

**Housing Retrofitting workstream
Final Statement of Intent**

Becoming England's greenest region means taking urgent action to reduce the environmental impact of our existing homes, working towards net zero carbon emissions from housing.

Our region has a proud history. But homes built to meet the needs of our people in the past present challenges for the North East's zero-carbon future. With our existing homes responsible for around a quarter of the North East's carbon emissions, decarbonising our homes is an essential step in our response to the climate emergency.

The North East must retrofit our 1.2m homes so that they meet high standards of energy efficiency, and to transition home heating to zero-carbon sources.

Our ambition is that every one of the region's homes achieves a minimum energy performance rating of EPC 'C' by 2030, with an urgent transition to net zero emissions in the years to follow.

Through the North East England Climate Coalition, we intend to provide leadership toward that ambition, recognising that our ambition requires a step-change in capacity and delivery, and that while our collaboration is locally-rooted, the scale of our ambition requires national backing.

In addition to tackling climate change, retrofitting our existing homes will deliver a range of benefits for our region, contributing to the just transition we all want to see. In particular, the labour-intensive nature of housing decarbonisation means it can create significant numbers of good, skilled jobs here in the North East. We need to build the skills pipeline to meet this demand. Other benefits include :

- Stimulating innovation and business growth across our region, including in new-to-market solutions
- Producing welcome energy bills savings for residents, tackling the fuel poverty which blights our region
- Tackling cold, damp and unhealthy homes will improve health outcomes in the region
- Renewing the fabric of our communities, particularly in areas with older, colder homes that are a legacy of our region's industrial past.

Through the North East England Climate Coalition, the region is committed building on our track record of regional co-operation in a way we hope will inspire other places. We will approach the task of decarbonising our homes in a way that is:

- **Collaborative** – building partnerships within the Coalition, with the wider North East community, and those beyond our region to maximise the value and impact of our investments and interventions
- **Aligned** – with the agendas of our Combined Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and central government
- **People-focused**, recognising that this will mean changes to people's homes, and has huge potential to improve lives.