

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council

**Addressing the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis**

On 18th March 2019, Plymouth City Councillors voted unanimously to pass a motion declaring a climate emergency, pledging to be carbon neutral by 2030, and calling on Westminster for the powers and resources to make it happen.

The Climate Emergency is becoming more acute as evidenced by the landmark International Panel on Climate Change 2021 Report. The UK Committee on Climate Change progress report states that targets are not being met and that more urgent action is needed. The societal actions which have caused the climate emergency have also led to widespread degradation of nature. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. More than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. It's not enough to address the climate emergency, our sustainability also depends upon tackling the ecological emergency.

In line with the above, this council notes the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill proposed by a coalition of scientists, academics and lawyers with the aim of bringing the UK's climate policy into one with scientific evidence. Nationally we need a strong legislative framework that embeds the Government's targets in law, enabling us as supportive players, to plan and develop our future trajectories, to fit in with those climate change targets and set ambitious ecological targets.

As a local authority, Plymouth City Council does not have to wait for another bill to be passed, the council can set its own policy framework to take into account the ecological crisis that the country is facing in line with the climate crisis. We can take decisions to increase the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, habitats and ecosystems, in order to restore natural ecosystems in line with decisions to limit our carbon emissions

Council therefore resolves to:

- I. Note the proposed Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- II. Ask the Leader to write to local MPs, asking them to guarantee that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Office for Environmental Protection established in the Environment Bill 2021, sets strong and ambitious biodiversity targets to mitigate the ecological crisis that is facing the country

- III. Ensure Plymouth City Council decisions that mitigate our carbon emissions minimise impacts to ecosystems, food and water availability and human health and also mitigates and appropriately compensates any residual impacts
- IV. Ensure Plymouth City Council decisions relating to climate and ecological matters have a positive net impact on local communities, our young people, and a full equalities impact be undertaken

Proposed by: Councillor Sue Dann

Signature: Approved by email

Seconded by: Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman

Signature: Approved by email