

Council meeting, 24 January 2023

Amendment to Administration motion in the name of Cllr Ross Houston: Cllr Richard Cornelius Great Homes Upgrade

Council believes that:

A green recovery from the pandemic is not only possible but imperative if we are to meet our carbon reduction targets as a local authority with the added emphasis on making it affordable for our poorest residents.

Council notes that:

1. Melting ice caps and forest fires can often seem like someone else's crisis when many are taking effect so far from our homes.
2. Crises closer to home affecting thousands of local families cannot be separated from those further afield.
3. The UK has been successful in balancing Economic Growth with its obligation to tackle Climate Change¹
4. The UK has been leading the charge on retrofitting and is ranked amongst the best G20 countries for retrofitting.²³
5. There are 15,188 households living in fuel poverty in Barnet.
6. Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat.
7. There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting these homes across the UK.
8. Doing so would not only help to protect our planet, but can improve housing, lead to cheaper energy bills and create hundreds of thousands of good quality jobs.
9. Here in Barnet, it is estimated that there are at least 61,399 homes below EPC C that require retrofitting, and this could, should the council work with different sectors and partners, create thousands of good quality jobs in our local communities.
10. His Majesty's Government has dedicated £12.6 billion to the retrofitting programme.
11. His Majesty's Government has promised to establish a taskforce to oversee the retrofitting programme.
12. His Majesty's Government, in the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) policy, gave Local Governments, such as Barnet the ability to access £150m of funding available to support low-income households in retrofitting homes.
13. The previous Conservative administration joined 12 other councils in the Green Homes Upgrade to carry out smart energy efficiency retrofits on up to 2,500 fuel poor homes across the boroughs, including Barnet, and pinpointed residents on how to attain a grant to improve their housing through that scheme and several other schemes.⁴⁵⁶⁷

¹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2019-progress-report-to-parliament/>

² [G20 countries too slow at retrofitting buildings: report \(energyvoice.com\)](https://www.energyvoice.com/g20-countries-too-slow-at-retrofitting-buildings-report/)

³ [Global Retrofix Index.pdf \(3keel.com\)](https://www.3keel.com/global-retrofix-index.pdf)

⁴ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sustainability-barnet/how-live-more-sustainable-life>

⁵ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/news/ps10000-green-homes-grant-cut-barnet-households-fuel-bills>

⁶ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/housing/private-housing/landlords-barnet/energy-efficiency>

⁷ <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/assets/citizenportal/documents/ARCHIVE/HospitalLetter.pdf>

Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Homes and Communities calling on them to:

1. Commit to a Great Homes Upgrade to retrofit 19 million homes by 2050.
2. Use the Spring Budget to allocate as much as is affordable over the next three years to begin the Great Homes Upgrade.
3. Commit to working with local authorities, housing associations, private rental landlords and owner occupiers to upgrade properties ready for net zero.
4. Commit to setting up a retrofitting taskforce to target resources now to achieve net zero through upgrading properties as already promised in the autumn budget.

Council also resolves to:

1. Write to our neighbouring local authorities to ask them to join the campaign.
2. Support London-wide efforts to lobby the Government on this issue.
3. Write to our 3 local MPs asking them to join the campaign and lobby the Government for the Great Homes Upgrade.
4. Write to the Mayor of London to work lockstep with the Government in retrofitting homes.
5. Write to the Mayor of London to refrain from publicity and put in the work needed to support councils in this endeavour.