

## **Report to Portfolio Holder for Public Protection**

**Subject:** Endorsement of East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy 2025 to 2028

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**Author:** Food, Health and Housing Manager

### **Wards Affected**

None

### **Purpose**

To seek approval for the Portfolio Holder to endorse the East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy 2025 to 2028

### **Key Decision**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

**THAT the Portfolio Holder:**

- 1) Endorses the East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy 2025 to 2028 (appendix A)**
- 2) Signs a letter of endorsement to be returned to Nottinghamshire County Council show the council's support for the strategy (appendix B)**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) area was one of 4 localities that participated in the Local Area Retrofit Accelerator pilot that received funding from Government following a successful application. Consultants from the MCS Foundation were employed to support 17 councils across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire together with key stakeholders and partners from the retrofit sector to collaborate to produce

a shared retrofit strategy.

- 1.2 The MCS Foundation supported the region with 3 collaborative workshops to collate views from stakeholders and draft the final retrofit strategy. The final strategy sets a collective vision of:

*“A just future in which we’re living in healthy, energy-efficient homes within sustainable communities”*

Along with a mission that:

*“We will improve our homes faster, prioritising confidence, quality, affordability and collaboration, and grow skills and jobs in our region”.*

- 1.3 The approach of the strategy is underpinned by 6 shared principles:

- *Trustworthy*
- *People-centred*
- *Accessible*
- *Purposeful*
- *Sustainable, and*
- *collaborative*

- 1.4 There are 5 goals in the strategy and 12 subgoals for the sector to prioritise to support householders to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock and reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions. The full strategy is attached in Appendix A which if endorsed by the Portfolio Holder will include the Gedling Borough Council logo to show the council supports the vision, mission and goals. The aim is to have a Combined County joined up approach to retrofitting homes in the region. A draft letter of endorsement is included in Appendix B should the Portfolio Holder approve this report.

## **2 Proposal**

**THAT the Portfolio Holder:**

- 2.1 Endorses the East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy 2025 to 2028 (appendix A)

- 2.2 Signs a letter of endorsement to be returned to Nottinghamshire County Council show the council's support for the strategy (appendix B)

### **3 Alternative Options**

- 3.1 That the Portfolio Holder does not endorse the strategy. The scale of homes that need to be retrofitted across the region is such that it they cannot be improved by district council's working in isolation. A partnership approach is necessary to improve homes at the scale at the quality and speed required. Endorsing the collaborative strategy will help to commit the council to working in partnership to deliver improvement for residents and help to protect the environment.
- 3.2 The council could adopt its own independent strategy in isolation. This is not recommended as it would be an inefficient use of the council's limited resources which can instead be focussed on implementing the strategy in partnership with key stakeholders from across the region.

### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with the Portfolio Holder approving this report as endorsing the strategy does not have a direct financial cost for the council or commit the council to spend any money. However, in partnering with this collaborative approach could put the council in a position to bid for future associated funding to be spent in the region to retrofit homes. Furthermore the English Devolution Guidance states that "*mayors will be handed control of retrofit funding as part of the Integrated Settlements providing a strengthened route to local delivery of the Warm Homes Plan*" and therefore by endorsing this strategy will show the council is committed to a partnership approach to retrofitting in the region and could allow the mayor to distribute funding locally in Gedling to deliver parts of the strategy.

### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications to the council endorsing the strategy which when implemented will help the council to implement actions within its Carbon Management Action Plan to help reduce carbon emissions associated with the local housing stock.

### **6 Equalities Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising out of the Portfolio Holder endorsing the strategy which seeks to deliver improvements to the energy efficiency of the local housing stock. Any direct schemes, policies or interventions arising out of the strategy may be subject to equalities impact assessments.

## **7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications as a result of the Portfolio Holder approving this report. However, the approval of this report will allow for the adoption of a Combined County strategy to improve the energy efficiency of the housing stock in the region and reduce carbon emissions. If the strategy is successfully implemented it is envisaged this will have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions associated with the existing housing stock.

## **8 Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix A - East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy 2025 to 2028
- 8.2 Appendix B - Letter of endorsement

## **9 Background Papers**

- 9.1 None

## **10 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 10.1 Endorsing this strategy aims to contribute towards the following outcomes:

- PLACE – to enable a safe, attractive, clean and culturally vibrant borough that plays its part to tackle the climate emergency.
  - Housing – Individuals and families can access high quality, affordable and energy efficient housing to bring to life neighbourhoods
- COMMUNITY – to enable a resilient, empowered, connected, inclusive and healthy community

Poverty and the Vulnerable – financially vulnerable residents are supported through our welfare services and community partnerships

### **Statutory Officer approval**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

**On behalf of the Monitoring Officer**