

Council 30th January 2024

Administration motion in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman Barnet Council to continue with tackling climate change

Council notes:

- That the climate crisis is the single biggest policy challenge of today, with the risk that if we fail, this planet will be uninhabitable for future generations.
- The resignation of Chris Skidmore from the House of Commons, former minister for energy and clean growth.
- That Mr Skidmore has resigned over the Government's policy of opening up new oilfields and opposing international organisations' recommendations on how to tackle the climate crisis.
- That Mr Skidmore stated: "Where the UK once led in promoting climate change action at COP26, it now finds itself opposing the International Energy Agency, the UNCCC, the Committee on Climate Change, in promoting the opening of new additional oilfields and licenses for extraction that will not take place at best until decades from now."
- That Mr Skidmore adds "We should be taking the long term decisions for the future of our country that protect our citizens, our economy and our planet, not playing the short-term politics with achieves so little but does so much to destroy the reputation of the UK as a climate leader".
- That Barnet Council is playing its part in reducing the dependency on oil, by rolling out more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging points.
- Barnet Council is continuing this policy despite some industry analysts expressing worries that the postponement of the Government's proposed ban on the sales of new petrol cars would depress demand.
- That it is important that, even if the central UK government signals to businesses and households that tackling change is falling down the agenda, other governmental organisations such as councils need to continue to communicate to employers and households that this issue is important to help drive behavioural change.

Council resolves to:

- That despite the Conservative Government embrace of dirty fuels that put our future at risk and damage the UK's reputation on climate change, to call upon the Cabinet to restate its mission of ensuring we are a Net Zero Council by 2030 and a Net Zero Borough by 2042.

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