

Council Meeting

23rd March 2022

Motion submitted by Councillor Dacre under Council Procedure Rule 14

Fuel Poverty

This Council welcomes the fuel rebate payable to Council Tax payers in Bands A-D and the Discretionary scheme for vulnerable non-Council Tax Payers.

However:

- These schemes do not go far enough to protect those on low incomes who spend a higher proportion of their income on fuel or those “just about managing” who will be tipped into fuel poverty by the expected rises in fuel costs.
- We are a relatively wealthy country. It is wrong that we have residents who have to choose between food or heating.
- Too many homes in our country are inadequately insulated. We are still building homes which will need to be retrofitted with effective insulation.
- It is absurd that so many of us have to consume more fuel simply to compensate for poorly insulated homes.
- The Government’s approach to this problem has been piecemeal and chaotic-as evidenced by the scrapping of their flagship Green Homes Scheme.
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a stark reminder of the risks of relying on foreign fossil fuels.
- A nationwide, funded scheme of home insulation would address fuel poverty, provide employment and reduce our fossil fuel dependency.
- We cannot afford not to make this investment in our country.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive and Leader to write to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities calling for them to:

- Impose stronger insulation requirements on all new homes, without delay.
- Adopt a strategic approach to retrofitting home insulation and roll out a nationwide scheme with adequate investment to ensure all homes are properly insulated.
- Adopt a strategic approach to energy generation, recognising both carbon reduction and national security imperatives.

Motion Seconded by Councillor