

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, 16th February, 2022

Present:- **Councillors** Rob Appleyard, Alison Born, Sally Davis, Kevin Guy, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Hal MacFie, Robin Moss, Lisa O'Brien, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Alastair Singleton and Andy Wait

#### **97 WELCOME & EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Jo to read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

#### **98 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Monitoring Officer granted a general dispensation to all Councillors in respect of their payment of Council Tax and school governorships, in regard to item 8. A specific dispensation for the following interests declared by Councillors was also granted;

- Kevin Guy - Family business is a recipient of a covid relief grant
- Shaun Hughes - Family business is a recipient of a covid relief grant
- Lisa O'Brien - Family member in receipt of social services support.

#### **99 MINUTES - 18TH NOVEMBER 2021**

On a motion from Councillor Vic Pritchard, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **100 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chair informed the meeting that a minute's silence had been held at the virtual Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February to mark the recent death of former councillor, Chairman and Mayor of Bath, Ian Gilchrist.

#### **101 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair made the following announcement;

Councillors will be aware that a note was sent out yesterday with a revised link to the amended Local Council Tax Support scheme, highlighting that some minor changes

to the scheme were necessary to reflect that the recently announced £150 Energy Bills Rebate payments are not to be taken into account when determining eligibility for council tax reductions under the scheme.

## **102 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no statements made at this meeting, although the statements made at the virtual meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were noted;

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/g6161/Public%20minutes%2015th-Feb-2022%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

## **103 BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX 2022/23 AND FINANCIAL OUTLOOK**

The Council considered a report presenting the revenue and capital budgets together with proposals for Council Tax and Adult Social Care Precept for 2022/23.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was

**RESOLVED** that

The Council approves-

- a) The General Fund net revenue budget for 2022/23 of **£126.74m** and the individual service cash limits for 2022/23 as outlined in Annex 1.
- b) The savings and income plans outlined in the revised Annex 2(i) that had been circulated following agreement at Cabinet, funding requirements 2(ii), in conjunction with the Equalities Impact Assessment Report in Annex 3.
- c) An increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in 2022/23 (an increase of £30.44 per Band D property or 59p per week).
- d) An increase of 1% to Council Tax for the Adult Social Care Precept is approved in recognition of the current demands and financial pressures on this service. This is equivalent to an increase of £15.29 on a Band D property (29p per week).
- e) The movement in reserves outlined in section 5.6 and the adequacy of Un-earmarked Reserves at £12.58m within a risk assessed range requirement of £11.9m - £13.2m.
- f) The Efficiency Strategy attached at Annex 4.
- g) The Capital Programme for 2022/23 of £96.064m including new and emerging capital bids outlined in Annex 5(i), planned sources of funding in 5.8.2, and notes the programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and that any wholly funded projects coming forward during the year will be added to the Capital Programme in line with the Budget Management Scheme.

- h) The delegation of implementation, subject to consultation where appropriate, of the capital programmes set out in Annex 5(i) to Annex 5(iv) to the relevant Director in Consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder.
- i) The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocations and amendments outlined in Annex 5(v).
- j) The Capital & Investment Strategy attached at Annex 6.
- k) The MRP Policy attached at Annex 7.
- l) The Establishment and funding of a Business Change Hub outlined in 5.2.6.
- m) The Capital Prudential Indicators outlined in 5.8.7.
- n) The Annual Pay Policy Statement at Annex 8.
- o) The Community Contribution Fund pilot 12-month extension outlined section 5.5.
- p) The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23 shown in the below link, and referred to in 5.3.4

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-02/Bath%20%26%20NE%20Someset%20S13A%20202223%20FINAL1.0.pdf>

- 2.2 That the Council approves the technical resolutions that are derived from the budget report, and all the figures in that report, including the precepts for towns, parishes and other precepting bodies as set out in Annex 11.
- 2.3 That the Council note the S151 Officer's report on the robustness of the proposed budget and the adequacy of the Council's reserves outlined in 5.7.
- 2.4 That the Council note the budget consultation responses in Annex 10.

[Notes;

- 1. *The above successful resolution was carried on a named vote;*

Councillors in favour (9); - Councillors Rob Appleyard, Alison Born, Kevin Guy, Duncan Hounsell, Hal McFie, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Alastair Singleton, Andy Wait.

Councillors against (2); - Councillors Shaun Hughes, June Player.

