

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Executive on 6th October 2025

ENDORSEMENT OF THE EAST MIDLANDS COMBINED COUNTIES RETROFIT STRATEGY

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Richard Winter, Climate Change Officer Jo Wilson, Housing Strategy and Development Officer

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To update Members on the East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy led by Bolsover District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) Foundation and to seek agreement to endorse this strategy.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2024 Bolsover District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council jointly bid to the MCS Foundation to pilot the development of a Retrofit Strategy for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The bid was successful and at meeting of the Executive on 9th September 2024, it was agreed to accept the supported funding.
- 1.2 During 2025 Bolsover District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the MCS Foundation have led the co-development of a retrofit strategy for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This strategy has reached its final draft, and the coordinating team is requesting endorsement from organisations across the region as part of the adoption of the strategy by the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA).
- 1.3 Retrofit refers to any improvement work on an existing building to improve its energy efficiency. It can include installing new smart meters, new heating systems, solar panel or external / internal wall insulation. Retrofitting homes makes them easier to heat, more comfortable and cheaper to live in massively improving people's lives.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Update on Bolsover District Council role in development of East Midlands Councils Retrofit Strategy Development

Officers from Bolsover District Council have led the development of a Retrofit Strategy alongside staff from Nottinghamshire County Council and the MCS Foundation. This has involved being the primary local leads and coordinating three regional workshops attended by over 100 representatives of 58 different organisations all involved in retrofit. These organisations included:

- Local Authorities
- Higher & Further Education providers.
- Housing Providers (LA, Private Rented and Housing Associations)
- Health Bodies
- National Government Bodies
- Private Companies
- Fuel Poverty Advocates
- Energy Charities and Campaign Groups
- Voluntary Sector representatives.
- Financial Support Groups

From these workshops, and smaller working groups a co-developed strategy was developed. The MCS Foundation, Bolsover District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council have then worked through the strategy to refine it further.

In addition, Bolsover and Nottinghamshire representatives have led the current steering group and are working with EMCCA the regional authority to adopt the strategy.

2.2 East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy

The new East Midlands Combined Counties (EMCC) retrofit strategy has been co-developed by partners from across the retrofit spectrum from every location in the region. This co-development has resulted in a wide-ranging strategy that covers all areas of retrofit and overcomes some of the issues that occur when Local Authorities work independently. The resulting vision for the strategy is:

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

The mission that sits at the centre of the strategy is that:

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

The strategy is not just about retrofitting properties it addresses issues such as fuel poverty, delivering local economic growth and social benefits. In addition, it has benefitted from input from health bodies, so it looks at the wider health benefits to the area from improved housing.

Within the strategy is improved advice services to the public, workforce development and coordinated use of funding to deliver better outcomes for everyone.

2.3 EMCC Retrofit Strategy Strategic Goals

Within the strategy are several goals, and each goal has a series of sub-goals and actions to deliver these. These goals align with our corporate objectives and those of EMCCA:

- Increase awareness and confidence in all aspects of retrofit for all households and the retrofit industry,
- Deliver a cross-sector, long term regional (EMCC) collaborative partnership maintaining momentum for retrofit,
- Accelerate development of scalable solutions and sustainable, long-term financial resources for retrofit delivery for all,
- Ensure we have local/regional capacity and capabilities for Retrofit
- Ensure that retrofit enhances quality of life, and delivers healthier, future proofed homes and reduced fuel poverty

The actions within the strategy encourage partners to work together to develop a more efficient approach to retrofit for the region and help overcome the problems faced by individual authorities working alone.

A draft version of the strategy is attached. As the strategy is being adopted by EMCCA the branding in the document will change but the strategy will remain the same.

The reason that endorsement is requested is this is a strategy that has been put together by officers from Local Authorities across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and endorsement shows that Bolsover District Council support this strategy and its strategic direction for the region.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 Endorsing the strategy shows support

- to the officers from across the Council who have worked to develop this regional strategy, and
- for working with our regional councils, colleges & universities, local health services and businesses / organisations to improve approaches to retrofit.

4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Bolsover District Council could reject the endorsement of the strategy, but this would result in reputational damage for the authority at a time where local councils are being encouraged to work together.

4.2 The retrofit strategy will be the basis for regional working and funding bids, a lack of endorsement will weaken any funding bids regionally that will then affect our ability to support retrofit locally.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

To endorse the East Midlands Combined Counties Retrofit Strategy (draft Endorsement letter attached).

Approved by Councillor Rob Hiney-Sunders, Portfolio Holder for Environment

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: This strategy does not commit financial input from Bolsover District Council. On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Details: This strategy does not commit Bolsover District Council to any actions, other than supporting the strategy. On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: Bolsover District Council have been a key part of the strategy, and it is proposed that when EMCCA adopt the strategy Bolsover staff will continue to provide input into its management. On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details: The strategy seeks to improve all properties categorised as lower standard for energy efficiency. As energy bills for such properties tend to be higher, those households in/at risk of fuel poverty will naturally benefit. A number of the government funded schemes also specifically target low-income households in a bid to support those less able to pay for required property improvements.		
<u>Environment</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. Details: Through working regionally this strategy will drive improvements in domestic properties across all tenures, this will help drive down our territorial emissions and enhance our reputation. The strategy also aims to improve our green economy and skills base potentially enhancing the environment further.		

DECISION INFORMATION:

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p>District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p>Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p>Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing</p> <p>The EMCC Retrofit Strategy will help deliver key parts of the Bolsover District Council Vision. Below are the priorities in our Vision that directly align with the goals, vision and mission of the EMCC Strategy.</p> <p><u>Customers</u> Continuing to work with partners from all sectors, ensuring priorities are aligned to benefit the residents of Bolsover District.</p>
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Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing

Economy

Maximising our influence and opportunities within the East Midlands Combined County Authority to collectively ensure our citizens have the opportunity to develop key skills and access opportunities to work well and help create a strong and sustainable local economy.

Actively working with partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs, and skills.

Environment

Maximising our influence and opportunities within the East Midlands Combined County Authority to collectively lead the way in moving from fossil to fusion and play our part in achieving our national ambition to achieve net zero by 2050.

Working with stakeholders, regional and local partnerships to deliver shared strategies and priorities that support the local environment.

Housing

Maintaining and improving property and housing management standards and ensuring that standards and living conditions in the district contribute towards better health outcomes for all.

Maximising our influence and opportunities within the East Midlands Combined County Authority to create affordable, good quality housing options and to retrofit existing homes to be more environmentally sustainable.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
1	Draft EMCC Retrofit Strategy
2	Endorsement Letter - East Midlands Retrofit Strategy

Background Papers

(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).

N/A