

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 12 JANUARY 2022

QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OR THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE SUBMITTED UNDER PART 4 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES, PARAGRAPH 10.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION

Question for the Leader from Councillor Walker

“With the growing concern about the rising costs of fuel for households, as a council can we highlight energy savings advice and where grants may be available for the improvement of energy efficiency to homes. Along with this could councillors highlight any such schemes they find to our comms team to be able to be shared on our media platforms.”

Councillor Worden, Leader’s response

“I am pleased to advise you that your Council will be taking immediate action to reduce the number of households who are living in fuel poverty.

We know many people have already faced steep rises in their energy bills following the surge in the global energy market.

We know also there is a looming energy price hike in April, when the regulator Ofgem declares the new price setting formula.

This month the Council will launch a new web page for homeowners, tenants and landlords. The web page will be dedicated to supporting an increase in energy efficiency, reducing fuel poverty and increasing the take-up of renewables.

We will use the ‘hook’ of the recent LAD3 funding award and approval of service plan actions related to energy efficiency to promote this new online service through a press release, social media and direct media bulletins.

In the medium term, our web page will show short video clips, with local residents talking about the benefits of the services they have reviewed. This will promote customer confidence and encourage take-up.

The scope and potential for positive impact of our ‘community offer’ is significant but the local landscape is complex:

ECO.
ECO Flex.

BCF Warm Up Grants.
Green Homes' Grants (LAD 2).
Sustainable Warmth Grants (LAD 3).
Energy Redress Scheme.
Bespoke home energy advice service for DFG and Homeless Applicants.
Regulation of MEES.

We will take every opportunity to encourage grant take-up by providing comprehensive, clear and straightforward advice and by commissioning trusted assessors.

We will also improve standards in the PRS by regulating in a way that is sensitive to the current market conditions.

Where we can, we will further build our 'community offer', e.g. in the implementation of ECO 4 from March 2022.

This programme of work is a priority for action for the Council.”