



Council
19 October 2021

WORTHING BOROUGH C O U N C I L

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Helen Silman.
- 1.2. Council is asked to deal with the motion under provisions set out in paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (under part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to 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 Helen Silman, (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 affects the Borough.

- 3.3 There is nothing substantive within the motion that would cause its rejection under the terms of the Constitution.
- 3.4 The motion before Council is declaratory in nature, as defined in para 14.4.4 of the Council's Procedure Rules. Therefore, it may be considered and debated by the Full Council without being automatically referred to a future meeting, as defined in para 14.4.5 of the Council's Procedure Rules, or, being referred to the Executive or Committee without debate, as defined in paragraphs 14.4.1, 14.4.2 and 14.4.3 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

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 and the Council is asked to debate the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The motion is declaratory in nature and therefore there are no direct financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 As the motion is declaratory in nature, there are no direct legal implications arising from it.

Background Papers

None

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Motion to Worthing Borough Council

Council is asked to Note the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill 2020 (the CEE Bill)

Preamble

In August this year the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPPC) published the Working Group 1 report giving up to date scientific estimates of the risk of average global temperatures exceeding 1.5 to 2 degrees centigrade - above which climate events risk catastrophic consequences to the human and natural world.

The IPPC message is unambiguous:

'unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5 degrees or even 2 degrees will be beyond reach.'

There is no place to go to escape the consequences of unchecked climate change.

There are no life forms – plant or animal which won't be affected.

The UK is particularly vulnerable to species loss because our country is one of the most nature-depleted countries worldwide and has one of the lowest tree covers in Europe.

The National Bio-diversity Network gathering data from some 200 member groups reported in 2019 that bio-diversity in the UK continues to decline rapidly and significantly.

We in the UK need a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 the natural world is visibly and measurably along the path to recovery in line with the Global Goal for Nature and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature. The CEE Bill is designed to do that.

This Council notes that:

1. In May 2019, Parliament approved a Motion declaring an Environment and Climate Emergency.
2. In July 2019 this Council declared a Climate Emergency.

3. This Council organised a Citizens' Assembly, held between September and December 2020, and accepted the 17 recommendations of the Assembly, notably one calling for action to enhance habitats and bio-diversity.
4. The Council has direct control over Global Warming Gas emissions only in its own estate and operations, but also notes that it can lead others to change and respond to climate change by setting the best possible example and by cooperating and enabling others to do the same.
5. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is currently before Parliament, it is supported by 115 members in the House of Commons and some 30 peers drawn from 8 political parties. 112 Local Councils including Adur District Council, have already noted it.
6. If the Bill becomes law it will ensure:
 - a. that the Ecological emergency and the Climate emergency are tackled together with equal commitment to both.
 - b. that UK Governments will legislate to ensure that green house gas emissions are reduced to a level consistent with a global temperature increase on pre-industrial levels not exceeding 1.5%.
 - c. that the Leaders' Pledge for Nature becomes legally binding to ensure that the UK's ecosystems are protected and restored focussing on bio-diversity, soils and natural carbon sequestration such as occurs in peat lands and forests.
 - d. that the UK takes responsibility for the whole of our greenhouse gas emissions' footprint (including those from consumer goods, shipping, flights and land based transport) by incorporating into the calculations for UK emissions those that occur overseas in the manufacture, transport and disposal of the goods and services we import into the UK.
 - e. that the UK takes full responsibility for our ecological footprint so that we protect the health and resilience of ecosystems along our domestic and global supply chains.
 - f. that an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is formed, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and Government to contribute to the development of an emergency strategy to meet the Climate and Ecological Emergency confronting us.