

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 retrofitting in achieving net zero.

We are dismayed that HM Government has no plan for the mass-retrofitting of homes and believe that without significant and substantial action the UK will fail to deliver the changes needed to significantly reduce residential greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Moreover, the short-sightedness of the UK's approach to energy efficiency has been further exposed by the significant rises in domestic gas, oil and electricity prices that threaten to plunge millions into fuel poverty. South Oxfordshire are, therefore, calling upon HM Government to take bold and decisive action in this area by creating a high-level retrofitting strategy.

Any such plan should empower local authorities with the ability to transform housing within their own areas by making them the delivery vehicle for the mass retrofitting of homes. It should also provide councils with constant and long-term funding to ensure that they are able to make sustained, significant progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from residential properties.

South Oxfordshire are also concerned by numerous reports that HM Government are considering expanding fossil fuel extraction as a potential remedy to the rising cost of energy. In our opinion, this is unacceptable and would be in direct contradiction of the UK's stated net zero goals. We instead contend that HM Government should refocus its efforts on energy efficiency, the rapid rollout of renewables and mass retrofitting.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor David Rouane
Leader of the Council**

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