

**Cabinet Response to Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations
Completed Action Plan**

Green Skills for Retrofit Jobs

In accordance with Section 21B of the Local Government Act 2000, Cabinet is required to provide a response to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within 2 months. In providing this response Cabinet are asked to state whether or not it accepts each recommendation and the reasons for this decision. Cabinet must also indicate what action, if any, it proposes to take.

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendation	Officer Commentary	Cabinet Decision (Accept or reject)	Action to be taken (if any) and timescale for completion
<p>Recommendation 1 - Developing a Retrofit Strategy to stimulate the local retrofit market, including a phased approach to: a) retrofitting of the Authority's 14,000 council houses; b) acceleration of energy efficiency retrofit in the 90,000 private homes; and c) development of industrial/commercial retrofit clusters.</p>	<p>Energy efficiency and power and heat generation are two key themes within the Authority's Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan and projects to stimulate the local retrofitting of Authority owned homes, privately owned homes and the business sector are included in the plan.</p> <p>The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan builds on the Authority's track record of retrofitting properties.</p> <p>The average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for Council houses in the Borough is a C rating, a higher average than that of all houses in the Borough. Additionally, the Housing stock Standard Assessment Procedures (SAP) rating has improved from 71.4 to 72.8, saving an estimated 1,765 tonnes for CO2 per annum.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Deliver the actions within the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan and continue to work with North of Tyne Combined Authority on the detailed retrofit project.</p> <p>The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is presented to Cabinet for approval 1 August 2022.</p> <p>The work with North of Tyne Combined Authority will conclude in summer of 2023 and next steps will be considered at that time.</p>

	<p>The Authority's sheltered housing stock has benefited from £80m of capital investment via a Private Finance Initiative contract, which has provided 10 new build and 16 refurbished schemes. All new build schemes have an EPB rating of B and the majority of the refurbished schemes are rated as C.</p> <p>The Authority's partnership with E.On installed solar PV generation systems on over 1,400 Council houses. This produces approximately 3,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity each year and is provided to tenants free of charge.</p> <p>The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, subject to annual Cabinet approval, will deliver almost 17,000 energy efficiency and generation measures, such as solar PV, low energy lighting and cavity and loft insulation, into Council homes by the end of the decade.</p> <p>Since March 2021, the Authority has secured £8m in grant funding to install energy efficiency and generation measures in almost 900 homes in the Borough.</p> <p>Through the innovative North Tyneside Warm Zone partnership, the Authority helped to fund and install energy efficiency measures in over 20,000 homes across the Borough.</p>		
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	<p>In addition to the significant work the Authority has delivered to homes in the Borough, it has also retrofitted operational and public buildings. The Killingworth Depot is an exemplar in retrofitting and renovating a 1960's Grade 2* listed building. Four leisure centres have recently been retrofitted with energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating systems.</p> <p>Despite the considerable work that has been undertaken to date, there is a significant funding shortfall to deliver retrofit projects at the scale that is required.</p> <p>As Co-Chair of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Housing and Land Board, Mayor Redfearn has shown leadership in developing a focus on retrofitting and in April 2020 the board agreed their future programme of work would include bringing "forward proposals for a domestic retrofit programme at scale working with central government and local stakeholders to ensure existing and future policy and funding mechanisms are able to deliver a large scale retrofit programme that maximises local skills and supply chain opportunities, as well as fuel poverty and carbon reductions."</p> <p>In 2021, NTCA commissioned the Energy Savings Trust (EST), in partnership with Accelar and Frontier Economics, to develop a robust evidence base to inform the</p>		
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	<p>business case for a large-scale housing retrofit programme.</p> <p>Officers are currently working with colleagues at NTCA to identify specific investment opportunities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the commissioning of detailed technical and feasibility studies linked to a range of specific cross tenure retrofit opportunities• Financial and economic modelling to support the development of schemes• Developing the business model, including resourcing requirements, for a 'one stop shop' energy advice centre to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Generate resident demand for retrofit○ Providing trusted advice to residents and signpost to reputable installers○ Develop effective partnerships to bring together existing and new retrofit programmes○ Leverage external funding into the partnership○ Support delivery of schemes funded by a range of public and other funding streams.○ Provide intelligence on market demand to help shape supply chain development and skills programmes		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify exemplar properties that can be used for 'seeing is believing' case studies ● Provide a detailed funding options analysis for the investable schemes identified, including identification of existing funding gaps, and forthcoming funding streams which the projects could leverage ● Identifying areas where a case may be made for future fiscal devolution <p>Additionally, officers are working with colleagues at North of Tyne Combined Authority on a Business Decarbonisation Support Programme.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 2 - Integrating the above as a key area of focus within its existing Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Authority's new Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan includes the above recommendation.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>No action required.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 - Establishing a Climate Emergency Partnership Board. Within this establish two retrofitting working groups, one focused on industrial/commercial property, the other on residential property. Membership of the groups</p>	<p>The Authority has a Carbon Net-Zero 2030 board, co-chaired by the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Director of Environment and made up of senior managers and officers of the Authority.</p> <p>This board will provide the governance for the delivery of the Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan and will direct the most appropriate routes for project delivery. Lead</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>No action required.</p>

