

# Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure Team



# Why should the Council respond to Climate Change and the energy crisis?

- Climate change poses a real threat to society and over time will impact on all residents of Stockton on Tees.
- The natural environment is threatened by climate change. The impacts of more extreme weather are already being felt and many species of animals are in steep decline.
- The Council delivers services which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and can act as an influencer.
- In the UK, climate change and the energy crisis will directly influence health outcomes through changing exposure to heat and cold, air pollution, pollen, food safety risks, disruptions to access to and functioning of health services and facilities. The most vulnerable in our society will be disproportionately affected.

# Influence and a Borough Wide Response

We have developed a strategy which sets out areas of work which will contribute to the achievement of local and national targets.

The authority aims to be Net Zero by 2032.

We will be working with partners to work to the Government aim of being Net Zero by 2050.

Endorsed by Cabinet in March 2022, action plan now being created.



# How? Four high level objectives

Achieve net zero  
greenhouse gas  
emissions

Protect and enhance  
the natural environment

Use all resources  
efficiently and minimise  
waste

Adapt to the impacts of  
climate change

# How? Achieve net zero

## **Aim 1: Achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions**

We will do this by:

- Improve energy efficiency to reduce harmful emissions
- Reducing energy demand wherever possible
- Accelerating the shift towards use of sustainable energy
- Capturing and storing carbon in woodlands and other natural habitats

# How? Natural environment

## **Aim 2: Protect and enhance the natural environment**

We will do this by:

- Protecting, extending and connecting areas of natural habitat
- Helping to address the decline in native species
- Taking action to improve water quality and reducing local demand for water
- Helping to improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions

# How? Resources

## **Aim 3: Use all resources efficiently and minimise waste**

We will do this by:

- Sustainable purchasing and procurement of goods and services
- Increasing resource productivity and minimising levels of residual waste
- Achieving the highest possible levels of re-use and recycling of resources
- Minimising litter and waste crime and disposing of waste responsibly.

# How? Adaptation

## **Aim 4: Adapt to the impacts of climate change**

We will do this by:

- Ensuring council operations and services are resilient to the likely future impacts of climate change
- Increasing the preparedness and resilience of local communities and businesses
- Planning and adapting the Borough's built and natural environment to withstand the impacts of climate change, e.g. reducing and managing flood risk



# Why is energy efficiency important?

- Improving the energy efficiency of UK buildings is the quickest way we can support families and businesses, to respond to rising energy prices.
- Over 90% of our homes are heated by fossil fuels, accounting for a third of UK total gas use. The price spikes in the gas market mean households are particularly exposed to these changes and facing energy bills upwards of £2,000.
- Improving the efficiency of our homes could reduce our heating bills by around 20% and reduce our dependency on foreign gas.
- Energy efficiency measures include double glazing, cavity wall, insulation to efficient light bulbs.

# The scale of the problem

- There are about 30 million buildings in the UK. Heating these buildings contributes to almost a quarter of all UK emissions.
- Addressing the carbon emissions produced in heating and powering our homes, workplaces and public buildings can not only save money on energy bills and improve lives but can support up to 240,000 skilled green jobs by 2035.



