

Full Council

17 July April 2019

NOTICE OF MOTION 1 – CLIMATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Mover Councillor Thomas and Seconder Councillor P. Smith

Preamble

The 2018 Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report is an alarming reminder of the consequences of climate change and the urgent need to ensure that global temperatures do not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The report demonstrates that we are increasingly likely to miss our global warming target, with the 1.5 degree Celsius temperature "guard rail" expected to be exceeded in just 11 years.

Crawley Borough Council believes that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown; local councils that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. Crawley Borough Council should commit to aim for zero carbon emissions as soon as possible and, in doing so, to encourage local residents and businesses to do the same.

Crawley Borough Council has a good record to build upon in reducing carbon emissions: for instance, in installing thousands of PV panels; improving home insulation; building homes to Passivhaus standard in Three Bridges and Ifield; preserving and managing large areas of natural vegetation within the borough; planning for an energy efficient new town hall and an accompanying district heat network and in encouraging the use of various forms of sustainable transport, notably walking, cycling and buses.

Crawley Borough Council welcomes the various recent initiatives taken in Parliament and by West Sussex County Council and many other local authorities to increase awareness of the urgency of addressing the issue of reducing CO2 emissions and **resolves to:**

1. Declare a Climate Emergency
2. Pledge to aim to reduce carbon emissions generated by Crawley Borough Council activities by at least 45% by 2030 and to zero by 2050 as recommended by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

3. Call upon central government to provide the powers and resources to make these targets possible.
4. Work with other councils and partners to determine and implement best practice methods to reduce carbon emissions and so limit Global Heating to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius
5. Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) urgently sets up a Scrutiny Panel to look into and make recommendations focusing upon the workings and activities of Crawley Borough Council relating to carbon emissions and to report to Council as soon as is practicable. Council further requests that OSC co-opts a member or members of the Youth Council to the Scrutiny Panel.
6. Request that the Head of Corporate Finance will undertake a review of the ethical investment policy in the Treasury Management Strategy with a view to incorporating the Council's climate change declaration.
7. Encourage all Crawley residents to commit to the West Sussex County Council Climate Pledge published in May 2019.