



WORTHING BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Council
17 December 2024

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Officer Contact Details:-

Neil Terry

Democratic Services Manager & Deputy Monitoring Officer

01903 221073

neil.terry@adur-worthing.gov.uk

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Ian Davey which has been seconded by Councillor Claire Hunt.
- 1.2. Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to consider and determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Ian Davey, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the Borough.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial impacts arising from the motion as it is declaratory.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under section 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

Motion:- The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Context

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe. The scientific consensus is clear: fossil fuels are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate crisis now represents the preeminent threat to global lives and livelihoods.

Sussex is already seeing the impact of the climate crisis, including an increase in flooding, rising temperatures, drought, and rising sea levels. Residents – particularly those most at-risk and vulnerable – will face disruptions to food systems and rising food prices and are most likely to suffer the consequences of fossil fuel-derived air pollution, heat stress and flooding. The recent devastating Valencia floods, where many of the dead were elderly or disabled are clear evidence should we need it.

This council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and is taking steps to reduce carbon emissions and transition to renewable energy, but these efforts will be undermined if carbon emissions are not reduced urgently nationally and globally.

This Council welcomes: the Prime Minister's promise of global climate leadership with a commitment to a UK Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to cut emissions by 81% compared with 1990 levels by 2035.

This council regrets: that the recent COP 29 climate negotiations which were dominated by the presence of fossil fuel giants and lobbyists failed to agree to the urgent steps needed now to mitigate the Climate Crisis and adapt to the consequences.

This council notes: that according to the UK's Climate Change Committee the government is "off-track" on reaching its own 2030 targets of a cut of 68% and that more "will need to be done as a matter of urgency to make up for lost time".

A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would plan the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C and accelerate equitable transition plans globally.

The three pillars of action proposed by the Fossil Fuel Treaty are:

- Non-Proliferation - preventing new coal, oil, or gas developments
- Equitable Phase Out of existing fossil fuel production plans
- Just Transition so that no community, country or worker is left behind

The treaty is being promoted locally by Worthing Climate Action Network and the Worthing branch of Global Justice Now.

Backing the Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty along with other councils and civil society across the UK would demonstrate to the world that this Council is committed to doing everything it can to address the climate emergency.

That Worthing Borough Council

1. endorses the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty on behalf of the people of Worthing and commits to make that endorsement public.

That Worthing Borough Council asks the Leader to:

1. Write to the Prime Minister, requesting that he demonstrates the sincerity of his Global climate leadership pledge by endorsing the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty on behalf of the UK Government and its people.
2. Write to Beccy Cooper MP and Tom Rutland MP asking them to publicly support the UK backing the call for a treaty and to work within their party to that end.
3. Write to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change asking that he publish a detailed plan on how the Government will deliver a planned phase out of fossil fuels.
4. Write to the Chair of the Local Government Association and raise the need for a planned phase out of fossil fuels, and to call on it to promote the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty among its members.

Proposed by Councillor Ian Davey
Seconded by Councillor Claire Hunt

Notes

Further information: <https://fossilfuel treaty.org>

Fifteen UK Towns and Cities that have already endorsed the treaty including:

- Birmingham
- Brighton and Hove
- City of Cambridge
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Gloucestershire
- Hastings
- Lewes District Council
- Lewes Town Council
- London
- London Borough of Lambeth
- London Borough of Newham
- Reading
- Stroud

More are actively considering doing so.