<p>should be extended to significant property owners in the borough who share our ambition to lower the carbon footprint of their buildings and are committed to sharing best practice.</p>	<p>officers will work with appropriate stakeholders as required to deliver projects.</p> <p>The Authority is also a member of a Borough wide Climate Emergency Board, made up of public sector organisations and businesses. The board is only recently established and is currently agreeing a work programme for the financial year. It is not considered appropriate at this point in time to use this group to facilitate a retrofitting working group, however this can be considered in the future once the Board is more established.</p> <p>Additionally, as noted in the response to Recommendation 1, the Mayor, through her position of Co-Chair of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) Housing and Land Board, has shown leadership in developing a focus on retrofitting.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 4 - Developing a communications strategy to stimulate demand by creating and maintaining a sense of urgency regarding the twin benefits of energy efficiency and carbon reduction. Promote the opportunities and benefits of retrofitting homes and buildings, including cost savings in the light of energy price rises.</p>	<p>In addition to the work with colleagues at North of Tyne Combined Authority as outlined in response to Recommendation 1, the Authority's "Action on Climate Change" campaign and "Climate Hub" webpage will deliver this recommendation.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Build this recommendation into the Authority's "Action on Climate Change" campaign and "Climate Hub" webpage.</p> <p>October 2022 and ongoing.</p>

<p>Recommendation 5 - Developing a set of scenarios (fast, medium, slow) for the retrofitting of various building types under various ownership. Consider undertaking this work in concert with colleagues at NTCA.</p>	<p>There is already a considerable amount of work ongoing within the Authority and with its partners to deliver on this recommendation. As such, this recommendation will be achieved through the work detailed in response to Recommendation 1.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The work with North of Tyne Combined Authority will conclude in summer of 2023 and next steps will be considered at that time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6 - Developing a Knowledge Bank for the sharing of locally relevant retrofitting information, evaluation and case studies.</p>	<p>The Authority’s “Climate Hub” webpage directly links to the Government endorsed “Simple Energy Advice” website, which offers impartial and independent advice on range of retrofitting issues, including available grants and technology advice.</p> <p>There are already industry and sector best practice knowledge hubs with useful retrofitting information and case studies, for example, UK100.</p> <p>Further to the above comments, this recommendation will be achieved through the work detailed in response to Recommendation 1.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>	<p>The Authority’s new Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan includes this recommendation.</p> <p>The Carbon Net-Zero 2030 Action Plan is presented to Cabinet for approval 1 August 2022.</p> <p>The work with North of Tyne Combined Authority will conclude in summer of 2023 and next steps will be considered at that time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7 - Ensuring that the relevant officers take up the challenge of enabling ‘Green Finance’, both grants and loans, to flow into the borough, through a variety of routes.</p>	<p>Accessing grant funding or loans can be a significant barrier to the delivery of de-carbonation projects.</p> <p>However, through the joint working of Member and Officers, the Authority has a strong track record of securing grant funding</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>The work with North of Tyne Combined Authority will conclude in summer of 2023 and next steps will be considered at that time.</p>

