

Motion in the name of Councillor Grover seconded by Councillor Tucker.

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK and around the world. Global temperatures have increased by 1.2°C from pre-industrial levels and the natural world has reached crisis point, with [28% of plants and animals](#) currently threatened with extinction.

Unless we drastically change course, the world is set to exceed the Paris Agreement's safe 1.5°C limit. Pledges like the Paris Agreement and updated emissions targets are not legally binding. The gap between pledges and policies leaves the world on course for catastrophic warming of [near 3%](#). As the [2018 report](#) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made clear, every half a degree makes a world of difference: severe climate impacts with 1.5°C of warming, such as extreme weather patterns causing flooding and heat waves, get *significantly* worse with 2°C. According to the IPCC, limiting heating to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

The UK is [one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world](#) and more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. We have lost [95% of our hedgehogs](#). The UK needs a legally-enforceable nature target so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery, in line with the [Global Goal for Nature](#) and the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#).

Council notes that:

- I. Many local authorities, including St Albans City and District Council, are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.
- II. Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency. This Council has already declared a Climate Emergency and established a sustainability and climate emergency strategy and invested in a rewilding programme.
- III. Residents in St Albans City and District are highly concerned about the climate emergency – a survey undertaken by Sustainable St Albans in indicates that 86% of respondents were worried or very worried about the climate crisis and what it means for the future.
- IV. There is a Bill before Parliament—the [Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill](#) (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:
 - A. the **ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis** in a joined-up approach;

- B. the **Paris Agreement** is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement **-1.5°C**.
- C. the **Leaders Pledge for Nature** is enshrined into law to ensure that the **UK's ecosystems are protected and restored** with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;
- D. the UK takes **full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint** (ie consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;
- E. the UK takes **full responsibility for our ecological footprint** so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains;
- F. an **independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly** is set-up, representative of the UK's population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the **emergency strategy**.

Council therefore resolves to:

- I. **Support** the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
- II. **Inform the local media** of this decision;
- III. **Write an open letter to Daisy Cooper MP and Bim Afolami MP** (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and
- IV. Write to the [CEE Bill Alliance](#), the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support (joinus@ceebill.uk).