

The Rt. Hon Michael Gove, M.P.  
Secretary of State for Levelling  
Up, Housing and Communities  
Department of Levelling Up,  
Housing and Communities  
2 Marsham Street  
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**Councillor Emily Smith**  
**Leader of the Council**

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24 December 2021

Dear Mr Gove,

I am writing on behalf of Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the importance of retrofitting in achieving the UK's net zero ambitions. The woefully inadequate levels of funding and support that are currently available will fail to deliver the changes needed to significantly reduce residential greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We are, therefore, calling upon HM Government to take bold and decisive action in this area by establishing a long-term national funding programme for the retrofitting of homes.

Research from the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) has estimated that there are 26 million homes in the UK that will need to be retrofitted between now and 2050 – a rate of just under 1 million a year. There is, however, currently a lack of funding support for homeowners, landlords etc. Furthermore, there is also a lack of skilled technicians with the specialist knowledge to undertake this work.

In order to bring about the significant changes that we deem necessary, Vale of White Horse are, therefore, calling upon HM Government to:

- Address the issue of retrofitting as a national priority.
- Recognise the importance of reducing residential greenhouse gas emissions in achieving net zero.
- Consider the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as the potential basis for a HM Government plan/policy.
- Provide adequate, long-term funding for all local authorities in any retrofit strategy – recognising that they are best placed to lead in this area.
- Develop long-term support for householders including changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulation.
- Encourage businesses and skills development in the area of retrofitting.
- Recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes.

- Appreciate the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy.

It is only by instituting a radical reform to the current approach to retrofitting that the UK will be able to meet its climate change commitments. We, therefore, believe that HM Government needs to move swiftly on this issue and should, therefore, prioritise these actions as a matter of urgency.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith  
Leader of the Council