

## **CORRECTION**

**Please note this motion was published with a missing reference link. Please find the correct motion with all six references included below:**

### **MOTION No. 3 - ENERGY EFFICIENCY / RESIDENTIAL**

**Proposed by Councillor Naomi Graham**

**Seconded by Councillor Judith Grier**

Council welcomes the national and local financial support to help residents with energy bills.

But rising energy costs are not a one off. To protect against future energy price increases and maximise the return on expenditure, Council believes all housing in our borough should be insulated to a minimum of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) 'C' standard with good quality loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, double-glazing and draught exclusion.

#### Council notes

- The insight from Wirral Intelligence service that almost 1 in 7 households in Wirral were estimated to live in fuel poverty in 2020, with large inequalities between wards - over 1 in 4 households in Bidston and St James ward (25.2%) compared to 1 in 12 in Heswall ward (8.3%) (1). The report to Policy and Resources Committee in August 2022 which outlined that the proportion of households in England living in fuel poverty could rise to 42% of households after October 2022(2).
- The Fuel Poverty, Cold Homes and Health Inequalities report which highlights the 'dangerous consequences' of living in a cold home to a child's health and future life expectancy (3)
- The Great Homes Upgrade report identifying that one in four pounds spent on heating is wasted (4) and the Energy Saving Trust Report from December 2020 commissioned by Wirral Council, highlighting that our existing housing stock is less energy efficient than the UK average.
- The Energy Efficiency Infrastructure Group (EEIG) estimate that if all homes were upgraded to the EPC C efficiency band, households would save on average £400 per year (5).
- The economic benefits of retrofitting with the potential for high-value local jobs in retrofitting. The UK Energy Research Council (UKERC) estimate that for every £1 invested by in domestic energy efficiency, GDP could be increased by £3.20 and tax take by £1.27.
- The Government target to upgrade all housing to Energy performance certificate (EPC) level C or above by 2035. To achieve that target, 7,095 homes on the Wirral need to be insulated per year.
- Cool 2 Wirral's Climate Strategy to reduce the overall demand for energy in Wirral across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors making sure all homes currently below Energy Performance Certificate Band C that can be upgraded are improved to this level or better by around 2030".

Council acknowledges the work already being done as outlined in the Update on the Low Carbon Housing Retrofit Programme to Wirral's Housing Committee in November 2021 (6) but commits to increasing the pace of delivery. Council appreciates the scale of this challenge but at the same time makes a commitment to end fuel poverty, poor health and excess carbon emissions from poorly insulated homes.

To support this, Council asks the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee, to include as part of its' work programme, actions to enable the Council to

- Have an ambitious stated year on year insulation or EPC target for Wirral.
- Develop a plan by the end of financial year to help realise the target.
- Actively identify potential sources of funding (within current budgets and via external funding) to enable improvements to start this winter.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/state-of-the-borough/> (all wards at [https://wirral.communityinsight.org/?indicator=fuel\\_pov\\_alt\\_11\\_dr\\_20200101#](https://wirral.communityinsight.org/?indicator=fuel_pov_alt_11_dr_20200101#) )

<sup>2</sup> <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50093142/Cost%20of%20Living%20Crisis.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.instituteofhealthequity.org/resources-reports/fuel-poverty-cold-homes-and-health-inequalities-in-the-uk>

<sup>4</sup> <https://greathomesupgrade.org/housingCampaign/campaign>

<sup>5</sup> <https://greathomesupgrade.org/about/faq>

<sup>6</sup> <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50083141/Update%20on%20Low%20Carbon%20Housing%20Retrofit%20Programme.pdf>

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