

Motion Submitted by the Green Party Group with the support of a Liberal Democrat Member - Climate Emergency

“Council notes the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report ‘Global warming of 1.5°’ published on 8 October 2018, in particular:

- That human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;
- That if we continue at the current rate, we are likely to surpass the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C as early as 2030;
- That at the current level of commitments, the world is on course for 3°C of warming with irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humans and the natural world.

Council believes that:

- That the impacts of global temperature rise above 1.5°C, are so severe that governments at all levels must work together and make this their top priority.
- As well as large-scale improvements in health and wellbeing around the world, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.

Therefore, Council agrees:

- To declare a ‘climate emergency’.
- To establish a new task and finish group, with a remit to:
 - (i) Seek advice from experts to develop a carbon budget and set a challenging target date for carbon neutrality in Trafford;
 - (ii) Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council’s activities;
 - (iii) Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts;
 - (iv) To assess the feasibility of requiring all report risk assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible;
 - (v) Report to full Council with the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency.
- To task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities.
- To produce a report to the next Full Council on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have.

- That the Leader will write to the Prime Minister to inform her that Trafford has declared a climate emergency and ask her to provide the resources and powers necessary to deal with it.”