

Southend Labour

Motion to reduce fuel poverty in Southend

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council:

We have achieved some success in reducing fuel bills through Southend energy however in 2018 a government report gave figures of one in ten households in Southend experiencing fuel poverty. We know that poor housing conditions lead to poor health and increase the pressure on the NHS and Social services.

Since the Covid 19 pandemic many people have lost their jobs and face increasing risks of financial exclusion.

The council therefore resolves:

(i) To set local development controls on minimum expectations of insulation and glazing requirements for private landlords.

(ii) To use the government guidance from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2018-22 ECO3 that allows local authorities to identify fuel poor homes.

(iii) To work with energy companies to fulfil their role to insulate fuel poor homes under their legal 'ECO' energy company obligations.

(iv) To lobby government to support the local electricity bill to succeed, and by doing so make the set up and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a right to 'Local Supply.'

Proposed by: Councillor Kay Mitchell

Second: Councillor Stephen George