

# COUNCIL

26 JUNE 2019

**ITEM NO:** 15

**TITLE:** “Climate Change Emergency”

**PROPOSING COUNCILLORS:** Denise Scott-McDonald, Sarah Merrill, Norman Adams, Olu Babatola, Linda Bird, Stephen Brain, Peter Brooks, Angela Cornforth, Ann-Marie Cousins, Gary Dillon, John Fahy, Leo Fletcher, Bill Freeman, David Gardner, Christine Grice, Ian Hawking, Mick Hayes, Denise Hyland, Mark James, Rajinder James, Sizwe James, Adel Khaireh, Mehboob Khan, Christopher Kirby, Averil Lekau, Chris Lloyd, Mariam Lolavar, Clive Mardner, Christine May, Dominic Mbang, Matthew Morrow, Anthony Okereke, Gary Parker, Linda Perks, Aidan Smith, Jackie Smith, David Stanley, Danny Thorpe, Ivis Williams and Miranda Williams

## **Council notes:**

- that the impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world;
- that the ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector;
- that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies;
- that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits;
- and that, recognising this, a growing number of UK local authorities have already passed 'Climate Emergency' motions

## **In Greenwich:**

- The consequences of inaction to address this emergency will include:

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- Increased risk of flooding, subsidence, and damage to buildings and infrastructure
- Health problems, particularly for children, the disabled and older people
- Higher energy and food costs
- Increases in social injustice and inequality

## **Council resolves to:**

- Join other local authorities and declare a ‘climate emergency’.
- Pledge to make Royal Borough of Greenwich carbon neutral by 2030.
- Pledge to review and update the Action Plan of the Greener Greenwich Strategy. We aim to have this completed by December 2019. We will publish an Annual Report outlining the progress we have made against these actions.
- Pledge to create the first Greenwich Partnership to focus on climate change and ask our partner organisations across Greenwich to make clear commitments to dealing with this crisis.
- Use our lobbying power as a local authority to campaign at the local, London-wide and national level to draw attention to issue and bring about changes at all levels of government.
- Pledge that the Core Strategy will be reviewed to help ensure we deliver our Carbon Neutral target.
- Pledge to explore all opportunities to divest our pension fund investments, and work to ensure that wherever possible any future investments are assessed against these principles.
- Pledge to ensure that sustainability is central to our Procurement strategy.
- Pledge to make this council free of single-use plastics by 2020 and work towards reducing the use of single-use plastics across all council buildings.