

# Facilitating Domestic Air Source Heat Pump Installation Discussion Paper

## Background

Over 80% of homes in Leeds are currently heated by gas central heating. To meet our net zero ambitions this will need to reduce to close to zero. The most cost-effective alternatives are district heating or heat pumps, with air source heat pumps being the technology that is best suited to the most homes in the city.

However, installation rates remain low for a number of reasons, explored below,

## Main Issues

Heat pumps are expensive to install compared to boilers, customers are uncertain about how they work and what benefits they bring and the supply chain is immature.

However, all of these issues are due to be addressed by the One Stop Shop that we plan to set up with Lloyds and Octopus.

A more intractable barrier is that the process for installing heat pumps is significantly slower than for a new boiler, meaning that if a boiler breaks, it's extremely unlikely that anyone will install a heat pump instead.

A typical heat pump installation will first need to seek DNO approval which can take up to 6 weeks, then around 30% of properties will need to apply for planning permission. This can take a further 8 weeks+ even though ultimately 90% of all planning applications are approved.

We will provide a presentation that indicates why some homes require planning permission, together with some thoughts on how we can improve the situation locally, potentially via a new Local Development Order (LDO).

Whilst this could help address some planning barriers, this would need to be carefully considered and could only go ahead following public consultation, which would incur officer time and some expense.

## Recommendations

That Members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee discuss the issue and provide a steer on whether, in their view, a new Local Development Order should be developed to remove planning barriers to the deployment of heat pumps.