

Meeting of Council, 29 July 2021

Agenda item 11, Notice of Alteration (Council Procedure Rule 2.19.18) to Motion on climate change

Proposer Councillor Chandler, seconder Councillor Ritter.

Alteration to the Motion on Climate Change at item 11 on the agenda for Full Council on 29 July 2021, as set out below.

Background

In 2018, at the COP24 climate conference, the UK Government signed up to having 'domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities' so localities can play their part in delivering the UKs 'Nationally Determined Contributions' in the Paris Climate Agreement.

In September 2019 this council referred a motion to the Executive in relation to climate change. Subsequently the Executive agreed (in July 2020) a new Environmental Sustainability Strategy with a commitment to work towards zero-carbon emissions in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council by 2030, and the Council has employed a sustainability project officer to work across the whole council for this end.

~~In (September) 2019 this council passed a motion to work towards zero-carbon emissions in Reigate and Banstead Borough Council by 2030 and have employed a sustainability project officer to work across the whole council for this end.~~ This has highlighted the complexity of applying for funding from central government to support our actions in working towards this goal (in addition to the budget set aside by the council) and there are no guarantees that enough monies will be secured to fund our ambition as a council to meet the goals in our action plan. In addition, there are major areas of activity where the role of local authorities is currently unclear, such as decarbonisation, as recently identified by the National Audit Office.

In May 2021 Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26 said collaboration would be a key objective of the climate summit

"Governments, business and civil society (sometimes called 'non-state actors' and including local government) need to work together to transform the ways we power our homes and businesses, grow our food, develop infrastructure and move ourselves and goods around"

Despite these agreements and statements there is still no formal relationship allowing joint partnership working between Local and National Government on climate action.

This Motion asks Council to resolve to:

- ~~• In this year of the COP26 climate conference, add our voice to calls by the Local Government Association, and write to Alok Sharma MP asking for national government to ensure the adequate representation of local government at COP26, in order to promote the significant contribution, leadership and efforts of local councils in reducing carbon emissions across the UK, and to champion the innovative and rapid progress being made at a local level to tackle climate change ; in this year of the COP26 climate conference, add our voice to calls by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport & others for a joint local & national government Task Force to plan action to reach 'net zero' emissions. Such a partnership can set appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and create the much needed long-term funding mechanisms to enable local communities and economies to decarbonise whilst remaining resilient, sustainable and supporting the needs of our most vulnerable residents.~~
- ~~• To write to the Prime Minister, Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government and the Leadership Board of the LGA and the informing them of:~~
 - ~~i. Our view that better partnership working between Government and Local Authorities is required to adequately respond to the climate challenge;~~
 - ~~ii. Our support for a joint Local/National Government Climate Change Partnership Taskforce, as previously advocated by the LGA and asking for one to be established as soon as possible; and~~
 - ~~iii. Our commitment to engaging constructively in such partnership working to deliver both national and local net zero targets and if possible increase our local ambition as a result of establishing appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and establishing long-term funding mechanisms.~~
- ~~• write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister and the Leadership Board of the LGA informing them of our support for a joint Local/National Government Climate Change Partnership Taskforce and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.~~
- ~~• use this task force to bolster our case to central government on what is needed to deliver our environmental sustainability strategy and to increase its ambition.~~