

++ FINAL DRAFT ++
RESILIENT RECOVERY TASK FORCE DECLARATION
10th September 2020

The need for an economic recovery package that creates resilience in our communities and reduces carbon emissions has never been greater. The Covid19 crisis has highlighted the fragility of our economic structures, their exposure to external shocks and the need to support people in our poorest communities. We must seize the opportunity to create healthier, safer and more prosperous communities, building in resilience to climate change through investing in the green economy. Such an approach will enable us to reskill our workforce, enable job creation, create cleaner, healthier, safer places to work and live, and restore the nature upon which we all rely.

As elected leaders of our communities we are playing an essential role in tackling the current Covid19 crisis, and we are fulfilling our role in building a resilient recovery from it. Our knowledge and understanding of our communities means we are well placed to design and deliver solutions that improve health, prosperity and the environment. Adequate national Government investment, ambitious national frameworks and the necessary powers would enhance our ability to act in partnership to tackle the threat of climate and to reskill our workforces to set them on a path to a flourishing net zero economy.

Together we can renew our communities by working in partnership with government if action is taken forward across Government to:

- **Increase local Net Zero investment** by establishing a *Net Zero Development Bank to bring together all national government financing for the transition to Net Zero*. The bank should have both an obligation and the capacity to work with local authorities to develop place-based Net Zero projects and programmes, leveraging additional private investment to kickstart local energy schemes which are at too early a stage to be attractive to private finance.
- **Invest in renewing the electricity grid** to ensure a smart decentralised energy system, enabled by a *national framework for local area energy planning*. The Core mandate of Ofgem and of devolved nation energy regulators should be expanded to include supporting the delivery of net zero emissions, and we support the regulation of future investment in Distribution Network Operators so that a greater role can be given to regional and sub-national plans and ambition.
- **Ensure that the nation's homes are retrofitted to be energy efficient** by designing and delivering, with local government, a *Government-led long-term plan to decarbonise buildings and heat* that sets out actions and investment needed to enable all existing homes and buildings to be net zero carbon by 2050 at the very latest. The plan should at least meet the manifesto commitment of £9bn public investment to deliver Net Zero in our homes and buildings and seeks to crowd in further private investment to meet this goal.
- **Speed up the transition to low and zero emission travel** and enable the UK to be a global leader in developing low-emission vehicles including freight. This should include a *commitment to providing seamless access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the UK*, while also providing long-term investment in public

transport networks and in creating built environments that prioritise walking and cycling.

- **Expand local powers to take action on Net Zero** by enabling the national Net Zero effort through an enhanced devolution settlement, combining ambitious national strategy with a fresh and fair mix of powers and resources for local & combined authorities; enabling clear & accountable local net zero delivery that unleashes the social and economic potential of every community.