

Motion to July 2021 Full Council - Healthy Homes and Places

Proposer: Cllr O'Brien, Seconder: Cllr O'Conner

Pre-amble:

This Council notes:

- The powerful evidence which demonstrates the link between people's homes and their health, wellbeing and life chances.
- That the COVID-19 emergency has reinforced the need for healthy environments which provide space for recreation, children's play and walkable streets.
- That well-designed homes that meet all our citizens' needs over their lifetimes can radically reduce costs to NHS and social care budgets.
- That people have a basic right to live in environments free from unacceptable pollution.
- That homes must be affordable to heat and built to zero carbon standards.
- That current government policy to deregulate planning is creating thousands of substandard homes through conversion of existing buildings into homes without planning permission.

This council also notes that these are the Healthy Homes Principles, as promoted by the Town and Country Planning Association (there is a briefing at <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=9db42a72-ccc7-4b02-a0ed-98ff90488768>)

- all new homes must be safe in relation to the risk of fire;
- all new homes must have, as a minimum, the liveable space required to meet the needs of people over their whole lifetimes, including adequate internal and external storage space;
- all main living areas and bedrooms of a new dwelling must have access to natural light;
- all new homes and their surroundings must be designed to be inclusive, accessible, and adaptable to suit the needs of all;
- all new homes should be built within places that prioritise and provide access to sustainable transport and walkable services, including green infrastructure and play space;
- all new homes must secure radical reductions in carbon emissions in line with the provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008;
- all new homes must demonstrate how they will be resilient to a changing climate over their full lifetime;
- all new homes must be built to design out crime and be secure;
- all new homes must be free from unacceptable and intrusive noise and light pollution;
- all new homes must not contribute to unsafe or illegal levels of indoor or ambient air pollution and must be built to minimise, and where possible eliminate, the harmful impacts of air pollution on human health and the environment, and;
- all new homes must be designed to provide year-round thermal comfort for inhabitants.

Proposed motion:

This Council resolves to:

- Strive to ensure that the principles of Healthy Homes and Places are met, in order to create the highest quality places for residents which will be a fitting legacy for future generations;
- Review related policies, processes and procedures as part of current Local Plan review, and develop and adopt new policies, to ensure that all new development is in line with the Healthy Homes and Places Principles;
- Make the Healthy Homes and Places principles an integral part of Council decision making on housing and planning; and
- Ensure the next review of the corporate plan includes healthy homes and places as a priority.

This Council also calls on the Government (via a letter from the Leader of the Council) to:

- Return full powers of permitted development conversion of buildings to resident use to local councils.
- Support the Healthy Homes Bill being promoted by Baron Nigel Crisp.