

# Buildings

Transition Town Dorchester

In the **Climate Emergency**  
every action the Council takes can  
make a difference



# Reduce energy use by retrofitting

- ▶ UK - some of the least energy efficient housing stock in Europe
- ▶ Heating homes - a major source of carbon emissions
- ▶ Residential property -18% of UK total CO2 emissions
- ▶ Only 29 per cent of UK homes meet EPC standard band C
- ▶ High energy bills - a choice between heating or eating for some people
- ▶ Dorset - 200,000 houses - many need better energy efficiency



# Employ a Fulltime Community Energy Officer

- ▶ Give advice and support to Dorset householders to make energy saving upgrades to existing homes
- ▶ Signpost to energy efficiency grants and loans
- ▶ Work with Dorset Trading Standards to produce a list of local energy efficiency installers registered with the 'Buy with Confidence' scheme
- ▶ Nationwide Building Society £1billion fund for green mortgages for household energy efficiency retrofits



# Connect with other ambitious councils

- ▶ **Exeter** - transforming council houses into energy efficient, low maintenance homes - target of net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- ▶ **Nottingham** - carbon neutral by 2028. 'Energiesprong' pilot in 2017 radically improved 17 hard to heat homes with new highly insulated outside walls and windows, solar roof and state of the art heating and energy system. Nottingham Councillors now support the upgrading of a further 155 homes
- ▶ **Bath and NE Somerset** - policy for all new homes net zero carbon and to retrofit 65,000 existing homes with energy efficiency measures.



# New build housing should be carbon neutral



- ▶ **Exeter** City Council - developing council housing built to Passivhaus standard. Houses designed to be ecological, low energy, healthy and affordable for tenants.
- ▶ A commitment to build all Council-owned social housing to Passivhaus standard.
- ▶ **Norwich** City Council - ambition to see 1,000 passive houses built locally over a 10-year period.
- ▶ A street of 105 low-energy homes designed to stringent Passivhaus environmental standards won the 2019 RIBA Stirling prize for architecture.

# Planning controls in the light of the Climate Emergency

- ▶ **No more Green belt developments** - the council should reject any bids for further building on such sites.
- ▶ **Focus on re-use of 'Brownfield' sites** - and more focus on housing with a smaller carbon footprint, greater energy efficiency and climate proofing.
- ▶ **Any new build projects must be resilient to future climate change** - such as potential for water conservation, future flood risk protection, protection against high winds and high temperatures.
- ▶ **Low carbon transport capacity** must be included in future development plans.
- ▶ Each project should have an **Environmental Impact Assessment** even if they are not required to by law.

# Planning cont'd

- ▶ **Carbon assessment** and **carbon budget** for each project and a penalty imposed if budget is exceeded.
- ▶ Carbon assessment to include the **transport load** a new development brings. This could be offset by better linking **footpaths and mandatory cycle ways** on all new developments. Developer funding used to link to existing paths and cycle way networks.
- ▶ **Solar panels** and **air or ground source heat pumps** mandatory for new builds. **Swift bricks, bird boxes and provision for bats** where possible.



# References & Sources

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