

Council, 7 April 2022, 19:30

Motion with notice

Council procedure rule 2.17

Motion: Retrofitting insulation

Councillor Booton will move the motion. Councillor Essex will second.

This Council notes that:

- Millions of families across the UK are struggling with rising energy prices. Too many children are growing up in damp, draughty & cold homes due to decades of underinvestment and poor insulation.
- Housing is responsible for around 28% of direct greenhouse gas emissions that occur in Surrey¹, so delivering net-zero requires action to upgrade homes, through energy-saving measures such as better insulation, for example. This will also improve people's lives, finances, health and create new jobs locally, whilst ensuring we meet the Government's targets.
- To meet the Government's climate targets at least 19 million homes need to be retrofitted across the UK by 2030², with energy efficiency measures. Current government funding however only supports retrofit in this manner, for a limited number of low-income households. The UK Climate Change Committee's most recent report states: "The lack of an integrated offer on home retrofit for the majority of households remains a real source of concern, and contrasts with international best practice..."³
- Average home energy bills are forecast to have increased to over £3000 by October 2022⁴ bringing far more homes into fuel poverty and has already led to local community action, such as that by Horley Lions, featured in a recent edition of Reigate and Banstead Borough News magazine⁵. Home energy efficiency improvements now have a shorter timeframe for payback benefits and would help cut residents' bills.

This Council has already affirmed in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy that *"Reigate & Banstead Borough Council has recognised that the role of local*

¹ https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/225615/Surreys-Climate-Change-Strategy-2020.pdf

² [See publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmenvaud/346/34605.htm](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmenvaud/346/34605.htm)

³ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/independent-assessment-the-uks-net-zero-strategy/>

⁴ <https://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/3000-energy-bill-could-leave-8-5-million-uk-households-in-fuel-poverty/>

⁵ <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/WarmOverWinterWOW>

government is critical in helping to embed measures and support residents and businesses to make the necessary changes to meet this national legislation.”

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Set up a local retrofit task force in Reigate and Banstead to accelerate plans and actions needed to retrofit homes across the borough including:
 - Working with Surrey County Council, as part of their energy assessment of housing, to map different categories & identify appropriate energy efficiency retrofit interventions locally.
 - Conduct a ‘skills audit’ to identify the jobs & skills gaps to implementing energy efficiency retrofitting locally.
 - Establish a one-stop energy advice portal for homeowners such as: cosyhomesoxfordshire.org
 - Establish local training and delivery partnerships and agreements that can upskill and deliver energy efficiency retrofitting of homes through local institutions, such as Coast to Capital LEP, Raven Housing and East Surrey College.
- 2) Sign up to the Great Homes Upgrade Campaign, which already enjoys the support of fellow councils such as Bristol, Leeds, Cambridge, Liverpool, Newcastle and Glasgow. (greathomesupgrade.org)
- 3) Write to Boris Johnson MP, Rishi Sunak MP and the COP26 President Alok Sharma highlighting the need to urgently retrofit millions of homes of all tenure types by 2030, in order to stay on track with Government legal commitments, and calling for the finance from HM Treasury to unlock this.