DEVELOPING NATIONAL AND LOCAL RENOVATION STRATEGIES IN

UK and Northern Ireland

POPULATION: 66,435,000 - 9 REGIONS
ENGLAND: 317 local authority districts (36 metropolitan boroughs, 32 London boroughs, 192 non-metropolitan districts, 55 unitary authorities)
SCOTLAND: 32 unitary authorities (councils)
WALES: 22 districts
NORTHERN IRELAND: 11 districts
382 MUNICIPALITIES

1. London
   - Population: 8,908,081
   - 13%

2. Birmingham
   - Population: 1,141,374
   - 2%

3. Leeds
   - Population: 789,194
   - 1%

4. Glasgow
   - Population: 626,410
   - 1%

5. Sheffield
   - Population: 582,506
   - 1%

This factsheet reflects information gathered through public sources and conversations with officials until January 2020.

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New build standards and building regulations are set at national level, with devolved control in Scotland and Wales. Retrofit policy is ostensibly set at UK level, however there is more activity in Wales and especially Scotland, which have active funding programmes. In England, the failure of the Green Deal led larger, more ambitious local and regional authorities to develop their own renovation strategies. Other local authorities are involved in smaller-scale funds and individual innovation projects.

Local authorities are not formally involved in drafting overarching national building renovation strategies. Specific policy proposals are often put to an open consultation, but individual authorities have no specified role. Depending on the policy mechanisms used, local authorities could become involved in enforcing and implementing national retrofit policies.

Regions and cities have launched various building renovation initiatives:

- The Welsh government Warm Homes programme has installed energy efficiency measures in 33,900 domestic properties and provided energy advice and support to more than 112,600 homeowners.
- The Scottish government’s nationwide energy efficiency scheme, Warmer Homes Scotland, helps vulnerable people make their homes warmer and more comfortable by installing a range of energy-saving measures. Over 14,000 households have had measures installed, mostly valued at over £4,000.
- Greater Manchester is drafting a retrofit strategy.
- The London Plan ask boroughs to develop policies and proposals for the sustainable retrofitting of existing buildings, while Energy for Londoners (EfL) aims to facilitate the deep retrofit of 1,678 homes over three years.

Main challenges for LTRS implementation

- The process is not well connected across governance levels. Despite calls from MPs and parliamentary committees, there is no overarching strategy to deliver the aspiration of all homes reaching level C of the energy performance certificate by 2035.
- Lack of strategic coordination and sporadic funding has led to disparate initiatives across local and devolved authorities. The lack of central leadership, coordination, funding and corresponding certainty are the main barriers.