

Public Document Pack

Daneshill House
Danestrete
Stevenage
Hertfordshire

4 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary meeting of the Stevenage Borough Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage on Wednesday, 12 June 2019 at 7.00pm and you are summoned to attend to transact the following business.

Yours faithfully

Matthew Partridge
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 2. MOTION TO COUNCIL - CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

To consider the following Motion to be moved by Councillor J Gardner and seconded by Councillor S-J McDonough. The debate on this Motion will be preceded by presentations from Dr Sue Parham (Head of Urbanism and Planning, University of Hertfordshire) and Mr Jonathan Gilbert (Technical Consultant, BREEAM).

‘That this Council notes that:

- Human activities are changing our planet and the need for everyone to take action on climate change is more urgent and immediate than ever.

- According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Special Report in 2018, human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1°C of global warming above pre- industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C.

- The Paris Agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by “limiting global warming to well below 2c and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5c”. · In order to prevent further global warming of more than 1.5°C, the IPCC states that this would require global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching ‘net zero’ around 2050 and that they would need to peak within 12 years (by 2030) to increase the chances of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

- Stevenage Borough Council set an aspiration in its Climate Change Strategy 2016-21 for Stevenage to achieve zero carbon status by 2050.
- The latest statistics produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) shows total emissions in Stevenage have declined steadily over the last 11 years. From 2005-2016, total emissions from the town have reduced by almost 34%.
- Emission reductions in the UK, including Stevenage, since 2012 have primarily come from the decarbonisation of electricity generation in the power sector at a national level, which is shifting progressively from fossil fuels to low carbon and renewable generation.
- To maintain the current rate of emissions reduction and reach zero carbon by 2050, further changes to national policy and infrastructure would be required in all sectors, including industry and commercial, transport and domestic sources.
- Emissions would need to reduce much more rapidly to reach net zero carbon by an earlier date, requiring rapid and widescale changes in energy production, supply and usage at the national level.
- The latest statistics for the source of Stevenage's carbon dioxide emissions are for 2016 and are; 42% from industry and commercial, 33% from domestic sources and 25% from transport.

This Council welcomes the new building control regulations requiring all new buildings to be nearly zero carbon from 31 December 2020 but note the damage done by scrapping Labour's original 2016 deadline.

This Council will update its Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan to reflect the targets in this Motion.

This Council declares a climate emergency and we:

- Will continue to reduce the council's building and fleet emissions through developing and investing in carbon reduction projects and we will update our Carbon Management Plan regularly.
- Will continue to support residents and businesses in Stevenage to reduce their emissions using the powers and funding currently available to the Council.
- Will establish a Stevenage Climate Charter calling on all organisations, businesses and individuals in the town to each establish their own Carbon Management Plans and to commit to reducing their carbon emissions which will help us to work towards our town's net carbon-zero aspiration
- Will establish a Stevenage People's Assembly to monitor the Towns progress on Climate Emergency Actions against targets set by both the Council and other stake holders.

- Will continue to work with the Hertfordshire Sustainability Forum, the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership and Hertfordshire Infrastructure & Planning Partnership to promote and advocate joint measures and actions to meet our aspirational targets for carbon emissions reduction and sustainable transport solutions

We want and we need to be doing more to tackle this climate emergency, and know that with Government leadership (that is currently absent) we could be achieving zero carbon far sooner.

To encourage Stevenage and the rest of the UK to reach net zero carbon by 2030, we call on government, industry and regulators to implement the necessary changes with funding, transformed national infrastructure, policy, new technologies and legislation, including:

- Invest in clean, efficient renewable energy and end CO2 emissions from electricity generation.
- Ban fracking.
- Invest in energy-efficient public transport across the country, including the introduction of electric buses.
- End the sale of all new petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2030 and make cleaner vehicles more affordable and accessible.
- Establish a long-term nationwide Warm Homes strategy with adequate investment for energy-saving and energy-efficiency measures.
- Support a sustainable food revolution ensuring sustainable, fresh food for all whilst reducing food waste.
- Develop a strategy for all UK businesses to be net zero carbon by 2030.

This will reduce the damage caused by climate change and will also create a strong green economy with new jobs, less waste and with sustainable growth.'

This page is intentionally left blank