

Council 17th October 2023

**Administration motion in the name of Councillor Guilia Innocenti
Recommitment to Net Zero**

Council Notes that:

- Barnet Council declared a Climate Emergency in May 2022, committing to becoming a Net Zero Council by 2030 and a Net Zero Borough by 2042.
- That man-made climate change represents the greatest risk to the long-term habitability of the planet.
- That more short-term physical effects include: More frequent and more extreme meteorological disasters; greater shortages of drinking water; increased risk of desertification; greater disruption to supply chains of food.
- Other effects are likely to include: Increased food inflation; greater refugee and migrant flows; Increased poverty in the developing world; And the submersion of entire countries.
- That the effects of climate change, including flooding and other extreme weather conditions are also being seen across the UK and Barnet.
- That the 2050 target for a Net Zero UK – that is, by 2050 the UK should be taking out as least as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it is putting in has been part of the UK political consensus when it was adopted both by then Prime Minister Gordon Brown and then Leader of the Opposition David Cameron.
- That there are fears that the recent measures announced by the Prime Minister will make reaching that 2050 target harder.
- That Barnet will soon have installed over 2,000 electric vehicle charge points which is set to be more than 1 in 6 of all on-street charge points in London. However, as stated by the Association of Fleet Professionals and Addison Lee, investment in electronic vehicle charging points is at risk following the Prime Minister announcing that the ban on sales of new petrol cars will be postponed.
- That Barnet has started to retrofit social housing and council buildings, including the installation of heat pumps and solar panels.
- That the decision to lift the ban on installation of new gas boilers by 2035 has also put at risk investment in the heat pump industry which may have consequences for the price of more environmentally friendly heat pumps.

Council Resolves to:

- Continue installing EV charging points to enable even more Barnet residents to switch to an electric car.
- To reach out to other local authorities to make a joint statement on its commitment to EV charging points rollout, to assure the industry that the effect of the Prime Minister's speech on investment will be minimised.
- To write to the Prime Minister, expressing dismay at the confusion and concern caused by his speech, and to reiterate the need to re-establish the political consensus on the 2050 Net Zero target, which require a realistic sequence of steps to achieve it.

Under Council Procedure Rule 15.5 this motion is to stand referred to the Executive as it refers to matters within the powers of the executive