

Draft Motion to adopt the Healthy Homes Principles

This council notes:

- The powerful evidence which demonstrates the link between people's homes and their health, wellbeing and life chances.
- That there is a universal need for healthy environments which provide space for recreation, children's play and walkable streets; and this has only been further demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 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.
- The deregulation of planning is creating thousands of substandard homes through the conversion of existing buildings into homes without planning permission,
- The creation of low quality homes undermines resident wellbeing and is done with little consideration for local needs.
- That this council is determined to create the highest quality places for residents which will be a fitting legacy for future generations.

This council agrees to:

- Adopt the following Healthy Homes Principles to signal its commitment to the fact that:
 - all new homes should be safe in relation to the risk of fire,
 - all new homes should have, as a minimum, the liveable space required to meet the needs of people over their whole lifetime, 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 should be designed to be inclusive, accessible, and adaptable to suit the needs of all with particular regard to protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010,
 - 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 should demonstrate how they will be resilient to a changing climate over their full lifetime,
 - all new homes should be secure and built in such a way as to minimise the risk of crime,
 - all new homes should be free from unacceptable and intrusive noise and light pollution,
 - all new homes should 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 should be designed to provide year-round thermal comfort for inhabitants.
- Review and use the powers at its disposal to ensure, as far as possible, that new homes meet the requirements of the principles. Present an action plan by [date] detailing how the town council will deliver on the requirements of the principles.
 - Review any strategies or business plans for the town council to ensure the ‘Healthy Homes Principles’ are a priority.
 - Make the principles an integral part of activity throughout the council, including all decision making on housing, planning and place making more widely.
 - Investigate ways to influence [place]’s emerging planning policy is in line with the ‘Healthy Homes Principles’ at the earliest possible date.

Call on the government to:

- Support the Healthy Homes Bill being promoted by Lord Nigel Crisp

