

MOTION TO ENSURE SOUTHEND FAMILIES HAVE A WARM HOME FIT FOR THE FUTURE

This 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. However, up to now much of the proposed actions are little more than rhetoric. We need to turn rhetoric into action.

We note that melting ice caps and forest fires can often seem like someone else's crisis when many are taking effect so far from our homes. But we also note that crises closer to home affecting thousands of local families cannot be separated from those further afield.

Here in the city of Southend-on-Sea there are many families living in fuel poverty, and children living in homes affected by damp. In Southend-on-Sea, 72% of our homes do not meet basic energy efficiency standards, pushing fuel bills even higher. Across the UK there are more than 24 million homes leaking heat.

There is no route to decarbonising the economy without retrofitting these more than 24 million homes across the UK. 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. Here in Southend-on-Sea there are properties that require retrofitting and this could create a number of good quality jobs in our local communities.

Southend-on-Sea City Council calls upon the Prime Minister to call for a Great Homes Upgrade and a commitment to retrofit 19million homes by 2030.

We also call on the Chancellor to use the Spring Budget to commit to spending £11.7Bn over the next three years to begin a Great Homes Upgrade, and that the government will commit to working with housing associations, private rental properties and owner occupiers to upgrade properties for net zero.

We also call on them to them to commit to setting up a retrofitting taskforce to target resources now to achieving net zero through upgrading properties.

We also commit to writing to our neighbouring local authorities to ask them to join us to join the campaign.

Proposed by:

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Seconded by:

Cllr Aston Line

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Cllr Maxine Sazda