

# Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 30 November 2023

## Public Questions

Number	Question by	Answered by	Subject
2	Mr Christopher Whinney	Cllr Moses, Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability	Retrofitting local housing stock

**Mr Christopher Whinney** asked the **Executive Member for Environment & Sustainability, Councillor Moses** the following question:

**Question: Retrofitting local housing stock**

I understand that to fully retrofit a dwelling costs up to £30,000 but some aspects may be given priority, such as loft insulation and LED lighting. The Council does and continues to have the opportunity to request funds from Central Government to retrofit the local Housing Stock. What funds were received in the last financial year and many houses so fitted, the same for this year and what is the intention to seek and achieve next financial year?

**Response:**

Thank you for your question, Alderman Whinney.

In total, there are around 62,000 homes in the borough. Just over half of these are thought to require measures to make them more energy efficient.

The Council works with other organisations to access funding to help local residents to make their homes more energy efficient.

This not only saves those residents money on their energy bills but also reduces domestic carbon emissions across the Borough. Currently around one third of our borough's carbon emissions come from domestic properties.

I'll provide you with a quick summary of recent external funding we have secured.

Please forgive me, however as, due to different reporting and delivery periods, it is not always possible to break these down neatly by financial year.

Since 2021/22, the Council has worked with other organisations such as Raven Housing Trust, Surrey County Council and Action Surrey to secure funding for some of the hardest to heat homes in the borough, where residents are on low or no income.

Funding has been secured from the following Government schemes.

- The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Phase 1
- The Local Authority Delivery Fund, Phases 1a, 1b and 2; and
- The Sustainable Warmth Fund and Homes Upgrade Grant Phase 1.

In total, across these schemes, around £2.2 million of investment has been secured for the borough, to upgrade 220 homes.

Most recently, Surrey has secured a further £12.4 million to be spent between April 2023 and March 2025 on improving off-gas grid properties across the County, including in Reigate & Banstead. To date 23 borough households are benefitting from this.

Now moving to the part of your question about our future plans.

Government funding tends not to be announced a very far in advance.

But I can reassure you that at Reigate & Banstead we will continue to seek to access funding for domestic retrofit. It often makes more sense to do this working with other Surrey local authorities to improve our chances of a successful bid.

I am also committed to continuing to make residents aware of other funding and support that is available to improve their homes. This can be via our website, social media, email and printed material that we produce.

This includes the Government's Boiler Upgrade scheme, which provides funding to encourage residents to install heat pumps rather than gas boilers.

Also, the Great British Insulation Scheme. As the name suggests this offers insulation upgrades for poor energy efficiency homes in lower council tax bandings.

Finally, although not a Government scheme, I would just like to mention the recent Solar Together project coordinated by Surrey County Council and promoted in Reigate & Banstead.

Our borough had the highest registration figures from any Surrey authority (over 1,000), which means that many of our residents will soon be benefitting from energy bill savings from new solar panels.

No supplementary question was asked.