

Prospective Parliamentary Candidate

Energy Crisis and Warm Homes Pledge

Soaring gas prices are hurting householders and business in Chester. The Office for Budget Responsibility say that high prices will remain for at least the next five years.

If elected as MP for the City of Chester, I will urge the Government to:

- **Fund a rapid programme of installing basic insulation measures across households – as recommended by the Climate Change Committee – coordinated street by street by councils, starting first in the energy crisis hotspots where the need is greatest.**

In at least low-income areas this needs to be provided free of charge because of affordability challenges for residents. This initial 2–3-year programme must be followed up with a programme of deeper housing retrofits to ensure all homes are well insulated by 2030, including fitting millions of homes with heat pumps. As well as incentives and regulations this programme will require government investment averaging around £8 billion year.

- **Transform our current gas dependent energy system into one based on renewable energy with electricity providing the heat for our homes as well as for our cars and other electrical needs.**

Over time this will eliminate the need for gas. It will require a rapid expansion of onshore wind and solar power across all the UK's countries as well as using the vast offshore renewable resources the UK is blessed with. This new system needs the regulated network operators to invest in significantly upgrading the UK's electricity networks. Changes to the energy market will enable consumers to benefit from the low cost of renewable energy.

- **Better financial support targeted at low-income households in fuel poverty**

In addition to the new Energy Price Guarantee and financial support announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement there still needs to be greater financial support to those that will still struggle to pay their energy bills and keep their home warm.