

Notices of Motion on Climate Change presented to the four constituent authorities of the Fire Authority (in chronological order):

Cheshire West and Chester Council

On 21st May 2019 the Council was asked to consider the following Notice of Motion:

That:

- a) Climate Change remains an existential threat to Cheshire. Global Warming and increasing climatic events (periods of heatwave, periods of intense rain, unsettled seasons) are an increasing threat to our farming community, and threaten built areas prone to flooding. Climate Change will enhance conflict and migration from stricken areas, threatening our own stability long term.
- b) The Paris Agreement to which the UK is a signatory, sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by “limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C” above pre-industrial levels.
- c) The IPCC’s Special Report, published in October 2018, states that we have just twelve years to limit global warming to a 1.5°C. This can only be achieved with ambitious action from national and local government, the private sector and local communities, and requires that CO2 emissions fall from their 2010 levels by 45% by 2030, reaching net zero by 2045.
- d) All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, for the benefit of the population for which they are responsible. Therefore, UK Councils need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and seek to achieve carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
- e) This Council committed to addressing climate change in October 2012, and has built many policies into the Local Plan. Notable examples are the Carbon Reduction Strategy, and the supporting Carbon Management Plan enacted in 2016.
- f) Carbon emissions from the council have reduced from 54,356t to 36,472t between 2014/15 and 2016/17 (CW&C Annual Monitoring Report 2018), but over a similar time frame total CO2 emissions across the borough have remained roughly consistent at 4,075,000t to 4,054,000t (BEIS Stats).
- g) 56 Councils in the UK have already responded to the IPCC 1.5°C report by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and are committing resources to address the issue. As an example of good leadership, 30 of these Councils have committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, which is the date when the IPCC predicts that we will reach a warming of 1.5°C.

In light of the above, the Council agreed to:

1. Join the growing number of councils in declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’.

2. Direct the Chief Executive to produce a report to Council within six months to determine the earliest date before 2045 that CW&C and the borough as a whole can be carbon neutral and revise its targets to meet that date (ideally 2030 to demonstrate leadership in the borough).

Cheshire East Council

On the 22nd May 2019 the Council approved the following Motion:

This Council notes that on 1 May 2019 Parliament declared an environment and climate emergency and

- a) requests that a Cheshire East Environmental Strategy is brought forward as a matter of urgency
- b) commits to the target of Cheshire East Council being carbon neutral by 2025 and asks that details of how to meet this commitment are included in the Environmental Strategy
- c) will work to encourage all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption and promoting healthy lifestyles.”

In response to this Motion a draft Environmental Strategy for 2019-24 was prepared and presented to Cabinet for approval on the 10th September 2019. This strategy aims to make Cheshire East Council carbon neutral by 2025, reduce pollution, improve air quality, increase the viability and use of sustainable transport and conserve and enhance the natural environment. This document has now been published and is out for public consultation.

Warrington Borough Council

Two Notices of Motion were approved by the Council in June 2019 urging the Cabinet to declare a Climate Emergency and to update the Warrington Declaration on Climate Change by pledging to make Warrington carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council agreed to set up a working group to report back to the Council by 15th December 2019 with an action plan to achieve this.

Cabinet agreed to provide a report to Council within six months on the actions being taken and the Cabinet’s plan, and implementation timetable, for the future.

Halton Borough Council

On 16th October 2019 the Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency following the presentation of a Notice of Motion.

The Council agreed to:

- Ensure that the Council takes responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from our business activities.
- Strive towards ensuring all Council activities become carbon neutral
- Ensure all strategic decisions, budget priorities and approaches to managing services give regard to shifting towards being carbon neutral
- Seek to achieve 100% clean energy across the full range of the Council's functions.