

Council Meeting 29.09.20

Agenda Item 11 - Motion to declare an Ecological emergency

REVISED WORDING – amendments to points 7 and 12 (*italics*)

Council resolves to:

- 1) Declare an ecological emergency.
- 2) Address ecological issues alongside climate emergency actions and ensure that opportunities to gain co-benefits from addressing both the climate and the ecological emergencies are maximised.
- 3) Add ecological implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and council reports.
- 4) Where possible, embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes.
- 5) Promote woodland planting and rewilding in the right places and with the right species, peatland restoration, natural flood management, wild flower meadows, and habitat creation and restoration. As well as being important for biodiversity, these actions can often have an important co-benefit of storing carbon, so helping to address climate change.
- 6) Reduce energy and material consumption by promoting waste reduction, reuse and recycling, product durability, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation. Avoid consumption that threatens further destruction of globally important wildlife habitats and the use of single-use plastics without effective and on-going recycling in place.
- 7) Work with local, county, regional and national partners, *including land managers and DEFRA*, to increase wildlife habitats, green infrastructure and natural capital in Somerset West and Taunton.
- 8) Ensure that addressing the climate and ecological emergencies and nature recovery are strategic priorities for planning policies and design guides for new development, including by identifying appropriate areas for habitat restoration and biodiversity gain.
- 9) Manage Council services, buildings and land in a biodiversity-friendly manner, including by reviewing use of harmful chemicals, such as pesticides, and taking opportunities to create new wildlife habitats.
- 10) Provide advice for local communities on how to incorporate biodiversity, green infrastructure and natural capital into Neighbourhood Plans and other initiatives.

- 11) Encourage residents to take biodiversity measures in their own homes by, for example, wildlife gardening and home composting.
- 12) *Agree with the principles set out in recommendations 1-11 and requests that officers do a feasibility study and draw up a costed plan as part of the budget setting process for 2021/22 onwards. This would be to allow the production of an ecological emergency action plan and to report annually to Scrutiny Committee, Executive and Full Council on progress, continuing work and future projects to address both the climate and ecological emergencies.*