

Extraordinary Council – 15 July 2019

Motions

The following motion has been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

Wirral Council declares an Environment and Climate Emergency.

Proposed by Councillor Elizabeth Grey

Seconded by Councillor Adrian Jones

Wirral Council declares an Environment and Climate Emergency.

Further, following pressure from this and other Councils, Wirral welcomes Parliament's UK Climate Emergency Declaration of May 1st.

Council also welcomes the UN Climate Action Summit planned for September this year following the IPCC and IPBES reports (Note 1) and recognises overwhelming scientific consensus that to avoid more than a 1.5°C rise in global warming, global emissions would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero by around 2050.

Council notes with alarm that, conducted at the highest international scientific level, these reports warn that *during the lifetime of our children* catastrophic ecological disaster will unfold with the extinction of circa one million life-forms, many of which are essential to human species survival - unless OUR generation reverses it.

Council believes much can also be achieved not only through reduced emissions but also through greater Central and Local Government support for reforestation, sustainable agriculture, waste reduction, re-cycling, less use of non-recyclables and finite resources and greater awareness of healthier life-style choices.

Council celebrates the fact that six of the nine winners of the 2019 Echo Environment Awards were from Wirral. Wirral Council also notes and welcomes the City Region's announced aims:

- To produce more low carbon energy
- Greater energy efficiency and lower energy poverty
- Improved air quality
- Rapid transition to low carbon transport/industry/housing

Further, Wirral Council calls on Cabinet to:

- Support and increase efforts to meet Climate Change targets to achieve net zero emissions before 2050 by supporting and setting ambitious, short-term targets for the roll-out of renewables and low carbon energy and transport, and to move swiftly to capture economic opportunities and green jobs in a low carbon economy;

- protect Wirral's natural environment and develop a circular, zero waste economy;
- manage risks for workers currently reliant on carbon intensive sectors;
- explain to the public what this Climate Emergency declaration means and promote understanding and action;
- request regular updates from the Council Leadership on progress being made to act on this declaration; and
- call on Westminster to provide the powers and the funding to make this locally possible.

Note 1. IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and IPBES' (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.