

Council: 26 September 2019

Motion: Declaring a Climate Emergency

Councillor R. Ritter will move and Councillor H. Brown will second the following Motion:

Council is asked to note:

1. That in February 2019, this Council considered a Motion concerning climate change which was referred to the Executive for consideration. The (amended) Motion put forward the following:
 - A request to the council to update its Carbon Management Plan and set a carbon neutral target for RBBC and a governance structure to ensure monitoring of this.
 - A request to the Executive to take into full account the IPCC report of 2018 in its review of the upcoming Corporate Plan.
 - To call on government for resources to support local action on climate change.
2. In response, the Executive considered this Motion in March 2019 and agreed that the Draft Corporate Plan (2020-2025) should include a new commitment in relation to environmental sustainability and climate change and that the Council should review, and as necessary update, its plans in relation to carbon management and local action on climate change.
3. That Surrey County Council passed a climate change motion in July 2019, which included the following resolutions:
 - To deliver a strategy in 2019/20 involving a task group that clearly outlines how we plan to deliver the target of net zero emissions including actions that will be taken.
 - To declare a 'Climate Emergency' and commit to actions to support businesses and all local authorities in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency and sharing best practice across all councils.
4. That strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.
5. That, recognising this critical issue, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions many of which are committing to the ambitious target of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 and some even earlier than this.

This Motion therefore proposes that this Council commits to:

- Declare a climate emergency that requires urgent action.
- Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030 by putting in place a cross party task group to work towards this across all aspects of the Council's work and responsibilities and setting out a Plan of Action within 6 months, including clear targets and transparent reporting.

- Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030.
- Work with, influence and inspire partners across the borough to help deliver this goal through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops.
- Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.