

Passivhaus Motion

Proposer: Andy Fewings

This Council notes:

- 1) The Government's most recent figures[1] for Burnley show that more than 15%, or nearly 6000 of Burnley's households are in fuel poverty;
- 2) The loss of income to the local economy as a result of these lower energy efficiency standards, as those 6000 householders' income is spent paying energy bills rather than in local shops and on local services;
- 3) Whilst the Government cancelled the introduction of Zero Carbon Home Standards in 2016, it has recently confirmed that the Council can set their own energy efficiency standards for new buildings beyond those set in Part L of the Building Regulations[2]; and
- 4) The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlighting that we have less than 11 years to take serious action to reduce emissions to avoid massive damage to the global environment.[3]
- 5) That a working group for Climate Emergency has been set up, but that budgets will be set shortly and so a motion to full council is necessary given that we are in an emergency situation.

This Council believes:

- 1) That we must take urgent action to improve the energy efficiency standards in new buildings in order to i) tackle the issue of fuel poverty in the borough, ii) reduce carbon emissions, iii) save energy and iv) keep money that would go to energy companies circulating in our local economy;

- 2) That improving energy efficiency in new buildings and retrofitting old buildings are just part of a strategy to reduce emissions in our area but they are important steps to take that should be part of a wider strategy; and
- 3) That the internationally recognised 'Passivhaus Standard' offers an alternative to the UK's diminished energy efficiency ambitions for new-build housing and complies with UK Building Regulations.

This Council resolves:

- 1) To specify Passivhaus Standards for all buildings on Council-owned land or as a condition of sale on any council land.
- 2) To renovate all houses which are acquired under Compulsory Purchase Order by the Council as energy efficient as possible and having regard to the Passivhaus Standards where possible; and
- 3) To produce Supplementary Planning Guidance at the earliest opportunity calling for higher energy efficiency standards compliant with the internationally recognised Passivhaus Zero Carbon Standards.

[1]https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/731183/Fuel_poverty_sub-regional_tables_2018.xlsx

[2] <https://www.ukgbc.org/news/government-confirms-local-authorities-can-set-energy-standards-beyond-part-l-in-nppf/>

[3] <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/global-warming-must-not-exceed-15c-warns-landmark-un-report>