

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

23 FEBRUARY 2023

**REPORT OF PEOPLE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

**Lead Cabinet Members: Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing – Cllr Nigel Cooke
Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport – Cllr Mike Smith**

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the People Select Committee's review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)

This topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021-2022 (though did not commence until the start of the current 2022-2023 municipal year). The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

1. That correspondence is sent to the relevant government minister to urge that legislation is passed regarding delivering increased energy efficiency/ energy production standards on new housing through more stringent building regulations.
2. That a communications package is implemented to raise awareness amongst residents of new home efficiency initiatives and grants.
3. That Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's (SBC) Employment and Training Hub, and the Business and IP Centre, continue to work with external businesses and agencies to deliver 'green jobs' workshops, training and host recruitment events aimed at all levels including entry level jobs.
4. That there is continued delivery of the four high-level objectives outlined within SBC's Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Reduction Strategy. This includes an overall aim for the authority to be Net Zero* by 2032 and the wider borough by 2050. *Net zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with any remaining emissions re-absorbed from the atmosphere, by oceans and forests for instance.

DETAIL

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Home Energy Efficiency and Green Jobs for the Future. The aim of the review was to understand what funding was available for home efficiency improvements and whether this met the needs of Stockton

residents. The review also examined the work that was taking place across the Tees Valley to create a local workforce fit for the demands of a green economy of the future.

2. There have been successful schemes in the past to encourage energy efficiency and reduce carbon, many of these schemes are targeted at poorly performing homes or people on restricted income. Any Government funding and initiatives should be set up in such a way as to encourage house owners to reduce carbon whilst making homes more efficient and cheaper to heat. Soaring energy costs are also placing many residents in financial hardship. Any help with providing energy saving measures will reduce this burden on the elderly and vulnerable in society as well as improving their health and wellbeing whilst reducing carbon emissions.
3. Insulating homes, installing low carbon heating, and supporting the green transition have the potential to create many local jobs, however, there are national skills shortages in these industries. Climate change affects everyone and mitigating the impact of climate change may bring economic opportunities to the local area.
4. The Committee has taken evidence from Council Officers.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

5. Through this review, the Committee has recognised the need for new housing stock to be more energy efficient through tighter building regulations. The review's recommendations include a commitment to raise awareness of new home energy efficiency initiatives and grants available to the borough's residents. The promotion of 'green jobs' at all levels, including entry level jobs has also been highlighted as a necessary action.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no corporate parenting implications identified at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no legal implications identified at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. Not applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

11. None.

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