

COUNCIL

24 OCTOBER 2019

MOTION

Proposed by: Councillor Rhys Taylor

Seconded by: Councillor Joe Boyle

This Council:

1. Welcomes the fact that the current administration declared a climate emergency in March 2019, noting the evidence that shows the impact of human-induced climate change.
2. Accepts the findings of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' 2017 '*Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment*' professional statement that the energy used in the operation of existing buildings represents the most significant carbon impact from the built environment, contributing 30% of the UK's total emissions in 2017.
3. Recognises that, in the words of the UK Green Building Council [UK GBC], 'the UK building industry currently rarely measures or reports on embodied carbon impacts for the maintenance, repair, refurbishment and end-of-life stages of a building's lifecycle.'
4. Believes that local authorities have a key role to play in ensuring that major construction projects, in which they have a stake, must account for and offset all carbon impacts emerging from those projects.
5. Refuses, in light of its declared Climate Emergency, to justify, endorse or progress major construction projects that cannot prove they will be net zero carbon in terms of both construction and operational energy use.

This Council will therefore:

- Adopt the UK Green Building Council's *Net Zero Carbon Buildings* framework definition, in its current and future iterations, appending the framework to the Council's development plan, key policies and planning guidance, as appropriate.
- Require all major construction projects to demonstrate achievement of net zero carbon status, through application of the UKGBC *Net Zero Carbon Buildings* framework, before receiving cabinet approval.

- Sign up to the World Green Building Council's *Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment*, which 'challenges signatory companies, cities, states and regions to reach net zero carbon for operational energy in their portfolios by 2030, and to advocate for all buildings to be net zero in operation by 2050.'