities and the environment to bring a report on progress to Full Council every 6 months, and refers the issue to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be placed in the Council's scrutiny work programme.