

TITLE OF REPORT: Housing Design and Energy Efficiency

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities OSC about the regulations relating to housing design and energy efficiency.

Background

2. In response to its commitment to Net Zero by 2050, the Government have introduced targets to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. As 17% of national emissions come from heating, heat and buildings will need to be decarbonized to meet the net zero target by 2050.
3. The energy efficiency of new housing and for works to existing houses is controlled via the Building Regulations 2010 and the Building Act 1984.
4. In 2021 Building Control Approved Documents were amended with interim guidance prior to further, more extensive Future Homes Standards coming into force in 2024/25.

Current Guidance

5. Since June 2022, new development must comply with the guidance set out in approved documents parts F, L, O and S:
 - Part F - requires improved ventilation
 - Part L - relates to the conservation of fuel and power
 - Part O – requires measures to prevent overheating
 - Part S - requires new homes to provide infrastructure for charging electric vehicles.
6. The Future Homes Standard is currently being drafted and could include measures such as mandatory low carbon heating systems, higher energy efficiency standards, higher insulation requirements.

Recommendations

7. The Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities OSC is asked to note this report for information.

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