

## **Energy Efficiency Support for every Householder in Bristol: making ideas work.**

### **Council notes:**

- the Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme and its component documents set out where the city needs to go and what it seeks to achieve but not at this stage how this is to be accomplished
- addressing the poor energy performance of our current buildings, particularly homes, that will save energy, reduce carbon emissions and alleviate fuel poverty is crucial to achieving Bristol's adopted 2030 Climate Emergency resolutions
- the up-grading of the huge majority of our domestic buildings has been sporadic and piecemeal to date.. Technical and financial advice can be accessed but multifaceted interventions are challenging and a disincentive.
- the easier, more currently cost-effective measures such as loft and cavity-fill insulation , draught-proofing and smarter boilers have been much, though patchily, carried out - but are not enough where they are in place, and there are too many places where they are not
- retro-fitting by Bristol City Council is directed to our large social housing stock and advice is rightly focused on people experiencing fuel poverty
- the revenue-saving benefits from capital investment may be simply calculated over time where the owner is the occupier but this is a more complicated model for publicly-managed social housing and even more so in the Private Rented Sector.
- energy providers and bankers can manage initial investment for home-owners, and some do, as with the Green Deal model for larger investors. Landlords can recover investment through rent but there are poorly-adopted schemes for energy-saving passports and sales premiums for home-owners.

### **Council intends:**

- to assemble the details of a service by which every household in the city will be able to access appropriate support with home energy efficiency and renewable technology. The service will encourage a greater uptake of energy efficiency measures in Bristol; lowering emissions and energy bills, as well as promoting the creation of low-carbon skills and employment in the area.
- to extend the scope of the council's work to deliver our 2030 resolutions, to consider its role in encouraging all households , including individual private house-owners, to appreciate the value to themselves, let alone society, of an investment to secure long –term savings, particularly when the calculated return falls outside their personal occupation period.
- to look beyond the good work in fuel poverty mitigation and capital schemes within our own housing stock and the wider Heat Network to be a hub for general advice and a facilitator for delivering beneficial schemes

### **This Council agrees**

- that reducing domestic energy consumption, and the resultant carbon emissions, should be encouraged within Bristol by widening the advice and support on offer to incorporate every household in the city

**This council resolves:**

- to request the mayor to instruct officers to explore the feasibility of expanding the scope of work carried out by officers across the council including the setting up of a team to focus support on a wider range of households in Bristol to have access to green energy and to reduce their energy use to help Bristol to becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030. The scope of the study should be as wide as needed but should at least include technical and financial advice, practical on-site consultation and implementation support, all or any of which might be provided in-house or through commercial agencies
- to request the mayor to instruct officers to build a business case to create a comprehensive service offer and methodology for directing appropriate and tailored support to every household in the city. The business case will consider the level of resourcing currently available to BCC, and consider options to increase capacity; including the exploration of strategic partnerships to provide the comprehensive service and offer
- to request the mayor to instruct officers to explore a programme for developing a local, highly-skilled workforce to deliver low-carbon, energy efficiency installations within the city
- request the mayor to instruct officers to explore the potential of financing the capital cost of low-carbon technologies for private housing tenures, through the provision of grants and loans.
- to request that a further report on progress is requested to be brought back to the council within 6 months,

**Motion to be presented by Cllr. Anthony Negus (Cotham, LibDem councillor)**

**Submitted 26.11.20**