

Climate emergency motion

This council notes:

Over 41 councils have passed 'climate emergency' motions since the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report on Global Warming of 1.5°C was published in October 2018. This report describes the major environmental harms that a 2°C rise in world temperature is likely to cause and urges that governments and related authorities world-wide seek to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C.

That there is cross party support for climate emergency motions and ambitious carbon reduction strategies – the 41 councils that have already passed such a motion include Labour led, Conservative led, Liberal Democrat led and NOC authorities.

That the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C argues that limiting Global temperature rises to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national Governments AND local Government working in collaboration with partner agencies, organisations, groups and local communities.

This council resolves:

To acknowledge that there is a climate emergency and that as an authority we can play a part in trying to address it.

To aim to make Newcastle under Lyme a carbon-neutral borough by 2030.

To establish and support a climate change action group that is chaired by an individual from outside of the borough council and is comprised of representatives of all parties on the council, council officers, representatives of local employers, local education establishments, partner organisations, local community groups, faith groups, local environmental groups, trade unions and other representatives of local civil society to encourage and coordinate the drive towards a carbon-neutral borough.

To require the cabinet and senior officers to collaborate with this action group, to examine what more can be done by the borough council to deliver a carbon-neutral borough, and for cabinet to work with the action group to produce and publish a plan setting out how the council, through its policies, practices and actions will help to deliver a carbon-neutral borough by 2030.

To require that cabinet, as part of the regular performance review process routinely review progress against this plan and if necessary take action to expedite progress towards the carbon-neutral goal.

For the Chief Executive to host in Newcastle a meeting of CEOs, leaders and cross party representatives from Staffordshire County Council, Stoke City Council, District councils across Staffordshire and our neighbouring non-Staffordshire councils to produce a regional climate emergency strategic collaboration plan to move to a carbon-neutral region. Regular meetings of this group will become a part of the battle for a carbon neutral region

To require that the chief executive and the leaders of all groups on the council jointly write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs declaring a climate emergency and urging him to give local government across the region powers and funding to take meaningful action to address this emergency.

Proposer: Cllr Tony Kearon

Seconder: Cllr Emily Horsfall