	<p>to decarbonise public buildings and cross tenure homes in the Borough deliver on its policy priorities</p> <p>For example, £3.3m grant funding was secured from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Grant to install energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating in four Authority leisure centres.</p> <p>Since March 2021, the Authority has secured £8m in grant funding to install energy efficiency and generation measures in almost 900 homes in the Borough.</p> <p>The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, subject to annual Cabinet approval, will deliver £32m of energy efficiency and generation measures, such as solar PV, low energy lighting and cavity and loft insulation, into Council homes by the end of the decade.</p> <p>The Authority's sheltered housing stock has benefited from £80m of capital investment via a Private Finance Initiative contract, which has provided 10 new build and 16 refurbished schemes.</p> <p>As Cabinet Members at North of Tyne Combined Authority, Mayor Redfearn and Deputy Mayor Johnson have brought forward the Green New Deal Fund which aims to support a wide range of low carbon projects across the North of Tyne Combined</p>		
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	<p>Authority area, including community energy schemes, Electric Vehicle charging solutions, building retrofits, small scale renewables, natural capital, and low carbon heating systems. The fund is valued at £18m.</p> <p>Despite the examples of funding provided above, there is a significant funding shortfall to deliver retrofit projects at the scale that is required, and funding streams are oversubscribed and limited in eligibility criteria.</p> <p>This recommendation will be achieved through the work detailed in response to Recommendation 1.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 8 - Increasing the number of PAS2035 qualified professionals in North Tyneside by commissioning a Retrofit Academy in North Tyneside for the delivery of PAS2035 qualifications. Recognise that this is likely to require the offer of some kind of financial incentive to professionals looking to upskill, to mitigate the risk to those professionals of shifting focus towards a newly emerging sector.</p>	<p>North Tyneside Council does not have access to devolved skills funding to enable the direct commissioning of a Retrofit Academy. The commissioning of skills provision is carried out by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and via devolved funding to the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).</p> <p>Officers will therefore continue to work with colleagues from the NTCA to understand and utilise data from recent research such as 'Skilling Up for Retrofitting' on roles required and skills needs to influence the commissioning of current and future funding held by NTCA. This could include devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB), Skills for Growth and Skills Bootcamps funding to</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>Share local intelligence to inform NTCA skills investment plans between 2022-25 initially.</p>

	ensure that North Tyneside residents and businesses benefit from the provision of green skills funding.		
Recommendation 9 - Commissioning pilots, trials and demonstrator projects that can be used to establish feasibility and grow the number of property owners willing to invest in their properties, be they domestic or commercial.	<p>The Authority has completed a number of retrofit projects to both operational buildings and Council homes that demonstrate the feasibility of technology and projects.</p> <p>The Authority has installed a range of energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating into four leisure centres. Additionally, the Killingworth Depot is an exemplar in retrofitting and renovating a 1960's Grade 2* listed building. The Authority has invested in energy efficient technology across its portfolio, including LED lighting in buildings and street lighting, insulation and voltage optimisation in buildings, and electrification of vehicles.</p> <p>The Authority has also demonstrated the feasibility of improving the energy efficiency of non-traditionally constructed housing, through investment in external wall insulation.</p> <p>The Authority is in the final stages of completing 9 affordable homes utilising a Modern Method of Construction (MMC) called HUSK. These homes will utilise electricity as a form of heat and build on the Authority's fabric first approach with a combination of Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar PV arrays.</p>	Accept	The work with North of Tyne Combined Authority will conclude in summer of 2023 and next steps will be considered at that time.

	Further to the examples provided, this recommendation will be achieved through the work detailed in response to Recommendation 1.		
<p>Recommendation 10 - Working closely with North of Tyne Combined Authority on its retrofitting-related workstreams, to ensure that North Tyneside is an early adopter of any programmes to upskill in green construction skills and to accelerate the pace of retrofitting of local property.</p>	<p>Officers will continue to work with colleagues from the NTCA to understand and utilise data from recent research such as ‘Skilling Up for Retrofitting’ on roles required and skills needs to influence the commissioning of current and future funding held by NTCA. This could include devolved AEB, Skills for Growth and Skills Bootcamps funding to ensure that North Tyneside is well placed with the skills required to support the delivery of retrofitting schemes.</p> <p>It is important to note that our participation in the NTCA ensures we help shape and direct their work around this topic so as to ensure the circumstances and needs of the borough are reflected in their activities.</p>	Accept	Deliver the action through sharing of local intelligence to inform NTCA skills investment plans between 2022-25 initially.