

WARM AND AFFORDABLE HOMES - IN THE RIGHT PLACES!

GREEN VISION What we are aiming for overall

We want everyone to have a warm safe home. In Worcester, we have a long waiting list for housing and too many families in temporary accommodation. Too many houses are not well-insulated and are too expensive to heat. We want to address the increasing number of neglected empty homes which also negatively impact neighbours.

We need more social and affordable housing and more homes that are suitable for our ageing population. We support community-led development. Well-designed new and retrofitted housing will reduce carbon emissions, bring down energy bills and reduce illnesses caused by living in cold and damp homes. We oppose the development of green space and instead empty brownfield land should be developed for new homes.

Good planning should enable most people to live no more than a 15-minute walk from public transport hubs, shops, workplaces and community facilities.

GREEN PRIORITIES What we will try to do in the next four years

- Get a zero-carbon housing development built.
- Get developers to build new homes to the highest possible standards for sustainability (insulation, renewable energy and water efficiency).
- Create a charter for all registered housing providers to achieve zero carbon by 2030.
- Make sure that the city council takes full advantage of schemes that fund the retrofitting of older homes and supports residents' applications.
- Pursue all options available for the council to provide more social and council housing whilst campaigning for better funding from the government.
- Increase council tax for long-term empty homes.
- Bring long-term empty homes back into use and take action against private landlords who do not improve poor quality housing.
- Reduce the number of families living in temporary housing and improve the quality of emergency temporary housing.

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GREEN ACTION What we have already done

Through working collaboratively across the city council, we have:

- Worked with Worcestershire Society of Architects to introduce an annual award for sustainable development.
- Helped residents to access government funds to retrofit their houses housing to reduce energy consumption and bills.
- Increased the numbers of homes in the city centre on upper floors of businesses and shops.
- Increased the council tax charged on empty properties.

As community campaigners:

- Arboretum councillors helped residents apply for funded home improvements to make them more energy efficient and worked with Sanctuary Housing to improve the old swimming pool site social housing development.
- Cllr Andrew Cross has conducted surveys of houses to help residents implement simple energy-saving measures.
- Louis Stephen instigated Energy Trace surveys for homes to help address draughts and insulation gaps.
- Leisa Taylor has arranged for an expert to advise the Diglis Hub charity on how to save energy for the planned community centre.



New doors, windows and solar panels on an older property in the Arboretum



Cllr Stephen Cockeram with a thermal imaging camera