

COUNTY COUNCIL – 13 FEBRUARY 2025

NOTICE OF MOTION (AMENDED)

Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 18.1. by Councillor Adrian Collett and seconded by Councillor Tim Groves

Climate and Nature Bill

Introduction

1. Human activity has already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt here in Hampshire and across the world. The average global temperature for 2024 exceeded the 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels threshold set by the Paris Agreement for the first time ever. It is not just our climate, however, and the natural world has reached a crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, here in the UK more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.
2. Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 80% of people (according to the Government's DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker) expressing they are 'very or fairly concerned about climate change'. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough's Save Our Wild Isles initiative, which was echoed at the June 2024 Restore Nature Now event, demonstrating public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.
3. The Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill, a private member's bill - which is due to return to the House of Commons in July - is seeking to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.
4. Based on the latest science, the CAN Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was a goal agreed at the Biodiversity COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at the Climate Change COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).
5. By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; boosting the UK's food and energy security and creating a nature-rich UK.

6. The Climate and Nature Bill is the sixth such Private Members' Bill to have been introduced to Parliament since 2020. The Bill is backed by many MPs and Peers of all mainstream parties, hundreds of local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as The Wildlife Trusts, Doctors' Association UK, Friends of the Earth, The W.I., The Climate Coalition and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Arup, JLL, SUEZ UK and Ecotricity.
7. The CAN Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new, integrated and whole-of-government climate and environmental strategy, which would include:
 - a) Delivering a joined-up strategy, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together
 - b) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are cut in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations
 - c) Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030
 - d) Taking responsibility for our overseas emissions and ecological footprints
 - e) Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible
 - f) Providing re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel and environmentally-impactful industries, and
 - g) Giving the UK public a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative 'Climate and Nature Assembly', as part of building consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.
8. This Council has already declared a Climate Emergency, is developing a strategy to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and to mitigate the impacts of climate change on our County and its residents, and is leading a Nature Recovery Strategy across the County with Natural England.

Hampshire County Council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Nature Bill as introduced in the house of commons on the 16th of October and welcomes the contribution to the debate on Climate Change. The Council will watch the Bill's progress through Parliament with interest.
2. Welcome the opportunity that the Bill and proposed devolution to elected mayors will provide to ensure climate and nature strategies are at the heart of its strategic decision-making across Hampshire and the Solent.
3. Continue to work with and inform residents, and the expert forum on Climate and Nature strategies and decisions.

4. Write to all Hampshire MPs to inform them that this motion has been passed and urge them to sign up to support the CAN Bill - or thank them for having already done so.
5. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CAN Bill, expressing Hampshire County Council's support.

This page is intentionally left blank