Councillors abstaining (4); - Councillors Sally Davis, Robin Moss, Lisa O'Brien, Vic Pritchard.

## **104 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2022/23**

The Council considered a report requiring approval of a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year, fulfilling the Authority's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Andy Wait, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to

1. Approve the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

**105 LAND AT MANOR ROAD, WRITHLINGTON**

The Council considered a report seeking delegated authority to take the decision-making powers from Mendip District Council for a planning application for approximately 35 houses and new access from the A362 which is located within the Mendip area on the edge of the B&NES district.

On a motion from Councillor Richard Samuel, seconded by Councillor Kevin Guy, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously;

1. to accept devolved decision-making powers for planning application 21/04509/OUT from Mendip District Council (Mendip ref. 2021/2268/OTS).

**106 CORPORATE AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Council considered the annual report of the Corporate Audit Committee for the period July 2020 to December 2021. As part of its work, the Corporate Audit Committee resolved at its meeting on the 15th December 2021, to recommend to Full Council that they approve the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd to carry out the re-procurement of External Auditors to be appointed to B&NES Council for the 5-year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

On a motion from Councillor Hal McFie, seconded by Councillor Richard Samuel, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously that

1. The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted; and
2. To approve the use of Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) to carry out the re-procurement of External Auditors to be appointed to B&NES Council for the 5-year period commencing 1st April 2023 and that the Council's Chief Financial Officer (S151) writes to PSAA to formally accept the invitation to opt into the national scheme before the deadline of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**107 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - PROPORTIONALITY REVIEW**

The Council considered a report requesting agreement to an amended proportionality table within the Constitution following a change in political group membership.

On a motion from Councillor Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was

**RESOLVED** unanimously to

1. Agree the revised political proportionality table, offering a place on the Climate Emergency & Sustainability Panel to the non-aligned Councillor, Cllr Dr Kumar.

## **108 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The Council noted the questions from Councillor Joanna Wright, and responses given, that had been circulated and added to the Council's website.

The Council also noted the statement from Cllr Dr Kumar which had been made at the virtual meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February entitled 'Building Communities, Shared Dreams'; -<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/g6161/Public%20minutes%2015th-Feb-2022%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=11>

The meeting ended at 11.09 am

Chair .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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**BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

**MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Grant of a Dispensation**

<b>Name of Members</b>	All Councillors
<b>Meeting and item of business for which the dispensation has been sought</b>	Full Council – 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Agenda item 8– Budget and Council Tax 2022/23 and Financial Outlook).
<b>Reason for dispensation</b>	The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation for all Councillors who pay Council Tax or were School Governors and therefore had an interest in these items, to enable them to take part in the debate and vote.

Having received a request at the meeting from the councillors requesting this dispensation, it was granted.

Signed .....**Michael hewitt**.....

M Hewitt  
Monitoring Officer – Bath & North East Somerset Council

Dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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## BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

### MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

#### Grant of a Dispensation

<b>Name of Member/s</b>	Councillor Kevin Guy Councillor Shaun Hughes Councillor Lisa O'Brien
<b>Meeting and item of business for which the dispensation has been sought</b>	Full Council on 16.02.22 - Agenda item 8 Budget and Council Tax 20220/23 and Financial Outlook  The councillors named above have requested dispensations as they or a member of their family are in receipt of Council Services mentioned in the Budget or have an interest in businesses receiving Covid relief grants.
<b>Reason for dispensation</b>	The Monitoring Officer issued a general dispensation to the above Councillors

Having received a request from the above Councillors requesting this dispensation, it was granted.

Signed .....**Michael Hewitt**.....

M Hewitt  
Monitoring Officer – Bath & North East Somerset Council

Dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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## COUNCIL MEETING 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

### COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

#### Councillor questions (item 13)

##### Question M01 from Councillor Joanna Wright to Councillor Kevin Guy:

On the 17th November 2021, Cllr Joanna Wright of the Green Party proposed the Carbon Tax motion. At this Council meeting it was made clear that the Liberal Democrats would not support this simple and effective method to hold large corporations to account for profits made from emissions. This is particularly relevant with regards to profits made by BP when many are having to choose between heating and eating. The Liberal Democrats, instead changed the motion to Carbon Pricing, with an apparent preference for an emission trading scheme, which climate assemblies and leading economists are repeatedly calling to be scrapped because they have singularly failed. The one area that the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party can agree, is that this Council would write to our Leaders, including Boris Johnson and Alok Sharma in his role as President of COP26 asking for support to make emission changes. Has the Leader of Council written to the Government and if so has a response been sent and all Councillors been alerted to this exchange of letters?

