

Subject: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 31 January 2019

Date of Meeting: 19 March 2019

Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **01273 291006**
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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

To receive the petition referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the petition be considered by the committee;
- (2) That the council seek to publicise this council's recognition of climate and biodiversity emergencies (as agreed unanimously at a meeting of Full Council, December 2018) as follows:
 - (i) To request a brief report from the Chief Executive outlining low-cost measures the Communications team could organise to publicise the 'Climate Emergency' declaration agreed by this Council;
 - (ii) To request the placement of an online banner on the home page of the BHCC website 'Unanimous ambition of this Council: zero carbon by 2030'.

Petition:

"We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to declare a climate emergency and put in place a more ambitious commitment of making our city carbon neutral by 2030."

Lead petitioner: Caitriona Vines

Additional Information:

We believe that a sustainable low-carbon future is essential for our own sake, and that of future generations – and is needed urgently to avoid the dangers of runaway climate breakdown.

This target will allow us to support the international commitment to keep the planet's temperature rise below 1.5°C (above pre-industrial levels) as agreed under the Paris Agreement. A recent report published by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that in order for us to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C, worldwide CO2 emissions need to decline by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050 (IPCC, 2018).

We have taken inspiration from Bristol City Council who earlier this month unanimously backed a motion which called on the Mayor of Bristol to declare a climate emergency and for the city's carbon neutrality target to be brought forward by 20 years to 2030.

References

IPCC. (2018) Global warming of 1.5°C: Summary for Policymakers, p. 18. Available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/index.htm> [Accessed 21.11.18]

Green Party Bristol. (2018) Greens declare a Climate Emergency and bring Bristol's CO2 emissions target forwards 20 years. Available at: <https://bristolgreenparty.org.uk/news/greens-declare-a-climate-emergency-and-bring-bristols-co2-emissions-target-forwards-20-years>

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 31 JANUARY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls, West and Yates.

PART ONE

63 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

(1) COMMIT BRIGHTON AND HOVE TO ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS BY 2030

- 63.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of 3 such petitions. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation from the Green Group.
- 63.2 The Mayor noted that the lead petitioner Caitriona Vines was unable to attend the meeting and invited Mr. Gunbie to come forward and present the petition on her behalf.
- 63.3 Mr. Gunbie thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had nearly 1,400 signatures in support which had been reached in just under 4 weeks of the petition being started. He wanted to congratulate the Council on approving the notice of motion in December relating to climate change and noted that council was leading the way in seeking to address this issue. There was a clear need to encourage low carbon living and the petition was asking the council to make consideration of carbon emission levels an integral part of its decision making for all matters. Both Bristol and Manchester Councils had incorporated the need to reduce carbon emissions into their Action Plans and he hoped Brighton & Hove would follow the example and work with community groups, partner organisations and schools to reach the target.
- 63.4 Councillor Mitchell thanked Mr. Gunbie for presenting the petition and noted that the council was taking action in light of the approved notice of motion in December; which included having a report to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and looking to work with partners to take matters forward. She also confirmed that she was happy to accept the Green Group's amendment.

- 63.5 Councillor Sykes welcomed the petition and moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which called for the council to publicise matters and for a report to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee. He acknowledged Councillor Mitchell's willingness to accept the amendment and stated that there was a need to take the initiative and to work with partners to get the message out and to start to address the issue.
- 63.6 Councillor Gibson formally seconded the amendment and stated that there was a climate emergency and a need to take action now for the benefit of future generations and to encourage others to follow suit.
- 63.7 Councillor Janio stated that it was an important issue and had been recognised by the government and he noted that the UK had been outperforming on carbon targets. He noted that a report was due to come to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and welcomed the opportunity to consider that in due course. He also noted that issue of climate change had been previously considered by a scrutiny panel in 2010.
- 63.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Gunbie for attending the meeting and presenting the petition, and noted that the amendment had been accepted. She therefore put the recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 63.9 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 19th March 2019;
 - (2) That the council seek to publicise this council's recognition of climate and biodiversity emergencies (as agreed unanimously at a meeting of Full Council, December 2018) as follows:
 - (i) To request a brief report from the Chief Executive outlining low-cost measures the Communications team could organise to publicise the 'Climate Emergency' declaration agreed by this Council;
 - (ii) To request the placement of an online banner on the home page of the BHCC website 'Unanimous ambition of this Council: zero carbon by 2030' and
 - (3) To request that the Chief Executive promote this petition on climate and biodiversity and the ambition of this Council to achieve carbon neutral status by 2030 to partner organisations, including: the Greater Brighton Economic Board, the Transport for the South East partnership, the SE7 group, ORBIS, CCG and other similar bodies.