



Sent via email

Johnny Mercer MP
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London
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Councillor Nick Kelly
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13 January 2022

Dear Johnny

Re: Addressing the Ecological Emergency in line with Climate Crisis

On the 22nd November Plymouth City Council voted unanimously to support a Motion on Notice to address the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis. This follows the unanimous passing of a motion to declare a climate emergency in March 2019.

As referenced in the motion the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, with more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. The Council therefore resolved that it is not enough to address the climate emergency as our sustainability also depends upon tackling the ecological emergency.

As a result of the motion there are a number of actions that we as Plymouth City Council will be taking to play our part in addressing the ecological crisis. We are already doing work to enhance nature across our City including; creating the UK's first National Marine Park and starting to restore our seagrass meadows through to delivering a Future Parks programme enabling our parks and greenspaces to maximise the benefits for people and nature and starting the planting of our new community forest. However it is imperative that there is a national response as well as local response to ensure we restore nature. We need a strong legislative framework that embeds 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.

The Environment Act 2021 provides the framework to commence work to restore nature but we need to have ambitious ecological targets to ensure we can recover nature alongside and as part of our work to respond to the climate emergency.

OFFICIAL

As Leader of the Council I am therefore writing to request that you guarantee that the Secretary of State for DEFRA will set out strong and ambitious biodiversity targets to mitigate the ecological crisis that is facing the country by the end of next year.

The ecological crisis must be addressed collectively with the upmost urgency and I therefore request you prioritise seeking this guarantee from the Secretary of State for DEFRA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, thin tail on the letter 'y'.

Cllr Nick Kelly
Leader of Plymouth City Council