



## **Our Climate Change Declaration 2030**

**Background:** Following a Motion from Councillor Jonathan Bianco, this policy was approved unanimously by full Council of the London Borough of Hillingdon of the United Kingdom on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. As recorded in the Minutes of the meeting it reads:

### **RESOLVED: That the Council:**

Notes the clear international evidence base showing that global climate change is real and the latest 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel report advising governments across the world to limit global warming to 1.5°C, acknowledging that this in itself would require unprecedented changes yet could be achieved in tandem with proactive sustainable development and a move to greener economies.

Welcomes efforts by successive UK governments leading the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and setting a new target in 2019 for net-zero emissions (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050. Furthermore, reflects that in May 2019, the UK Parliament declared an environment and climate emergency.

- **Recognises Hillingdon as London's greenest borough and recalls:**

The substantial investment in award winning parks and open spaces over many years, protecting and enhancing local environments for future generations;

That in 2007, the Leader of the Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, establishing Hillingdon's firm commitment to tackling the issue;

That Hillingdon's Cabinet in 2009 adopted a Climate Change Strategy, which set out new targets to reduce carbon emissions and for more efficient energy use;

That in 2013, the then Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee undertook a major review into how Council was reducing its carbon footprint.

- **Welcomes the fact that, through its transformation programme, the Council has become greener and leaner, saving taxpayer money and is delivering, amongst other things:**

A 53% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 5 years ago from non-domestic electricity and gas supplies;

A planned new contract from 2020 to provide electricity for council properties and schools from 100% certified renewable sources;

A LED street lighting programme, replacing 23,700 sodium lights to be more energy efficient;

Active measures to improve local air quality and deter people from leaving their vehicle engine idling, particularly around schools;

More ways to reduce plastic waste that ends up in landfill or as litter, such as through the provision of new drinking fountains in the Borough's parks;

Urban greening initiatives and the planting of new trees across the Borough, including offering 5000 free saplings for residents to grow.

· **Notwithstanding these efforts, Council re-affirms its deep concern and opposition to Heathrow expansion as a most egregious proposal contributing to climate change, along with devastating environmental impacts locally.**

· **Looking to the future, this Council declares that there is a current global climate emergency and, as a consequence, agrees to extend the Council's climate change targets beyond those currently set, as follows:**

- To become carbon neutral across the Council services by 2030 and;
- To achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's services by 2030.

Furthermore, resolves that, to meet these targets practically and be accountable to residents for them:

Recognise that, initially, they will span the Council's direct services and, subject to future review by the Cabinet, may grow to encompass the Council's wider commercial supply chain;

The Cabinet Member for Housing and the Environment, in consultation with the Leader of the Council assumes a new Executive responsibility within the Council's Constitution for climate change strategy;

Responsibility for oversight and scrutiny of the Council's efforts in relation to climate change be given to the Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee to review as they see fit and engage the community;

The Chief Executive designate a lead officer to act corporately on climate change and in pursuit of the above targets;

An annual action plan be submitted to Cabinet, aligned with the budget, to monitor achievement. Furthermore, a review of environmental performance reporting be undertaken to actively engage staff in ways to tackle climate change in their service areas and communicate progress more widely to residents.'

**ENDS**