

## **CABINET MEETING 13 FEBRUARY 2013**

### Agenda item 14: Sustainable Construction and Retrofitting Supplementary Planning Document

The Supplementary Planning Document is very welcome, as it will be extremely helpful to residents, builders and installers alike. It reinforces the Council's messages about energy efficiency and will support the implementation of the Green Deal in the district. Officers have worked very hard to produce this excellent document.

However, there remains the matter of producing guidance for listed buildings. I would like the guidance to deliver what we need – that is, sensitive whole house energy efficiency improvements in listed buildings, such as appropriate double glazing.

For the review that is proposed, the Council Planning Policy team should work with colleagues in the Sustainability team, and with all the public stakeholders involved in last year's consultation – including Bath Preservation Trust, Transition Bath, Curo and the Council's Environmental Sustainability Partnership. And using the original public consultation draft.

In my ward there are over 150 listed buildings, and I am well aware of the needs of these residents to improve the energy performances of their houses. I have been asked several times "what is Council guidance on this".

There is a significant level of public support for a progressive and enabling approach to retrofitting of listed buildings. Clearly getting the balance right between energy measures and heritage conservation is crucial.

But to quote NPPF (para 94) "planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change".

I think we have an opportunity for the Council to be a leader amongst local authorities in best practice this topic. I know of several other local authorities – Brighton, York – which are looking to us to develop the progressive advice that was put forward in the draft document last summer.

I hope that the Cabinet will take account of my comments and that with public feedback and involvement we can take this topic forward for a more radical approach to retrofitting of energy efficiency measures in listed buildings. Leading to greater clarity and objectivity.

Cllr David Martin