



COUNCIL

Further to the Summons to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL on Thursday, 18th July, 2019 at 7.00 pm, I set out below a Notice of Motion given pursuant to Procedure Rule 11

Supplementary Agenda

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DS
12 July 2019

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Agenda Item 15

“Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;

Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;

Ashford Borough Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, with regard to improvements in recycling, walking and cycling strategies and clean air strategies.

Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C limit before 2030.

The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last month, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

Councils around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency

Motion:

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Ashford and the UK that cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

Towns and Cities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity’s number one priority; and,

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

We call upon the Council to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make the Ashford carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3)
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) 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 region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
6. Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Mayor/Council will take to address this emergency.

Proposer: Cllr Steve Campkin
Seconded: Cllr Liz Wright