

## **Council – 12 April 2022**

### **Motions by Members (Standing Order No. 14)**

#### **Great Homes Upgrade Campaign Motion (Cllr Neve)**

Millions of families across the UK are struggling with steeply rising energy prices.

Too many children and adults are living in damp, draughty and cold homes, amongst the worst in Europe, due to decades of underinvestment and poor insulation.

Housing is one of the largest sources of carbon emissions in the country, making up around 14% of total UK emissions.

There is no path to net zero without upgrading our homes.

To meet the government's own climate targets, we need to retrofit at least 19 million homes by 2030 and make all our housing low energy and zero carbon by 2050. To meet North Somerset's target of net zero by 2030 the rate of change must be even faster.

This critical step on the path to net zero is a huge opportunity to improve peoples' lives, finances and health and create thousands of good jobs across the country.

In October 2021 the Government released a Heat and Building Strategy, laying out the plans to cut energy demand and carbon emissions from homes and buildings, yet the financial offer was far less than promised in their manifesto. Under the Government's plans we would barely scratch the surface in the time we have to avoid climate catastrophe.

Council resolves to:

Call on the UK government to implement a Great Homes Upgrade

Write to Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and COP 26 President Alok Sharma highlighting the need to retrofit at least 19 million homes by 2030 to stay on track with their legal commitments and calling for the finance from the Treasury to unlock this.

Sign up to the Great Homes Upgrade campaign as a supporting organisation

Set up a local retrofit task force to help gather the evidence base, skills and expertise to kick start the process in this area. The work of the task force should include:

- A needs audit of local housing, identifying archetypes and appropriate retrofit interventions.
- Skills audit, identifying required skills and jobs.

- Partnership development with training providers and local enterprises that can deliver interventions.
- Partnership working with social housing providers and neighbouring authorities and other landlords
- Establishing a one stop portal for homeowners to access advice and guidance on retrofit.

Share best practice and stories of retrofit success with the Great Homes Upgrade campaign and with the Local Government Association.

Write to neighbouring authorities asking them to join the campaign.