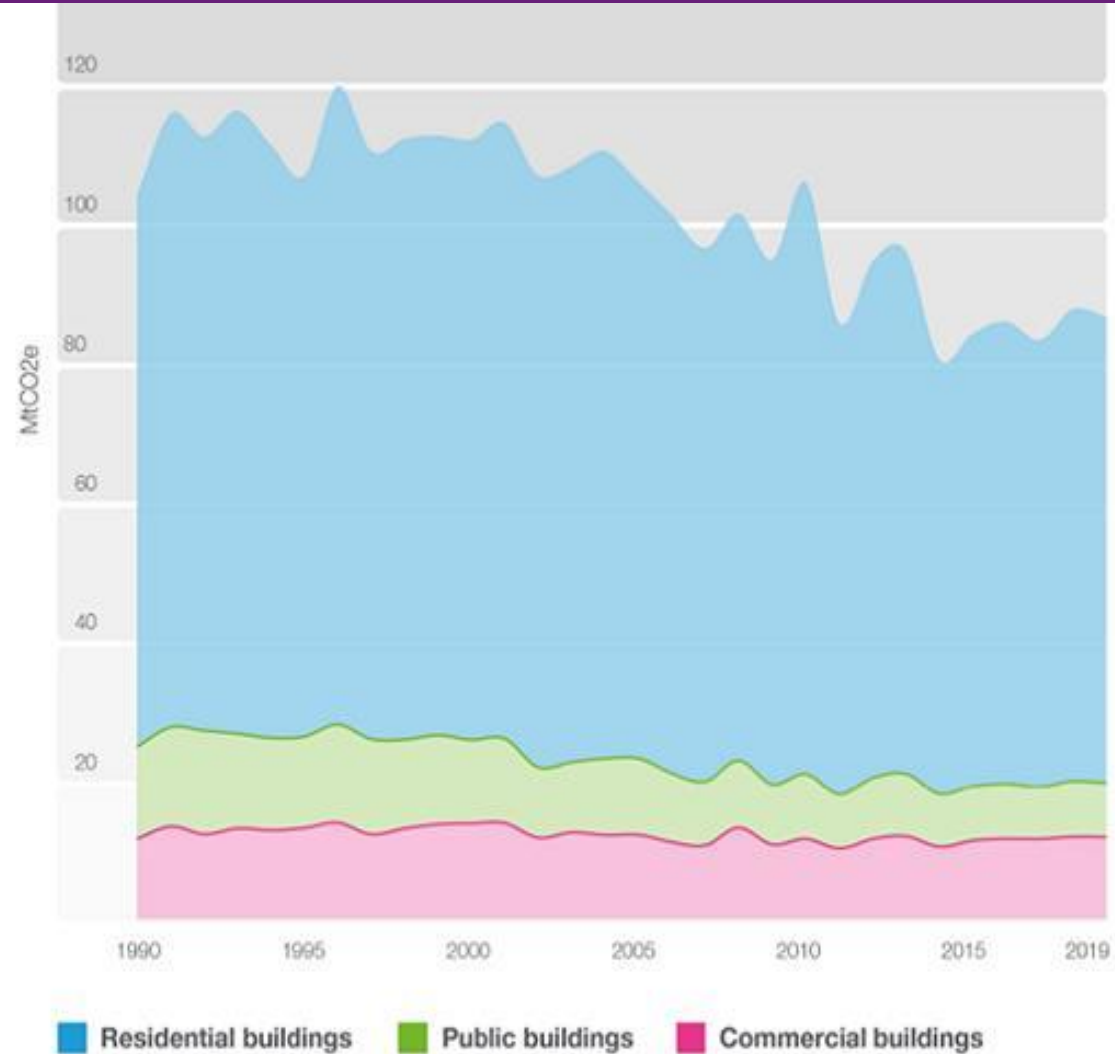
# Government response

- Improving energy efficiency, by reducing the amount of energy that households and businesses need, forms a crucial part of the British Energy Security Strategy.
- We want to continue making UK homes more comfortable and cheaper to run. Every therm of gas saved grows our energy security and brings jobs to the UK.
- We have already saved households on the lowest incomes around £300 a year on bills through energy efficiency measures – and we are investing over £6 billion on decarbonising the nation's homes and buildings.

# What is the Government doing to improve energy efficiency?

- Published the Heat and Buildings Strategy with an accompanying £3.9 billion of support with £1.8m for low income households.
- Expanding the Energy Company Obligation to £1 billion per year from 2022-2026, helping 133,000 low-income households.
- Setting a 2035 date by which we intend to phase out the sale of new and replacement gas boilers
- introducing a package of measures to increase deployment of heat pumps to 600,000 installations per year by 2028, and expanding heat networks through the Green Heat Networks Funds.

# proportion of direct emissions from heat in buildings from 1990 to 2019 split by building type – commercial, public sector and residential.



# Challenges

- Authority control
- TVCA lead
- Revenue implications
- Marketing/promotion
- Lack of influence



# Challenges

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- Hydrogen
- Fossil fuel companies influence
- Public opinion
- Costs
- Skills
- Availability



# Questions?



The easiest way to save money is to  
waste less energy.

— *Barack Obama* —

AZ QUOTES