

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 15th February, 2022

Present:- **Councillors** Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse, Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Dr Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michelle O'Doherty, Lisa O'Brien, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Bharat Pankhania and Chris Watt

85 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Democratic Services Manager to conduct a roll call.

86 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Monitoring officer issued a general dispensation to 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.

The following further declarations had been made, for which the Monitoring Officer issued a dispensation, to enable them to take part in the debate and vote;

- Tim Ball - Family member in receipt of social services support & EHCP
- Colin Blackburn - Family business is a recipient of a covid relief grant
- Sue Craig - Family member in receipt of social services support
- 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
- Karen Walker – holder of office at Peasedown Community library
- Sarah Warren - Family member in receipt of an EHCP

A further declaration was made by Councillor Alan Hale as both daughters are in receipt of benefits.

87 MINUTES - 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes were noted for approval at Council on 16th February.

88 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the following announcement;

Due to a desire to retain a level of social distancing after restrictions have lifted, we are holding this 'informal' virtual Council meeting to enable all Councillors to take part. The comments and indicative decisions from this meeting will help to inform the physically reduced, quorate decision-making meeting tomorrow on 16th February 2022.

The Chair drew the meeting's attention to the budget documents that had been circulated following the main agenda despatch; a revised recommendation referring to a revised Annex 2(i), plus Annex 11.

The Chair then asked Councillors to hold a minute's silence to mark the recent death of former B&NES Councillor, Chairman and Mayor of Bath – Ian Gilchrist.

89 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

The Chair made the following statement;

Councillors will be aware that a note was sent out earlier 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.

90 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Paul Stansall made a statement expressing concern about the prospect of office services being introduced to the Podium library. A full copy of Mr Stansall's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and website. Councillor Dine Romero enquired if Mr Stansall would consider correcting his statement, as no services had been re-located to the library and she had done a recent visit to double check this. Mr Stansall declined to do so, replying that when he last visited, they were there. Councillor Karen Walker asked if Mr Stansall considered that the unique nature of the Podium library was being compromised; to which he referred Councillor Walker back to his statement. Clarification was sought by Councillor Dine Romero about the legitimacy of unsubstantiated facts going on record, to which the

Monitoring Officer replied that the meeting was not a court of law so there was no requirement to establish fact.

Mary English made a statement also expressing concern about the prospect of Council services being located in the Podium library and asked that library users be consulted about any such plans. A full copy of Ms English's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and website. Councillor Dine Romero asked if Ms English was aware that there were no plans in place. Any proposal was a starting point to be considered and consulted on with residents and user groups. Ms English welcomed the idea if that was the case.

David Redgewell made a statement about various transport elements of the budget; bus shelter repair and maintenance funding, public toilets, adequate tourist information and expressing ongoing concern about the Bus Back Better funding from April. Councillor Vic Pritchard noted the comments about bus shelters but wondered if Mr Redgewell did not consider that it would be better to concentrate on transport services for areas such as the Chew Valley where there was a clear deficit. Mr Redgewell responded that it was important to maintain bus shelters but agreed that it was necessary to work with the Metro Mayor and other relevant parties to improve the services into the Chew Valley.

Andy Halliday made a statement about the Podium library, expressing concern about any proposed cuts in library spending. A full copy of Mr Halliday's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and website. Councillor Dine Romero reiterated earlier comments that there were no plans to cut library services, and asked if Mr Halliday would be willing to discuss proposals to help shape services. Mr Halliday replied that he would welcome that, but that he remained nervous about the prospect of cuts.

The Chair thanked all the members of the public for their statements, which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

91 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 Kevin Guy, seconded by Councillor Vic Pritchard, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that, in accordance with rule 16 (Suspension of Rules), the Council suspends Council rule 42 (Content and Length of Speeches) for the duration of this debate so as to enable variations to be permitted to the length of speeches by the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Conservative, Independent and Labour Group Leaders or their nominated Spokespersons, and the Chair of the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel.

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

RESOLVED to recommend to Council on 16th December 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 (34): - Councillors Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Jess David, Tom Davies, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Andy Furse, Kevin Guy, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Hal McFie, Ruth Malloy, Matt McCabe, Sarah Moore, Michelle O'Doherty, Mandy Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Andy Wait, Sarah Warren, Ryan Wills, David Wood.

Councillors against (5): - Councillors Colin Blackburn, Douglas Deacon, Shaun Hughes, Dr Kumar, June Player.

Councillors abstaining (18): - Councillors Sarah Bevan, Vic Clarke, Chris Dando, Sally Davis, Michael Evans, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Paul May, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Lisa O'Brien, Vic Pritchard, Brian Simmons, Karen Walker, Karen Warrington, Joanna Wright.

92 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 Mark Elliott, it was unanimously

RESOLVED to recommend to Council on 16th December to approve the actions proposed within the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

93 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 Tim Ball, seconded by Councillor Bruce Shearn, it was

RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Council on 16th December;

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

94 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 1st April 2023.

