

For immediate release: Thursday 27 February 2020

Budget deal gives welcome boost for warm homes – but more is needed to tackle climate emergency

Yesterday (**Wednesday 26 February**), Cabinet Secretary for Finance Kate Forbes reached an agreement with the Scottish Green Party to ensure passage of the Scottish Government’s budget at all stages in parliament. This deal included £25 million of additional investment in local energy efficiency projects.

The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland, which includes SFHA, welcomed the additional funding.

Elizabeth Leighton, Director, Existing Homes Alliance Scotland, said: “The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland welcomes the additional £25 million for energy efficiency and fuel poverty in the Scottish budget deal expected to be passed today **(1)**. This brings the total budget for insulating homes and lifting people out of fuel poverty through programmes delivered by local authorities to just over £162 million. However, with over 600,000 people in fuel poverty, and an urgent need to cut climate emissions in the next decade, this still falls well short of the £240 million that we calculate is necessary to meet our climate and fuel poverty goals. **(2)**

“Indeed, the Just Transition Commission, in its interim report released today, recommended an expansion of energy efficiency initiatives because they are ‘just transition in action’ – reducing fuel poverty, cutting emissions, creating jobs and improving health **(3)**.

“We urge all parties to continue to build on the success of Scotland’s energy efficiency and fuel poverty budgets and look forward to the Capital Spending Review where longer-term funding commitments must be made to secure warm, low carbon and affordable homes for all.”

Ends

Notes to editors

[1] [Budget Agreement Reached](#), Scottish Government news, 26 February 2020

[2] [Scottish Budget falls short in delivering climate friendly homes](#), Existing Homes Alliance media release, 6 February 2020

[3] [Just Transition Commission Interim Report](#), February 2020

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