##### Response from Councillor Kevin Guy

*Yes, I sent letters to the Prime Minister, the President of COP 26, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and both our MPs on 2 December 2021, calling for a comprehensive and effective UK carbon pricing framework by the end of 2025, which could cover either a carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme, and, very importantly, including a mechanism to ensure social justice and a fair transition to a cleaner economy.*

*These letters and the replies from our local MPs and the Cabinet Office are attached as Annex 1 to this document.*

##### Question M02 from Councillor Joanna Wright to Councillor Kevin Guy:

The promise to protect Bath Central Library as a Library by the Liberal Democrats was clear in their 2019 manifesto promises. The Liberal Democrats made a promise outside of elected office, that should they be in charge of the council's budgets, that the Liberal Democrats would protect Bath Central Library at all costs. It is not clear to the general public what actions you are about to take with regard to the change of use in Bath Central Library. In the recent 2017 public consultation that asked residents their views on the use of this facility it was made clear that between 73% and 83 % of respondents did not want the Library to become a one stop shop or be a space for other council services. Can you confirm that Bath Central Library will only stay as a library without any service cuts or changes in function?

Response from Councillor Kevin Guy

*We are wholly committed to a flourishing library service and to a thriving Bath Central Library which is a key enabler for improving the lives of our residents.*

*While the council's budget proposals include a reduction in customer services spending of £126,000 over the next two years, we'll deliver this through vacancy management efficiencies and this will not have a negative impact on library provision at Bath Central Library. In fact, we're improving the library. We've already refreshed the paintwork, installed new ceiling tiles, new lighting and laid new carpet. In addition, a fuller refurbishment will take place in 2022/23.*

*We are considering offering some additional services to residents using the library to enhance their experience, where this makes sense and complements the core library provision. The advice we've received indicates that the proposals are not a material change to library use and would therefore not require planning consent. We want to work with our users and Friends of Bath Library on ongoing improvements and will be undertaking a user survey soon to find out people's views.*

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP  
President of COP23  
alok.sharma.mp@parliament.uk

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Mr Sharma,

**RE: Support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing**

I am writing to advise you that Bath and North East Somerset Council supports calls for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing and would request the UK government to:

- a) Introduce a UK-wide carbon pricing framework by the end of 2025, to be applied to all sectors of industry and to imports as well as to domestic production.
- b) Include a mechanism to use the proceeds fairly to ensure social justice and support a fair and equitable transition to a cleaner economy

The Council believes that man-made climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, affecting every part of the globe. Since the second half of the 19th century, the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from human activities has warmed the planet by 1.1C. Rapid reductions in GHGs are needed immediately otherwise limiting global warming to 1.5C or even 2C will be impossible. These are the stark conclusions from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released in August 2021. The report presents the findings from years of in-depth work from over 200 scientists in 66 countries. It provided key evidence for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which was hosted by the UK Government in Glasgow from October 31st to November 13th, 2021.

This year has already seen record extreme heat in both North America and Europe, the hottest July globally since records began, catastrophic floods in Europe and China, and raging wildfires in Siberia, Europe, and California. And this is with only 1.1C warming. It will get worse, but how much worse depends on how quickly GHG emissions are reduced.

It is estimated that the UK will be responsible for ~800 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2021. We need mechanisms to reduce GHG use quickly. One potentially 'game changing' mechanism is carbon pricing, which could cover either carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme (ETS), covering all GHGs

emitted in the provision of goods and services. The current UK ETS arrangement covers only around a third of industrial emissions and so falls some way short of an effective carbon pricing mechanism.

The moral and economic case for comprehensive carbon pricing lies in the 'polluter pays' principle:

- Currently the costs of climate breakdown are not borne by the industries and activities that are causing the damage, but by people and communities coming under increasing pressure and danger.
- Outdoor air pollution from fossil fuels causes 3 million deaths globally each year and up to 36,000 in the UK.
- Carbon pricing, set at the right level, will drive fossil fuel consumption out of the economy and promote investment in clean alternatives.

