

Motion to Council – Fracking

Dine Romero on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group

Council:

- Notes the resolution on fracking adopted by Council on 11 July 2013.
- Reiterates its serious concerns about the potential impact of unconventional gas exploration and extraction, as well as geothermal exploitation, within Bath and North East Somerset, in particular relating to:
 - a. The vulnerability of the hot springs which supply Bath's spa water and the potential risk to the supply of hot spring water and to the water table overall.
 - b. Its potential impact in an area significantly covered by Green Belt, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a World Heritage Site.
 - c. The importance of protecting the reservoir water supply in the Chew Valley.
- Is deeply concerned by Government plans to approve new licenses for fracking, including reportedly in the West of England area, and by Government plans to fast-track planning approval for fracking projects, effectively removing decision-making from local government.

Council resolves:

- To request that the Leader of Council and Chief Executive once again formally register the concerns of Council relating to unconventional gas exploration and extraction and geothermal exploitation within Bath and North East Somerset and neighbouring areas with the Department for Energy & Climate Change.
- To request an update from Officers and the Cabinet on this issue with regard to the Placemaking Plan and measures available to the Council to control, and if appropriate prevent, the use of unconventional gas exploration and extraction and geothermal exploitation within B&NES.
- To request that the Members of Parliament for Bath and North East Somerset convey Council's concerns to the appropriate Government Ministers.

Motion adopted 11 July 2013: <http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=10112>