

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET – 12 SEPTEMBER 2019

REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL – 18 JULY 2019

### DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION

At the meeting of Council held on 18 July 2019, following Council's agreement to a Procedural Motion and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.6.1, the Motion 2 on Declaring a Climate Emergency was not referred to the Executive but was instead debated at Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7.1, if a Motion is marked on the Summons as to stand referred to the Executive under Rule 15.6 then where Council decides to disapply the referral and allow the matter to be debated, the Council can make no decision on the matter but can make a recommendation or pass comments to the Executive. The Motion was as follows:

- (i) Motion in the names of Councillor Sue Anderson and Councillor Kareema Marikar.

#### **“Declaring a Climate Emergency motion**

Council notes that:

- Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1°C from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm), exceeding the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;
- In Harrow, the high level of vehicle usage is a major contributor to poorer air quality and a detrimental effect on our residents' health;
- The 2018 IPCC report states that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5°C;
- 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. UK local authorities need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;
- Urban areas like Harrow are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their higher density opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;
- We need to continue to improve air quality, protect against flooding,

and ensure our buildings, transport, waste and energy policies are environmentally sustainable.

- Harrow Council has already taken significant steps to reduce carbon emissions in the borough. For example, the council is currently installing electric vehicle charging points at key sites; has recently purchased a new fleet, the majority of which are zero emission electric vehicles; has rolled out food waste recycling to all flats in the borough; advanced a programme of LED street lighting; supported schools to become more energy efficient.

In light of the above, the Council resolves to:

1. Join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;
2. Call on the UK Government to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier;
3. Aim to make London borough of Harrow carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption of emissions;
4. Create a working group of officers and members to urgently review and make recommendations to Council for actions that the local authority can take in order to achieve this target;
5. Continue to work with across London and through the LGA to deliver widespread carbon reductions.”

A tabled amendment was received. Upon being put to the vote it was lost.

**RESOLVED: That the Motion set out at (ii) above be adopted.**

[In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.7.1, the Motion stands referred to the Executive].

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Background documents:

1. Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 18 July 2019.

### **Contact:**

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