This year's COP26 meeting in Glasgow failed to address an international carbon pricing framework, so the UK should introduce its own mechanism, including a carbon 'border adjustment mechanism' applied to goods imported into the UK to ensure that the GHGs emitted in their production are also subject to the pricing mechanism. A border adjustment mechanism would protect more cleanly produced UK made goods and incentivise other economies to lower emissions.

Carbon pricing would have a regressive effect in the UK, impacting the cost of transport fuel, electricity, heating, and food. Low-income households in the UK spend a greater proportion of their income on these carbon intensive goods. So, to ensure the fairness and equitability of a carbon pricing framework any inequality needs to be offset by a progressive mechanism of returning revenues to low-income households. In particular, carbon pricing must:

- Help deliver a just transition, which shares the burdens of decarbonisation equitably.
- Target the biggest polluters and those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced in a way that is fair to individuals and to businesses.
- Support and incentivise smaller emitters, such as households, to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to their energy bills.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. I will also be writing to relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to ask for their support on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs  
Sent via:  
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Mr Eustice,

**RE: Support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing**

I am writing to advise you that Bath and North East Somerset Council supports calls for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing and would request the UK government to:

- a) Introduce a UK-wide carbon pricing framework by the end of 2025, to be applied to all sectors of industry and to imports as well as to domestic production.
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It is estimated that the UK will be responsible for ~800 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent in 2021. We need mechanisms to reduce GHG use quickly. One

potentially ‘game changing’ mechanism is carbon pricing, which could cover either carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme (ETS), covering all GHGs emitted in the provision of goods and services. The current UK ETS arrangement covers only around a third of industrial emissions and so falls some way short of an effective carbon pricing mechanism.

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Carbon pricing would have a regressive effect in the UK, impacting the cost of transport fuel, electricity, heating, and food. Low-income households in the UK spend a greater proportion of their income on these carbon intensive goods. So, to ensure the fairness and equitability of a carbon pricing framework any inequality needs to be offset by a progressive mechanism of returning revenues to low-income households. In particular, carbon pricing must:

- Help deliver a just transition, which shares the burdens of decarbonisation equitably.
- Target the biggest polluters and those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced in a way that is fair to individuals and to businesses.
- Support and incentivise smaller emitters, such as households, to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to their energy bills.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. I will also be writing to relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to ask for their support on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council



The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg  
jacob.reesmogg.mp@parliament.uk

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Mr Rees-Mogg,

**RE: Support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing**

I am writing to advise you that Bath and North East Somerset Council supports calls for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing and would request the UK government to:

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It is estimated that the UK will be responsible for ~800 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2021. We need mechanisms to reduce GHG use quickly. One potentially 'game changing' mechanism is carbon pricing, which could cover either carbon tax or an enhanced emissions trading scheme (ETS), covering all GHGs

emitted in the provision of goods and services. The current UK ETS arrangement covers only around a third of industrial emissions and so falls some way short of an effective carbon pricing mechanism.

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I would like to thank you in advance for your support. I will also be writing to relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to ask for their support on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Mr Johnson,

**RE: Support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing**

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I would like to thank you in advance for your support. I will also be writing to relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to ask for their support on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council

Wera Hobhouse MP  
wera.hobhouse.mp@parliament.uk  
office@werahobhouse.co.uk

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

Dear Wera Hobhouse,

**RE: Support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing**

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- Outdoor air pollution from fossil fuels causes 3 million deaths globally each year and up to 36,000 in the UK.
- Carbon pricing, set at the right level, will drive fossil fuel consumption out of the economy and promote investment in clean alternatives.

This year's COP26 meeting in Glasgow failed to address an international carbon pricing framework, so the UK should introduce its own mechanism, including a carbon 'border adjustment mechanism' applied to goods imported into the UK to ensure that the GHGs emitted in their production are also subject to the pricing mechanism. A border adjustment mechanism would protect more cleanly produced UK made goods and incentivise other economies to lower emissions.

Carbon pricing would have a regressive effect in the UK, impacting the cost of transport fuel, electricity, heating, and food. Low-income households in the UK spend a greater proportion of their income on these carbon intensive goods. So, to ensure the fairness and equitability of a carbon pricing framework any inequality needs to be offset by a progressive mechanism of returning revenues to low-income households. In particular, carbon pricing must:

- Help deliver a just transition, which shares the burdens of decarbonisation equitably.
- Target the biggest polluters and those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced in a way that is fair to individuals and to businesses.
- Support and incentivise smaller emitters, such as households, to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to their energy bills.

