

Council: Tuesday 16 July 2019

Agenda Item 9: Motion on Notice submitted by Councillors Max Clarke and Cliff Waterman

Council notes:

- That the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world.
- That the 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.
- That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.
- That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
- That, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions.

Council therefore commits to:

1. Declare a Climate Emergency that requires urgent action.
2. Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.
3. Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030.
4. Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
5. Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the entire district zero carbon within the same timescale.
6. Produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline.

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7. Report on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.
8. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask local MPs to do likewise.
9. Consider other actions that could be implemented, including (but not restricted to): renewable energy generation and storage; providing electric vehicle infrastructure and encouraging alternatives to private car use; increasing the efficiency of buildings; in particular to address fuel poverty; proactively using local planning powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice.

Proposed by Councillor Max Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Cliff Waterman