

Council Motion

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Dave Irving

SECONDED BY: Councillor Maria Bennett

TITLE: Sefton Council to encourage the use of new lower-carbon emitting boilers on New Build Properties

At the last full Sefton Council meeting held on the 15TH July 2021 the leader of the council, Cllr Ian Maher moved agenda item 8, 'Climate Emergency Annual Report' for approval by the full council. This was unanimously agreed, however, I asked Councillor Maher a question on this agenda Item, Reference 2.8 Domestic Housing Retrofit. I was informed that this was an ERDF funded project targeting 245 homes which are the most inefficient homes of the poorest residents. Housing Associations would be retrofitting the selected homes in Sefton with innovative and traditional carbon reduction interventions, such as external wall insulation, floor insulation and electric heating. The outputs from this work will help to reduce carbon emissions across the borough. Sadly, though, as Cllr Maher pointed out, this grant will not be available next year as the Government will not contribute to it. However, the Government has stated that from 2025 it will be banning all new build homes from fitting Gas and Oil fired boilers.

In light of what is being planned by the Government with regards Gas and Oil Boilers in new build properties and taking into account what the United Nations Scientific Advisors have said in issuing a 'Red Warning' about climate change, especially about carbon emissions getting to a critical point in the earth's climate. I ask that this council who I know supports climate change initiative's and are very concerned on how it will affect its residents to support.

Council Resolution:

That this Council takes seriously the 'Red Alert' warning from the United Nations about Climate Change and more specifically Carbon Emissions. It acknowledges the Government's Plan to introduce a ban on all Gas and Oil Boilers being fitted in new build house from 2025. It also acknowledges that under the current Planning System and Building Regulations, there are no powers available to the Council that could be applied to prevent housebuilders from designing their schemes to include gas/oil fired boilers. In view of this, this Council sees no sense in approving new house builds with oil and gas boilers being fitted currently to houses that will only be available from late 2023, if approved now. It will also save new home owners, especially first time affordable home owners, the cost of changing over to new boilers in years ahead. This Council agrees that it will encourage all new houses and those with outline planning permission in Sefton Councils area to be fitted with a new lower-carbon emitting boiler.