

Mrs Deborah Urquhart, Cabinet Member for Environment

Response to Mr Jones' Notice of Motion about Climate Emergency to County Council on 15 February 2019

25 March 2019

Director of Law and Assurance

Ref No. ENV15 18/19
Key Decision: No
Part I
Electoral Divisions: All

1. The Chairman of the County Council referred the notice of motion on Climate Emergency submitted to the County Council on 15 February 2019 to Mrs Deborah Urquhart, the Cabinet Member for Environment, for consideration. The motion called on the Cabinet to:
 - (1) Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
 - (2) Pledge to attempt to make West Sussex carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
 - (3) Call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
 - (4) Work with other councils to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;
 - (5) Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
 - (6) Set up a Task and Finish Group to look into the matter in greater detail;
 - (7) Consider whether it would be advisable to take into account climate change impacts, when considering planning applications, or taking part in consultations, commenting on reports, plans and reviews put to the Council; and
 - (8) Report to full Council within six months with the actions the Cabinet and Council will take to address this emergency.
2. The Cabinet Member notes the climate change briefing note circulated with the 15 February County Council agenda.
3. In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Environment, Mrs Louise Goldsmith (Leader of the County Council) met Mr Michael Jones on 21 March 2019 to discuss the motion. They discussed the positive work that the County Council is already undertaking including improving the efficiency of the County Council's estate, previous sustainability campaigns and investment in renewable energy. The members were in

general agreement that the County Council can lead by example, that collaborative working with others can be promoted and that individuals can be encouraged to take action.

4. Mr Jones confirmed that he wishes to debate the motion at County Council on 5 April 2019.
5. In light of the information above and whilst the Cabinet Member supports many elements of the motion, she is unable to support its entirety as drafted, so will prepare an amendment in advance of the County Council meeting on 5 April.

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

Contact: Judith Shore 033 022 26052

Background papers

None