



NORTH
LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE
MEETING – 30 SEPTEMBER 2021
WRITTEN ANSWER PROVIDED TO
PUBLIC QUESTION



1.	<p>Public question from 'Public Questioner 2'</p> <p>Question:</p> <p>Does Sheffield City Council have any way of putting pressure on builders of new houses to install renewable heat pumps instead of gas-fired boilers?</p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>Applicants of developments of 5 houses or more (or 500 sq. m.) are required to comply with Core Strategy policies CS64 (<i>Climate Change, Resources and Sustainable Design of Developments</i>), and CS65 (<i>Renewable Energy and Carbon Reduction</i>). Sheffield City Council is unable to dictate the type of renewables/low carbon energies developers choose to use.</p> <p>The Government has announced that no gas boilers will be installed in 'new homes' from 2025 (which includes new apartments, etc, not just new houses), so there will inevitably be a drive from developers to install alternative heating systems e.g. heat pumps. There is also a proposed uplift to Building Regs Part L Conservation of Heat and Power, that was looking to be implemented this year, but now likely to be 2022, which might start some developers looking at alternative heating sources. The Future Homes Standard will be introduced in 2025, which aims to make houses 'zero carbon ready', part of which is the saying no to new gas boiler installations. We'll therefore only be able to make requirements through new policy development, which we're aiming to do, but any new requirements will have to be viability tested.</p> <p>Although Air and Ground source heat pumps are a feasible alternative home heating solution for some, they are not yet a perfect solution. There are reports of reliability and noise issues from early adopters of air source heat pumps. Ground source heat pumps are a good solution if you have the land available to make installation possible, which many don't have. Both are expensive solutions. They are both prohibitively expensive options for many at present and will likely remain so in the near future. It is possible that prices start to drop as gas boilers are phased out and heat pumps become the norm rather than the exception.</p> <p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>Policy CS64 requires all new buildings and conversions of existing buildings to be designed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and function in a changing climate. That includes proposals making the best use of solar energy, passive heating and cooling, natural light, and natural ventilation; and by minimising the</p>

impact on existing renewable energy installations and producing renewable energy to compensate for any loss in generation from existing installations as a result of the development. It also requires all new buildings and conversions of existing buildings to be designed to use resources sustainably.

Policy CS65, where appropriate, encourages developments to connect to the City Centre District Heating Scheme. It also encourages shared energy schemes within large developments or between new or existing neighbouring developments. It requires all significant developments, unless they can be shown not to be feasible and viable, to provide a minimum of 10% of their predicted energy needs from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy; and, to generate further renewable or low carbon energy or incorporate design measures sufficient to reduce the development's overall predicted carbon dioxide emissions by 20% (including the decentralised 10% already mentioned).

Building Regs Part L Conservation of Heat and Power, provides guidance on the conservation of fuel and power. It is split into four parts, L1A covers new dwellings. The guidance provided includes insulation regulations, boiler productivity, lighting, and storage techniques for hot water. Further information covered includes fixed standards for Carbon Index ratings, solar emissions, heating and ventilation systems, space heating controls and air conditioning systems, amongst other fuel and power systems.