

Council

23 July 2019

Notice of Motion

Relevant Wards

All

Portfolio Holder

Councillor John Raine, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Author

Councillor John Raine

Detail of the motion

Climate Change Emergency - The Response of Malvern Hills District Council.

In their October 2018 report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that, in order to avert dangerous climate breakdown, global carbon emissions would need to be halved by 2030 and reduced to zero by the middle of the century.

The same report also concluded that the world has just 11 years left to contain global warming to the maximum safe level of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Should the increase reach or exceed 2 degrees Celsius, the report emphasised, humanity's capacity to prevent catastrophic food shortages, floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty would likely be severely impaired.

Limiting global warming to that +1.5 degrees Celsius level may still be possible, but only with urgent and ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities. More positively, however, bold action to limit carbon emissions would be likely also to deliver significant economic benefits in the form of new jobs, financial savings and market opportunities.

Many councils have in recent months taken the step that we are taking here - in declaring a climate emergency. But of course what is most important is that any such declarations are followed up with actions to do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and minimise waste (including the elimination of single-use plastics) to play our part in striving to meet the above-mentioned targets. As well as making changes within the Council's own direct sphere of control, our efforts should also reflect our community governance and local

leadership responsibilities and also be directed at actions that will facilitate, enable and support residents and businesses as quickly as possible in pursuit of net zero carbon emissions and waste minimisation.

Accordingly, as signatories to this Motion, we propose that Council should;

- Request that the newly-established Environment Policy Panel takes lead responsibility for the preparation of a comprehensive and costed action plan in response to the climate emergency, and completing this by 31st March 2020 at the very latest.
- Actively seek the co-operation and assistance of all relevant local partner organisations and regional bodies in this Council's pursuit, as quickly as possible within the District of the net zero carbon emissions target.
- Make urgent representations to Central Government about the need for additional supporting resources to assist the Council in its efforts in this regard.
- Establish appropriate monitoring and reporting arrangements on the progress being made (reporting to the Executive Committee on at least a quarterly basis).

July 2019

Motion proposed by:

Cllr J. Raine
Cllr J. Wood
Cllr M. Allen
Cllr N. McVey
Cllr C. Reed
Cllr S. Rouse
Cllr T. Wells
Cllr K. Aksar