

Net Zero Homes Plan – Progress update

This provides a short update on progress with the key actions contained within the plan.

1. **Creating a retrofit hub and financial mechanism for the 'able to pay' sector**

By the end of 2023 the Better Homes Hub will be established, and Leeds will have commenced delivery of an able to pay demonstrator within one community.

Over the last 12 months, Leeds has formed a partnership with Octopus Energy and Lloyds who have now committed to invest in a privately run one stop shop (OSS) within Leeds. This will be formalised via a MOU, the key content of which has now been agreed. The CEX job has been advertised and we expect the OSS to start operating before Christmas.

By the end of 2024 there will be a property linked finance product available in Leeds to provide a means to invest in homes without an upfront cost.

LCC was the only local authority to secure funds from the Green Home Finance Accelerator (GHFA), which, with support from Lloyds and Arup has undertaken research into property linked finance (PLF). While it may not be possible to launch PLF prior to end of 2024, LCC plans to bid into the next GHFA round in October, to secure up to £2m to progress PLF plans and in the meantime launch a range of products which don't require such significant change.

2. **Engaging and motivating people to choose low carbon retrofits**

To draw together learning from research and previous projects to create an engaging and motivating package of communications materials to support the delivery of the retrofit one stop shop.

LCC secured £100k from WYCA to research attitudes to a OSS and contractors are now drafting the final report. WYCA are also committed to setting up a regional OSS which will provide this service across the whole of WY.

3. **Upscaling area renewal investment, using social housing investment to kick start work on all tenures in neighbouring homes.**

Subject to securing Levelling Up Funding, deliver Holbeck phase 3 to improve a further 240 back-to-back properties by 2025.

Levelling up bid was unsuccessful.

Undertake surveys on properties in additional priority neighbourhoods to create a business case to take to government with the aim of securing funding to start work during 2024 on a scaled-up area based retrofit programme.

We have been speaking to senior civil servants, industry and Ministers and we understand that future funding rounds will be linked to area-based retrofit, which is encouraging.

We are now surveying some HL properties and looking externally at private homes with the intention of creating a fundable package of work when the funding round is announced (expected in the Autumn Statement).

4. Improving our planning framework and engaging with the industry to ensure new homes reach net zero standards.

To consult, refine, adopt and implement the Local Plan Update to ensure that new housing in Leeds is operationally net zero and that we move towards whole life cycle net zero for construction.

This is making good progress, with a report due to be taken to Executive Board in October.

5. Zoning the city, to indicate the most suitable fabric investments and heating solutions by neighbourhood.

By 2025, the council will develop an interactive GIS map which divides the city's housing into zones and sub-zones according to their characteristics and the local demographics to allow us to plan effective retrofit intervention programmes.

Work is underway with Parity Projects and the Energy Saving Trust to start to create this map.

6. Expanding green jobs, skills and supply chains to meet demand.

To ensure that the Green Skills Plan aligns with planned work to decarbonise new and existing homes and supports the retrofit and construction industry to train and recruit staff at all levels to deliver the net zero ambition.

We are actively working with WYCA on this but no clear progress to report yet.