

GREEN JOBS, HOUSING, AND SKILLS

TUESDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2021 | 13.00 – 14.30 | ZOOM WEBINAR

MEETING PACK

Welcome

Thanks for taking the time to join the All Party Parliamentary Groups for Housing in the North, and Housing and Social Mobility, at our joint event on **Green Jobs, Housing and Skills**. We hope you enjoy the event, with a full and varied set of speakers on the agenda, and that you come away feeling inspired to bring green jobs and green work skills to our local social housing communities, who can so markedly and permanently benefit from reaching the new green jobs marketplace.

Background

Investment in green home upgrades, through improving energy efficiency and installing renewable heating technology, has the potential to create 325,000 jobs across the UK by 2035 with every region benefitting from associated growth in local enterprises and the wider supply chain; 77,000 jobs alone could be created across the North of England.

Social housing providers have a critical role to play as a sector with demonstrable historic capacity to deliver home improvement projects. Spearheading investment through the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund has the potential, over time and done correctly, to undertake a catalytic role that could unlock decarbonisation for housing of other tenures; driving supply chain growth, pushing down costs, and driving up skills development over time. The sector should begin work now to ensure social housing tenants benefit from these training and job opportunities.

Agenda

Welcome and Introduction from the APPGs for Housing in the North, and Housing and Social Mobility

*Ian Mearns MP, Chair of the APPG for Housing in the North,
Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair of the APPG on Housing and Social Mobility*

Keynote Address

Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility)

The Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution acknowledges that action to make homes and buildings greener can rapidly support jobs and level-up across the country.

We are delighted to be joined by Lord Callanan who will set the context for the meeting's discussion, outlining the Government's plans to make homes greener by bringing stakeholders together, kickstarting the market, and setting out a clear path to improve the energy efficiency and replace fossil fuel heating.

Stakeholder Panel

Chair: Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that Work

Tracy Harrison, Chief Executive, Northern Housing Consortium

Tracy will discuss the work the Northern Housing Consortium has undertaken to understand both the scale of the challenge when it comes to upgrading the region's homes, but also the economic and environmental stimulus that could be achieved by doing so.

Tracey Walsh, Head of Employment & Skills, Torus

Alongside partners across the Liverpool City Region, Torus, the North West's largest provider of affordable homes, is at the forefront of an ambitious new initiative to retrofit 10,000 homes over the next ten years with specific aims to develop the modular, digitised, and manufacturing sectors in the region.

Phil Mason, Head of Regulatory Engagement, Trust Mark

Consumer confidence will be pivotal to the scaling up of domestic retrofit measures irrespective of tenure. Here, Phil will discuss Trust Mark's work to ensure the retrofit market is underpinned by confidence and choice, and how partners can work together to increase the uptake of energy efficiency measures in the retrofit market.

Billy Clifflen, Head of Environmental Sustainability, Octavia

Octavia is a social housing provider operating in some of the most expensive areas of the capital. Having completed a pilot retrofit scheme of over 200 Victorian properties to EPC C standard, Billy will provide insight into the success of that programme, touching on planning constraints, managing the supply chain and the importance of ongoing resident engagement.

Ministerial Response

Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility)

Parliamentary Panel

Lord Stunell, House of Lords Built Environment Committee

Liz Twist MP, Co-Chair APPG Housing and Social Mobility / Vice Chair APPG Net Zero

At this point other Parliamentary attendees and other attendees will be given the opportunity to share their thoughts.

Chair's Close

Speaker Biographies

Lord Callanan, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate Responsibility)

Lord Callanan was appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 14 February 2020.

He was Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union from 27 October 2017 to 31 January 2020.

Previously, Lord Callanan has held roles as a Councillor and Member of the European Parliament. He was created a Life Peer on 24 September 2014 taking the title Baron Callanan, of Low Fell in the County of Tyne and Wear.

Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that Work

Lynsey Sweeney is the Managing Director of Communities that Work. She has worked across housing, employment and skills for a decade, with Communities that Work and the National Housing Federation. Lynsey was a director at a central London Further Education College, co-founded the first Apprenticeship Training Agency in the UK and consulted for KPMG on their World Class Skills programme. Prior to this, Lynsey worked for VSO in China, Ethiopia and London.

Tracy Harrison, Chief Executive, Northern Housing Consortium

Tracy Harrison has worked in the social housing sector for over 15 years and has private and public sector experience gained in executive and non-executive roles across a range of sectors and at different levels of organisational scale and complexity.

As Chief Executive of the Northern Housing Consortium, whose members own or manage 9 out of every 10 social homes across the North, Tracy has unparalleled insight into the issues, challenges and opportunities that local authorities, ALMOs and housing associations face in providing affordable housing and supporting the wider placemaking agenda.

She has a breadth of commercial experience gained in multinational corporations as well as in a small family business supplying the construction industry.

Phil Mason, Head of Regulatory Engagement, TrustMark

Phil is Head of Regulatory Engagement at TrustMark, focussing on developing and managing relationships with key stakeholders in the areas where TrustMark registration is mandatory. This includes close working with the Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Ofgem.

He has a keen interest in the outcomes of the Each Home Counts review and how that can contribute to the UK's net zero target by 2050. Working with his leadership colleagues, he is committed to help build consumer confidence and uptake of energy efficiency measures in the retrofit market.

