



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**24 November 2022**

**GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

Councillor Lynne Caffrey will move the following motion:

**Council notes that:**

In 2010, Gateshead Council published a policy response to Climate Change. In 2019, as a response to the global Climate Crisis, Gateshead Council declared a Climate Emergency and agreed a strategy to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

As part of this strategy many measures have been adopted both internally and externally and we are pledged to:

- Making all our activities Carbon Neutral by 2030
- Achieving 100% clean energy across our full range of functions by 2030
- Ensuring that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions, are in line with a shift to Zero Carbon by 2030
- Supporting and working with all relevant bodies towards making the entire area Carbon Neutral within the same timescale

**As a Council:**

- We recognise that fossil fuel investments should be considered as part of the Councils Carbon Footprint and that we owe it to future generations to ensure we do not exceed the internationally agreed temperature increase threshold of 1.5 degrees C above preindustrial global heating levels, which is predominantly caused by the burning of fossil fuels.
- We have no direct investments in Fossil Fuel companies other than those invested on our behalf as part of Tyne and Wear Local Government Pension Scheme (TWLGPS)
- We believe the TWLGPS strategy of decarbonisation of their portfolio by 2050 (agreed December 2021) rather than divestment in fossil fuels, will not be sufficient to ensure we meet our carbon neutral target by 2030.

Whilst appreciating the TWLGPS is run by Trustees, including a Gateshead Trustee, who have a fiduciary duty to protect the assets of the scheme in order to protect the pensions of beneficiaries, we believe this needs to include the long-term sustainability of the Fund's performance, which is at risk from "stranded assets" and environmental degradation.

We believe our request to the TWLGPS contained in this motion supports our Council Policy, our aspiration to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 and, the ethos of the Scheme.

This motion is simply an indicative vote as legally we have no powers to mandate the scheme Trustees, but we trust their judgment and their understanding of our need as a society to minimise harm.

**Gateshead Council undertakes to:**

- Re-state our commitment to becoming fully carbon neutral by 2030
- Write to TWLGPS and to Border to Coast Pension Partnership (their pooling organisation) to ask them to review their investments in fossil fuels, taking into account the latest findings of the International Institute of Sustainable Development, which confirms that no new oil and gas fields must be opened from now, if the earth's temperature is to be kept below 1.5 degrees C.
- Ask TWLGPS and BCPP to actively invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and minimise climate risk.

Proposed by: Councillor L Caffrey  
Seconded by: Councillor R Beadle  
Supported by: Councillor J Adams  
Councillor L Kirton