

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 David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr Gove,

I am writing on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council regarding the importance of the retrofitting of homes in achieving our climate change ambitions. It is only by ensuring that the nation's homes are fit for the future that the UK will be able to achieve net zero.

Following a recent report by our Task and Finish Group on Retrofitting Homes in the Districts (a copy of which I enclose for your perusal), the council is calling upon HM Government to:

- Address the issue of retrofitting as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets.
- Use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a HM Government policy and plan.
- Include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy. We would argue that local authorities are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Develop long term support for householders. This should include changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulations.
- Encourage businesses and skills development in the area of retrofitting.
- Recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes.
- Recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy.

We 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 David Rouane
Leader of the Council