

## **Council**

**Monday 17 October 2022**

### **Agenda Item 18, Motions**

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Dan Sames**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: One Planet Living**

#### **Motion**

“In 2019 CDC declared a climate a climate emergency committing to ensure our operations and activities are net zero by 2030 and to do our part to achieve a net zero district by 2030 through leading by example. CDC’s Climate Action Framework sets out the detail of how this will be achieved and emissions have reduced by 51% between 2008/09 to 2020/21.

However, responding to the climate emergency requires more than simply reducing carbon emissions. Currently our lifestyles consume the resources of 3 planets, we must do better to live within our means and the resources of one planet.

One Planet Oxfordshire is a collaboration of councils, businesses, schools and community groups that have a vision of a world in which people enjoy happy, healthy lives within their fair share of the earth’s resources, whilst leaving space for wildlife and wilderness. It’s about living and growing sustainably to minimise impacts on the environment and maximise benefits to people.

At August’s Overview and Scrutiny committee the ten One Planet principles that contribute to planning, delivering and committing to a more sustainable future were presented to offer a framework within which the council could operate.

These principles are:

- Health and happiness
- Equity and local economy
- Culture and community
- Land and nature
- Sustainable water
- Local and sustainable food
- Travel and transport
- Materials and product
- Zero waste
- Zero carbon energy

This council resolves to support the One Planet Oxfordshire shared vision and commits to review operations and activities using the One Planet Living Framework.”

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Matt Hodgson**

**Motion Seconder: Councillor Amanda Watkins**

**Topic: Fracking**

**Motion**

“Fracking involves injecting water, sand and other substances into subterranean rocks to extract the gas that is trapped between them. It has caused water pollution in the US, earthquakes there and in the UK, massively pollutes the environment and water table and contributes to greenhouse gases when burnt.

We've already seen earthquakes in Lancashire, and Quadrilla were forced to pause fracking there in 2018 after the British Geological Survey showed that there had been 17 earthquakes in 9 days.

Fracking was banned in 2019 by the Conservative government amid these concerns. These concerns have not gone away.

We now have a Prime Minister who believes fracking is fine again and has reversed that decision. Inexplicably so when investment in renewables is both more cost effective and much better for the environment. It is inexplicable that the government should be considering such environmental and climatic destruction when we are facing a climate catastrophe.

Liz Truss has said developers will be given permission "where there is local support". Various sites across the country have been identified as possibilities, some are in Cherwell. As this Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, and published the Climate Action Framework in 2020, which includes statements on moving towards net-zero carbon by 2030, we, as a council, need unite behind that and be seen to be standing by it. We, the Labour Group, I know, are united on this and we call upon this Council to declare the District of Cherwell a NO FRACKING ZONE.”

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Investment Zones**

**Motion**

“The government’s recent ‘mini-budget’ included plans for ‘investment zones’ within which the Chancellor said the Government would “get out of the way to get Britain building”.

The planning process for developers will be shortened and liberalised in these zones providing a more streamlined path towards planning consent. There are also plans to limit the ability for planning decisions to be overturned by the courts.

The government has also published plans for a 'sunset clause' on environmental protections introduced when the UK was in the EU. Environmental regulations such as Habitat Regulation Assessments will be scrapped in these zones, with no clarity as to how they will be replaced. This has been described as "an attack on nature" by the RSPB.

In addition, reports have suggested that the planned Environmental Land Management Scheme is to be scrapped. This would have paid farmers to improve nature on their land. There is now uncertainty that payment-by acre will be linked to any environmental measures.

Whilst Cherwell is not included in the initial list of 'Investment Zones' there will be an opportunity for all councils to express an interest in becoming one in the future.

This council therefore pledges that :

1. We do not support the 'Investment Zone' proposals and have no interest in becoming part of this scheme.
2. Environmental protection in Cherwell will be maintained at current or better levels regardless of any loosening of regulations
3. Local democracy will be upheld and respected in the planning process"

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Nick Cotter**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Water Sewage Transparency**

### **Motion**

"Earlier this year Thames Water welcomed Oxfordshire's first regional river designated as bathing water in Port Meadow's Wolvercote Mill Stream. It's important that this success is built on by Cherwell District council to protect our waterways from natural and man-made pollution.

Only 14% of the UK's waterways are in a good ecological condition, with water companies across the UK having discharged raw sewage into waterways 400,000 times in 2020 – more than 3 million hours of discharge.

In compliance with our climate change emergency motion, this Council has a duty to protect our natural environment. The government has so far failed to hold the water companies to account, so this council should work with Thames Water to increase transparency and minimise discharges into Cherwell's waterways.

This Council therefore will :

1. Seek to establish a local strategy that puts sewage treatment at the heart of its local plan

2. Ensure that an evidence base is compiled that assesses the cumulative impact of sewage discharges so that this is factored into decisions made within the local plan.
3. Seek to better understand the cumulative impact of wastewater discharge including untreated sewage into our local rivers on wildlife and residents
4. From 2023, request that Thames Water clarifies which treatment works will be managing sewage from new developments and the likely impact on the number of sewage discharges into watercourses
5. Requests that planning officers include a specific section on the impact on watercourses in all relevant reports relating to major developments”

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Dorothy Walker**

**Motion Seconder: Councillor Ian Middleton**

**Topic: Climate and Ecology**

### **Motion**

“In 2019 this council recognised the importance of tackling impending ecological collapse by passing a climate emergency motion. We have also recently adopted the policy of One Planet Living.

The CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL is a plan for a new UK law that addresses the full extent of the climate and nature crisis in line with the most up-to-date science.

The Bill is the only proposed legislation before Parliament that ensures a comprehensive and joined-up approach to the climate emergency. It was written by scientists, experts and campaigners and seeks to ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C and has the cross-party backing of 150 parliamentarians.

It calls for urgent action from the Government to take into account our entire global carbon footprint by:

- Tackling the climate and nature crises together
- Doing our fair share to cut UK emissions to stay below 1.5°C of global warming
- Halting and reversing UK biodiversity loss by 2030
- Taking responsibility for the entirety of our global carbon and ecological footprints

To reinforce our commitment to tackling climate change, this council will show support for the CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL by:

1. Taking into account the goals of The Bill when setting its own strategies, policies and targets.
2. Encouraging councillors to join the Zero Hour Campaign at [www.zerohour.uk](http://www.zerohour.uk)
3. Calling on all Oxfordshire MPs to support the CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL when it is debated in Parliament”