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. I will also be writing to relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to ask for their support on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council



THE RT. HON. JACOB REES-MOGG M.P.  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST SOMERSET

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Cllr. Kevin Guy,  
Leader, Bath & North East Somerset Council,  
Lewis House, Manvers Street,  
Bath,  
Somerset, BA1 1JG.

10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

*Kevin Guy,*

Thank you for your correspondence, on behalf of BANES Council, regarding carbon pricing.

The Government's position on this issue was set out in the following Parliamentary Written Answer from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on 13<sup>th</sup> September:

*"The UK has an ambitious carbon pricing mechanism through our new UK Emissions Trading Scheme, launched at the start of this year to increase our carbon pricing ambition over the EU scheme it replaces. The UK ETS will be the world's first net zero carbon cap and trade market, and a crucial step towards achieving the UK's target for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. We have committed to explore expanding the UK ETS to other sectors.*

*We are also consulting on a business model to provide revenue support to low carbon hydrogen production plants in order to unlock private investment in hydrogen projects.*

*This will be complemented by the £240m Net-Zero Hydrogen Fund (NZHF), aimed at supporting multiple low carbon production routes that can realistically deploy in the 2020s to contribute to our 5GW ambition. As described in our recent Hydrogen Strategy, electrolysis using low carbon power, renewable or nuclear, will have an important role as we scale up UK hydrogen production."*

I hope this answer is helpful in setting out the Government's position.

With every good wish,

*Jacob Rees-Mogg*

# Wera Hobhouse

Liberal Democrat MP for Bath



Councillor Kevin Guy  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
The Guildhall  
15 High Street  
Bath  
BA1 5AW

17 December 2021

Dear Kevin

Many thanks for your letter of 2 December, setting out Bath and North East Somerset Council's support for carbon pricing.

I share the Council's concerns about the need for bold and urgent action on the Climate Emergency. The IPPC report offered the starkest wake-up call yet, and extreme weather and flooding will become more frequent in the UK unless we greatly reduce our emissions. Tackling climate change requires international cooperation on an immense scale. However, I am doubtful that Boris Johnson's government and other governments across the world fully grasp the threat to our society that climate change presents.

If we continue at our current pace, this will probably lead to between 2 and 3 degrees C temperature increases by the second half of the century. The choices are not easy, the costs for many of us will go up and the rich countries will need to pay for the transition.

As the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Energy and Climate Change, I have been pressing the Government to deliver a long-term bold and radical vision to tackle the Climate Emergency. Keeping world temperature increases to below 1.5 C requires one thing – that fossil fuels stay in the ground, which means a massive expansion of renewable energy. We need urgent action to decarbonise all sectors – from heating, to transport, to heavy industry. I firmly believe that delay on climate action is no better than climate change denial; there can be no more delay, and no more excuses.

Using carbon has a price, and the UK must work with other nations to transition from fossil fuels to green alternatives. It is important to ensure, however, that the price is fair to individuals and businesses and that it targets the largest polluters.

At our Autumn conference this year, the party passed a motion setting a new national policy on carbon pricing with this aim in mind. The full carbon pricing paper can be viewed at

[https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/61593/attachments/original/1631089215/embedpdf\\_PP139A\\_book\\_rev.pdf?1631089215](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/libdems/pages/61593/attachments/original/1631089215/embedpdf_PP139A_book_rev.pdf?1631089215).

As part of the carbon pricing paper, the Liberal Democrats are proposing to employ carbon pricing policies to help to deliver a just transition, where the burdens of decarbonisation are shared equitably.

Accordingly, we will use carbon pricing policies to target the largest polluters and those activities where emissions can most swiftly be reduced, in a way that is fair to individuals



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and businesses. For smaller emitters, such as households, we will offer support and incentives to reduce emissions before applying carbon pricing to their energy bill.

The party is also proposing that carbon pricing instruments should be combined with other approaches, including regulation, information and subsidy. We believe that this will lead to better and faster outcomes, rather than when they are used in isolation.

Finally, the Liberal Democrats will also ensure that the UK collaborates closely with the EU, cooperating in carbon pricing policies to maximise impact and minimise problems for business trading across the border.