Tracey Walsh, Head of Employment & Skills, Torus Foundation

Torus Foundation is the charitable arm of Torus, the largest social landlord in the North-West with over 40,000 homes. Tracey has worked across housing, employment and skills for a decade. She leads on Community Investment programmes which includes employment and skills, financial and digital inclusion, strategic and community partnerships as well as overseeing ESF and BBO funded programmes. Prior to joining Torus Tracey worked within statutory and voluntary youth services, with a focus on reducing inequality, strengthening communities and ensuring young people had a voice.

Billy Clifflen, Sustainability & Energy Manager, Octavia Housing

Billy Clifflen is responsible for delivering Octavia's Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which includes plans for decarbonising Octavia's homes and tackling fuel poverty. His specialisms include housing retrofit, management of heat networks, and environmental management.

Supporting Information

We have collated research and information that underlines both the challenge and opportunities of investing in green jobs at the scale required to decarbonise or existing homes and neighbourhoods, in turn making a substantial contribution to the Government's own Net Zero ambitions. Given the social housing sector's central role, through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, to scaling up retrofit projects, we have also emphasised how the sector can work together to ensure tenants themselves benefit from job creation and skills development in key green industries.

Bringing Good Green Jobs to the Social Housing Sector

As the secretariat for the APPG on Housing and Social Mobility, [Communities that Work](#) have been keen to draw links between the opportunities within the social housing sector for jobs and the communities that live in our areas and neighbourhoods.

Our report to the APPG on Housing and Social Mobility; [Improving Opportunities: How to support social housing tenants into sustainable employment](#); highlighted that social housing tenures provide the support people need to get into work, equipping people with new skills, confidence and the time needed to move into sustainable and good quality employment.

The report also found strong evidence about the economic multipliers achievable from social housing investment, and the wider distribution of those benefits across communities - evidence of levelling up, before the policy became central to this government's agenda.

The social housing sector can and should do more, but we need support from the government to forge lasting links between the green jobs coming, the skills we need to work in green jobs, and the communities that we serve who need good, practical, local opportunities to progress into fulfilling and long-term work.

As members of the Social Housing White Paper [Expert Panel](#), Communities that Work supports Ministerial work led by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to put people at the heart of social housing regulation and reform, and tenant voice into the essence of service delivery. Creating opportunities for working-age social housing tenants and our wider

communities, and working with local labour markets, encouraging new career and skills pathways into new jobs, is a strong way to show a serious social commitment from a social landlord.

Here at Communities that Work, we've launched the prospectus [The Social Housing and UKSPF Commission: Shaping the UKSPF for Success](#) ahead of the Spending Review to show the best use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in the social housing sector.

There are clear links and opportunities to draw together green jobs, green skills and the shared prosperity fund. Operating at a local level, and in partnership between local leaders and social housing landlords, we can create new opportunities and support our communities to make the most of green jobs.

Levelling up seeks to create places where you can 'stay local, and go far', through your working life. The green economy and the jobs that follow it are central to levelling up properly in so many areas of the country and the UKSPF is a key lever to make it happen. We call on the government to support UKSPF in housing, and you can also show your support for it too, and [sign up here](#).

Net Zero by 2050, the Role of Housing and the Jobs Needed to Make it Happen

Across 2020 / 2021 the APPG for Housing in the North has been undertaking a series of roundtables to highlight the role of investing in existing homes in neighbourhoods to the national aims of achieving Net Zero by 2050, 'levelling up' all regions, and building back better from the pandemic.

As Secretariat to the APPG, the [Northern Housing Consortium](#) has worked extensively to identify what is needed to prepare homes for Net Zero, but also the environmental and economic stimulus that could be achieved by doing so at the requisite scale.

The recently published [Northern Housing Monitor](#) offers definitive analysis and data to policy shapers and decision makers. This year's edition puts Net Zero front and centre, and outlines the huge reorientation of resources required. To reach the lower slopes of decarbonisation, 270,000 Northern homes will need to be retrofitted a year to 2035. That's one home every two minutes, at a cost estimated at £143 billion.

A significant acceleration of retrofit activity would offer the kind of investment and market certainty that would support job creation in what is ultimately a labour-intensive industry. The NHC's collaboration with IPPR North, [Northern Powerhomes](#), found that an ambitious programme of green home upgrades – involving retrofit and energy transition - could create 77,000 direct jobs across the North by the 2030s, and a further 111,000 indirect jobs across the UK. The same study concluded that this could generate £3.85bn Gross Value Added (GVA) direct in the North and an additional £5.61bn in supply chains around the country.

Through its Spending Review Representation [Delivering on Net Zero And Levelling-Up](#), the NHC is recommending that Government confirm manifesto pledges to deliver a £2.5bn programme of Home Upgrade Grants; as well as deliver the £3.8bn Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund across England. By delivering this investment within this spending review period, and allocating funds via BEIS' local Energy Hubs / Local Net Zero Hubs, we estimate that Government can trigger a £2.76bn investment in the North's homes.

Again, managing such investment via Local Hubs offers the kind of coordination that instils confidence building among the private sector regional supply chain, with certainty on funds to be invested within their operating area and enabling them to invest in capacity and skills development

at a local level. In this scenario social housing stock would be only the first benefactor, and in time would see the retrofit market grow to other tenures. As the APPG for Housing in the North has argued previously through its report [No Home Left Behind: An Inquiry into Standards in the North's Private Rented](#), housing decarbonisation can be a central flank of neighbourhood-wide, cross-tenure area renewal.