

Motion Cllr Patrick Costello

That the management agree that all housing development by Dublin city council, including those built by tender, Public Private Partnership or other such arrangement will be of passive house standard or equivalent.

This motion aims to have Dublin city council follow international best practice in aiming for passive house standard or equivalent in new buildings. One international example is Exeter City Council, who at no extra cost procured passive house standard social housing with 90% energy savings for residents. This energy efficiency ended fuel poverty among residents and, due to these cost savings to residents, reduced rent arrears.

Response

While the executive would support the intent of the motion it would be concerned as to how the motion would be implemented in practice.

'Passive House Standard' is a rigorous and highly prescriptive third party accreditation which may not be appropriate to DCC's own developments. It is for this reason, I am assuming, that the motion includes the phrase 'or equivalent'. However, the question then arises as to what does 'or equivalent' actually mean, which could involve a lengthy and highly technical discussion.

Under the Dublin City Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2010-2020-v2 the Housing & Residential Services Department has been developing a DCC Housing Energy Action Plan 2009-2020 in draft form which requires updating and a renewed focus. I would recommend that it is in the context of completing and adopting this Housing Energy Action Plan to 2020 that the specifics of what is meant by "Passive House standard or equivalent" be deliberated and agreed.

Brian Swan
Deputy City Architect