

Notice of Motion from Councillor Andrew McGuire for the Council Meeting on 24th September 2019

Climate Emergency

Council notes the impacts of climate change highlighted in the Report on Global Warming published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in October 2018 and the devastation that an average rise of 2 degrees C in global temperatures is likely to cause.

Council recognises that the world is in the midst of a climate emergency which requires urgent and meaningful action at international, national and local level in order to safeguard our planet for future generations.

Council further agrees that having more environmentally progressive policies can lead to improved health, high quality jobs and more sustainable communities.

Council notes that West Lothian Council signed the Climate Change Declaration in 2007. Council further notes the significant work to date to make West Lothian a more environmentally friendly and sustainable place to live and work, and that the Council's agreed carbon reduction targets are already being exceeded.

Council recognises the climate emergency declared by the UK parliament and councils across the United Kingdom. Council declares a climate emergency and:

- Notes that reports are scheduled for the Environment PDSP on the revised Climate Change Strategy, Carbon Management Plan, UK Climate Change Plan, Local Climate Impact profile and the West Lothian Adaptation Plan
- Agrees that as part of the review of the reports noted above, due consideration be given to
a) realistic targets to further reduce the carbon footprint with the aim of setting a net zero target
b) how environmental considerations can be built into Council processes and procedures
- Agrees that proposals to the PDSP should include quarterly reports on progress against agreed indicators, partnership working and actions and achievements through the CPP, engagement and partnership with local businesses, third sector organisations and local communities
- Notes the partnership approach being taken through the Community Planning Partnership and agrees with the CPP Board's decision on 2 September 2019 that a follow on seminar/conference is organised by council officers in conjunction with community planning partners
- Instructs officers to engage with the young people of West Lothian to ensure they are represented and given the opportunity to participate in the seminar/conference noted above
- Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the First Minister to seek sufficient resources and new powers for local authorities to enable local government to play a full role and to meet its obligations in tackling the climate emergency



**Councillor Andrew McGuire
West Lothian Council Labour Group**



A. 30am
V. Jordan