



Petition Submitted to Worthing Borough Council - 'Worthing to be Zero Carbon by 2030'

Report by the Solicitor to the Council and the Director for Communities

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. A Petition was received on 15 May 2019 from Ms Joanne Paul containing 1055 signatures. The petition was received by the Proper Officer.
- 1.2. The Petition is in regards to a proposal to declare a Climate Emergency and make Worthing Borough Carbon Neutral by 2030.
- 1.3. Any action to be taken in response to the Petition, is to be determined, following debate, at the Worthing Borough Council Meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Worthing Borough Council is recommended to debate the Petition and determine what action, if any, it shall take in response to the Petition.

3.0 Background

- 3.1. The Worthing Borough Council adopted Petition Scheme is available on the Council's website:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.129314.en.pdf>

- 3.2. The details of the petition state:

We call on Worthing Borough Council to declare a Climate Emergency:

1. Pledge to make Worthing Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption of emissions;

2. Ensure Worthing Council's leadership continues by practising and promoting investment in renewable technologies by Worthing Borough Council, its business delivery partners, suppliers and businesses trading within and from the Worthing area;

3. Work with other councils to insist that Westminster and the County Council provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible and to determine and implement the best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

4. Continue to work with partners across Worthing and more widely to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;

5. Provide an outline strategy by 1st September 2019 to ensure the transition to a zero carbon future by 2030 is initiated.

- 3.3. Qualifying petitions are defined in the Petition Scheme as those petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures and including a minimum of 50 names, addresses and signatures of people who live, work or study in the Borough of Worthing. The petition contains 1,055 signatures, exceeding the 50 person minimum and meets the relevant criteria to be considered as a qualifying petition.
- 3.4 Under the Worthing Borough Council Petition Scheme the Petition Organiser, Ms Joanne Paul, is to be provided with the opportunity of five minutes to address Council on the petition. The Leader then has five minutes to address Council with their right of reply to the petition.

- 3.4. It is a requirement of the Scheme that where a qualifying petition is received, and where time permits, the petition is to be debated by the Council to determine how to respond to it.

Members of the Council are recommended to consider and determine the Petition and any Member of the Council may move a specific motion as a proposal for the appropriate disposal of this matter. Such a proposal will need to be seconded, debated and voted upon in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules. A range of suggested responses and ways of disposal are available and set out within the Scheme, and include, but are not limited to:

- taking the action requested;
- holding an enquiry or undertaking research into the matters arising;
- referring the petition for consideration to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee; or
- taking no further action.

- 3.5. The Petition Organiser was notified on 15 May that the petition amounted to a qualifying petition.

4.0 Proposals

- 4.1. The person submitting the petition has five minutes to address Council to support their petition.
- 4.2. The Leader has five minutes to address Council as the Council's right of reply to the petitioner.
- 4.3. Council will then debate the petition and determine what action to take in response to the petition.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no financial implications in considering a petition at the Council Meeting.
- 5.2. However, if the decision taken at the Council Meeting, in response to the petition, is likely to have significant financial implications for the Council and requires action by the Executive, then the action to be

taken and financial implications should be considered by the Executive at a meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1. Full details of the Borough Council's adopted Petition Scheme can be found in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.
- 6.2. The usual rules of debate set out at paragraph 16 of the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution, apply to the Council debate upon the petition.
- 6.3. The requirement to have a Petition Scheme was contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Construction and Development Act 2009 (as amended).

Background Papers

Worthing Borough Council Constitution containing the Petition Scheme.

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

There are environmental implications for the management, custodianship and protection of our natural resources arising from the proposals within the petition, but not from the proposal to debate the petition at Full Council.

4. Governance

The Council has a Petition Scheme in compliance with legislation, which has been adopted formally as part of the Council's Constitution. All petitions submitted to the Council should be determined in accordance with the published Scheme.