

10. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW MCGUIRE

The Council considered a motion (copies of which had been circulated) submitted by Councillor Andrew McGuire in the following terms:-

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 and local level in order to safeguard our planet for future generations.

Council further agrees that having more environmentally progressive policies can lead to improve 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 proposal 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
- Moved by Councillor Andrew McGuire and seconded by Councillor Lawrence Fitzpatrick.

### First Amendment

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 further notes that the Scottish Government was the first government in the UK to declare an emergency and have already commenced consultation, The Role of the Public Sector Bodies in Tackling Climate Change/Big Climate Conversation, on how everyone can play their part in the solution. At the heart of the Scottish Government's action on climate change is the wellbeing of Scotland's people and places. Tackling climate change and ensuring we have a thriving health environment is critical to our collective wellbeing, and central to the ambitions and responsibilities set out in Scotland's National Performance Framework.

- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson, seconded by Councillor Sarah King

### Second Amendment

The Conservative group supports the actions suggested, and in believing that West Lothian Council can and should be an ambitious local authority, the Council should be going further faster on the actions it can take relating to Climate Change.

To this end, the Conservative Group accepts all of the points of the motion from Councillor McGuire, and in addition instructs officers to do the following:

1. Bring a report to the relevant PDSPs detailing what it would take to move the Council minibus fleet to all electric or bio-diesel, including timescales and potential investment required.
  2. Bring a report to the relevant PDSPs identifying the energy efficiency of the key Council buildings, and what investment would be required in order to significantly improve building efficiency in each, noting this could be achieved by energy efficiency or investment in green energy generation.
  3. To bring a report to the relevant PDSPs identifying the extent of the current electric car charging network in West Lothian, where the gaps are, and recommend the best strategy to ensure a “joined up” fast charging network, with sufficient capacity for the growth in electric car usage, is installed in the county. This should include the actions that West Lothian Council can take, and the asks of Scottish Government and other bodies.
- Moved by Councillor Chris Horne.

Before formally moving the amendment, it was suggested that the movers of the motion and the two amendments could agree to a composite motion.

Following a short adjournment, the following composite motion was submitted.

#### Composite Motion

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

Instruct officers to:-

- Bring a report to the relevant PDSP detailing what it would take to move council minibuses fleet to all electric or bio-diesel, including timescales and potential investment required.
- Bring a report to the relevant PDSPs identifying the energy efficiency of the key council buildings, and what investment would be required in order to significantly improve building efficiency in each, noting this could be achieved by energy efficiency investment in green energy generation.
- Bring a report to the relevant PDSPs identifying the extent of the current electric car charging network in West Lothian, where the gaps are, and recommend the best strategy to ensure a “joined up” fast-charging network, with sufficient capacity for the growth in electric car usage, is installed in the county. This should include the actions West Lothian can take, and the asks of the Scottish Government and other bodies.

- 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

- Agrees that a short-term cross-party group (2 SNP, 2 Labour and 2 Conservative) is established to formulate a way forward which involves the wider public (Citizens Panel), business and other bodies to report back to council in 3 months with proposals, which would include the cost implications of such action and the initiative to be community led

- 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

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the composite motion.