

Please ask for: Cllr Adam Clarke
Email: adam.clarke@leicester.gov.uk
Direct Line: 0116 454 0034
Our Ref: AC/ghg/fbb
Date: 26th August 2022



Mr Kwasi Kwarteng MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Kwarteng

Leicester City Council has recently completed delivery of Phase 1B of the Green Homes Grants LAD Scheme and continually welcome the availability of funding to invest in the most inefficient housing stock throughout Leicester City. Many lessons were learnt from the delivery of Phase 1A and whilst many improvements were made to mitigate further issues during phase 1B's delivery, we still faced some difficulties. The purpose of this letter is to bring these issues to your attention and to ask that the government addresses these prior to roll out of future phases of the grant scheme.

The main issues for Leicester are:

1) The threshold limit placed on EPC Band D properties still creates difficulties in progressing applications from survey to completion within the tight delivery timescales. We appreciate that the threshold levels have been increased, but ultimately, we feel that removing the D rated threshold entirely would provide a fluidity to delivery as we wouldn't have to hold back D rated properties to carefully maintain a balance against lower EPC bands. Leicester City spent many years upgrading loft and cavity wall insulation throughout the city, bringing many properties into the D rated band and we feel our success of the past is working against us now.

2) Additionally, due to our success with our past insulation programmes we are now finding the most sought-after improvement is external wall insulation due to approximately 50% of Leicester's housing stock being solid wall properties. This the most expensive measure to provide and we have found it hard to deliver within the £10,000 average spend per property when we don't have lower cost measures, such as loft and cavity wall insulation, to offset against. We would like to see a higher cost per household limit agreed just for the delivery of EWI allowing us greater ability provide such a valuable fabric improvement.

A final issue that we have experienced relates to the installation of EWI, being PAS2035 compliant and being able to retain the traditional Victorian features of frontages to comply with planning constraints. This has resulted in many properties not being able to be taken forward for EWI at this time. We are involved in the PAS trials that BEIS have been delivering and look forward to this issue being resolved soon.

In addition to our specific asks in relation to the key issues for Leicester City Council, there are some general improvements that could be made to the scheme to ensure more efficient delivery of future phases of Green Homes Grant (LAD). We would suggest that a more flexible scheme would

allow local authorities to tailor their approach to fit with local needs and circumstances which might result in greater uptake of the grant.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Clarke', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Adam Clarke
**Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for
Environment & Transportation**