Thank you again for contacting me on behalf of the Council on this important policy matter, and please do get in touch with my office should you wish to discuss this further.

Best wishes

Wera



Wera Hobhouse  
Liberal Democrat MP for Bath

Whilst Wera Hobhouse MP will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass to her, she will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. Wera Hobhouse may pass on all or some of the information to agencies such as the DWP, HM Revenue and Customs or the Local Council if this is necessary to help with your case. Wera Hobhouse may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues that you may find of interest. Please let her know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.



Our reference:  
TO2021/23423

Councillor Kevin Guy  
[kevin\\_guy@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:kevin_guy@bathnes.gov.uk)

Cabinet Office  
70 Whitehall  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2AS

24 December 2021

Dear Councillor Kevin Guy,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December, regarding COP26 and Bath and Somerset Council's support for comprehensive and effective carbon pricing. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

COP26 was the biggest summit that the UK has ever hosted, bringing together 120 world leaders and over 38,000 key figures from governments, civil society, business, and youth to tackle the urgent challenge of climate change.

The aim as COP26 Presidency was to keep alive the possibility of limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C. To achieve this, we aimed to drive down emissions through mid-century net zero commitments and ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets; to protect people and nature from the impacts of climate change; to get finance flowing to climate action and to work together to achieve a successful negotiations outcome.

We have made progress against each of our goals, with the agreement of the Glasgow Climate Pact helping to speed up the pace of climate action. As an example, we now have net zero commitments for over 90% of the world's economy - up from 30% two years ago, when the UK took on the COP26 Presidency. The Paris Rulebook was concluded after 6 years. And a \$100bn Delivery Plan was published demonstrating with confidence that the target will be met by 2023 at the latest. However, even with the actions committed both ahead of and at COP26, communities around the world will continue to feel the impact of our changing planet. We must therefore continue the work of COP26 with a concerted and immediate global effort to deliver on all pledges.

The Government is proud to have hosted this year's conference and we welcome your comments and thoughts. The Glasgow Climate Pact is a historic agreement, but we know we have much further to go. The UK will use the Presidency year to ensure that the commitments from COP26 are delivered, and that we build on our progress in Glasgow.

Regarding the points raised on carbon pricing, the UK no longer provides any fossil fuel subsidies domestically. In addition, from 31 March this year the UK no longer provides any new direct financial or promotional support for the fossil fuel energy sector overseas, other than in very limited circumstances. We are aligning our support to enable clean energy exports.

The Glasgow Climate Pact is the first time that coal power and fossil fuels have ever been referenced in a COP text – agreed by all 197 countries and parties. This is a monumental step that demonstrates a powerful shift to clean energy and sets major precedent for further action in this area, building on progress made under our Presidency on international financing and commitments.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) now has 165 members, including national and sub-national governments, businesses, and organisations. Among OECD countries, the share of coal in power generation has fallen from a peak of 40% in 1990 to a low of 23% in 2019 (IEA, Electricity generation by source, OECD, 1990-2019, <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/electricity-generation-by-source-oecd-1990-201934>). 64 countries have now committed to coal phase out, with new commitments at COP26 from over 10 countries including South Korea, Vietnam and Poland.

The G20 (notably including Japan, South Korea and China) have committed to end public financing of coal overseas by the end of 2021. 34 countries and 5 public finance institutions also support a UK-led initiative to end international public support for the unabated fossil fuel energy sector by the end of 2022. This could shift \$24 billion a year out of fossil fuels and into the clean energy transition. All major coal financing countries have also committed to end international coal finance by the end of 2021, with \$20 billion in funding to support the coal to clean power transition announced at COP26, including:

- \$10 billion of funding from philanthropists and development banks to support energy access and a clean energy transition in the Global South.
- An initial \$8.5 billion to enable decarbonisation and the just transition in South Africa.

We agree that commitment to jointly mobilise \$100 billion of climate finance a year is critically important. Over 450 private financial institutions, which are responsible for over \$130 trillion of assets, have committed to net zero by 2050, through the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), within the UN's Race to Zero. Firms have also committed to come forward with 2025 or 2030 decarbonisation targets within a specified timeline, and over 90 asset managers or asset owners have already set targets for 2025 or 2030.

I hope you have found this response helpful and thank you once again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Fran  
Correspondence Officer  
**Public Correspondence Team | Cabinet Office**

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