



EXECUTIVE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

Monday 17th February 2020 at 6.30 pm

71. Passivhaus Standards

PURPOSE

To respond to the Passivhaus Motion raised at Full Council on the 18th December 2019 (Appendix 1) regarding the Council's policy and approach to energy efficiency, fuel poverty and climate change.

REASON FOR DECISION

To protect the Council's financial position and avoid any consequences that could affect the Council's ability to deliver high quality affordable homes and housing regeneration programmes.

The Local Plan was adopted in July 2018 following extensive consultation and a public examination. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) cannot be used to introduce new policy requirements and can only be used to build upon and provide more detailed advice and guidance on the application and interpretation of policies within the Local Plan. Passivhaus is not a policy requirement in the current Local Plan and therefore it is not possible to introduce this as a requirement through an SPD.

The government's proposal to increase the energy efficiency of new dwellings through uplifts to the building regulations in 2020 and a Future Homes Standard in 2025 would better address part 3 of the motion.

To explore the possibility of improving energy efficiency in properties renovated under the Empty Homes Programme.

DECISION

- (1) That the proposals set out in the motion not be adopted due to potential service and financial implications for the Council and the inability to set new policy requirements via a Supplementary Planning Document. However, that the preparation of a Design SPD be considered which inter alia includes guidance on energy efficiency measures. (Local Development Scheme agenda item); and
- (2) That Officers be authorised to conduct a review of the specification of renovation work applied to the empty homes programme and seek opportunities to improve the property Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating above level C.