

The Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma, M.P.
COP26 President-Designate
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
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**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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Dear Mr Sharma,

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.

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Further, following a successful meeting with civil servants preparing for COP26 and other council leaders, I wish to reiterate the position discussed that local councils could play a significant role in delivering the HM Government's COP26 commitments if they are given the necessary tools to do so.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council