



# CHELTENHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Notice of a meeting of Council

**Monday, 18 February 2019  
2.30 pm**

**Council Chamber, Municipal Offices**

<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Councillors:</b>	Bernard Fisher (Chair), Roger Whyborn (Vice-Chair), Victoria Atherstone, Matt Babbage, Paul Baker, Garth Barnes, Dilys Barrell, Angie Boyes, Nigel Britter, Jonny Brownsteen, Flo Clucas, Chris Coleman, Mike Collins, Stephen Cooke, Iain Dobie, Wendy Flynn, Tim Harman, Steve Harvey, Rowena Hay, Alex Hegenbarth, Karl Hoble, Sandra Holliday, Martin Horwood, Peter Jeffries, Steve Jordan, Chris Mason, Paul McCloskey, Andrew McKinlay, Tony Oliver, Dennis Parsons, John Payne, Louis Savage, Diggory Seacome, Malcolm Stennett, Jo Stafford, Klara Sudbury, Simon Wheeler, Max Wilkinson, Suzanne Williams and David Willingham

### Agenda

<b>13.</b>	<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b>	(Pages 3 - 6)

**Contact Officer:** Bev Thomas, Democracy Officer, 01242 264246  
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**Pat Pratley**  
**Chief Executive**

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### Council

18 February 2019

#### Motions (1 total)

Motion A	Proposed by: Councillor Wilkinson	Seconded by: Councillor Atherstone
	<p>Motion to declare a Climate Emergency</p> <p><b>Full Council notes:</b></p> <p>Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO2 levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;</p> <p>In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO2eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;</p> <p>Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;</p> <p>Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;</p> <p>Cheltenham Borough Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Breakdown, having led on recycling issues, delivered a local plan with strong environmental policies and through promoting sustainable transport options.</p> <p>Unfortunately, while current plans and actions locally are making a difference, they are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050;</p> <p>The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last month, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities;</p> <p>Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency.</p>	

**Full Council believes that:**

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Cheltenham and the UK that all settlements commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

Urban areas like Cheltenham are uniquely placed to lead in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas – for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transit;

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

**Full Council calls on the Cabinet to:**

Declare a 'Climate Emergency';

Pledge to make Cheltenham carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;

Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;

Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

Continue to work with partners across the town, county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;

Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.

References:

Fossil CO<sub>2</sub> & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017:  
<http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>

World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C:

	<p><a href="https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/">https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/</a> Including US cities Berkeley: <a href="https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/6/13/berkeley-unanimously-declares-climate-emergency">https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/6/13/berkeley-unanimously-declares-climate-emergency</a> and Hoboken: <a href="https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize">https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize</a>, and the C40 cities: <a href="https://www.c40.org/other/deadline-2020">https://www.c40.org/other/deadline-2020</a> Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol explained: <a href="https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions">https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions</a></p>
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