On a motion from Councillor Mark Elliott, seconded by Councillor Brian Simmons, it was

RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Council on 16th December that

1. The Annual Report of the Corporate Audit Committee is noted; and
2. The Council 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 11th March 2022.

95 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 Karen Walker, it was

RESOLVED unanimously to recommend to Council on 16th February 2022 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.

96 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Two questions from Councillor Joanna Wright had been received, and responses circulated. These are available on the website and added to the Minute book.

Councillor Dr Kumar made a statement entitled 'Building Communities, Shared Dreams' – a copy of which has been added to the website and the Minute book.

The meeting ended at 9.04 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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COUNCIL MEETING 15th FEBRUARY 2022

PUBLIC STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS

Public statements (item 7)

- Paul Stansall
Re: Bath Library (*statement attached*)
- Mary English
Re: Bath Library (*statement attached*)
- David Redgewell
Re: Transport budget issues
- Andy Halliday
Re: Bath Library (*statement attached*)

Paul Stansall statement

On the unlawful introduction of office services - to date blue badge and parking permits processing, into the Podium Library

I am a retired chartered architect and former government adviser on building development.

Some Council office services including blue badge and parking permits were recently relocated from the OSS in Lewis House into the Podium Library.

I understand this has been carried out outside the normal process of planning approval. No consultation with the public has been sought. I also understand no permission from the Council planning department has been obtained. Under planning law the Council's defacto changes, namely introducing 'office' services into the Podium Library space, are not allowed.

The Town & Country Planning Use Classes, September 2020 places office services under Class E and public libraries under Class F1. The OSS that until recently included the purchase of blue badges and parking permits, remains located within Lewis House and falls under the Use Class for offices.

When challenged by the Friends of Bath Podium Library on the introduction of blue badge and parking permits into the Podium library my local councillor answered that blue badge and parking permits are ancillary to the library services as per Keynsham library.

However, Keynsham was a new development in which the said services were included at the time planning permission was sought. Moreover, the Podium development was specifically for a library and no ancillary services attached to the library use were ever included.

Two incompatible use classes cannot be forced together. Further, the ancillary use argument is invalid. This was made clear in a letter dated October 19th 2018 and signed by Dionne Pemberton on behalf of Save Bath Library, to Chris Gomm, BANES Planning Department. The campaign at the time had sought legal counsel on this matter. Copies of this letter have recently been recirculated via e-mail to Council members involved.

Will the council please refrain from deliberately and wilfully misleading the public by using the term "ancillary services" e.g. "*..the relocation of a small number of ancillary information services from Lewis House to another location..*" This has nothing to do with the use of the term "ancillary to the primary use class" within planning law.

The previous council administration halted their plans to integrate OSS services within the Podium library when it was shown it would not be lawful.

Thank you

Paul Stansall RIBA
BA1 6EG

10/02/22

Statement from Mary English

Dear Councillors

My name is Mary English and I am a local author and resident. When my son was small and I was a single parent, the library was our sanctuary to borrow books and escape the harsh realities of low income.

I am part of the Save Bath Library campaign and Friends of Bath library that secured the Asset of Community Value that Bath Central Library now enjoys.

I am bitterly disappointed to learn that in the latest Budget proposals, there are 'plans' to once again put council services into the library

As you may, or may not know, Save Bath Library protested vigorously to prevent this from happening while the council was being led by the Conservatives.

ANY changes to library services MUST be discussed with library users FIRST so I was even more dismayed that none of us were even told this was a proposal.

Cllr Samuels & Romero have now assured us that it's 'only' certain council services that would be put into the library but ANY council service is one council service too many.

Libraries are places to do learning, reading & research.

There are plenty of other places in Bath where residents can apply for blue badges or pay parking fines.

Once these council services are slipped into the library, it won't be long before we cease to have libraries and librarians and instead have 'customer services pods' and 'customer services staff' which are not the same at all.

And even though we've been assured this this is 'all' that would be added into the library, what's to stop a future council under a different political party from adding even more services and watering down the wonderful provision we already have?

I am here to add my voice to the groundswell of residents that *do not* agree that this would be a good idea.

Statement from Andy Halliday

With a sense of "Deja Vue", I want to express my sincere disappointment at plans I recently became aware of to make further cuts in library spending. These are again attacking this vital community service at a time when public well-being and investing in education is much on the government's agenda. It is in my view crucial to maintain our Podium library by serious investment in new library stock in various formats, the marketing of quality income generating rooms for diverse opportunities, but key to the service is a commitment to recruit dedicated library only orientated staff who will be highly trained to deliver the unique quality services expected by our variety of visitors who daily flood into the purpose-built prestigious city centre library. Diluting the services offered already should not I feel feature on anyone's agenda; by contrast a serious commitment to ensure specific library facilities remain at a top standard is in my view of paramount importance. Please reconsider your present proposals to again decimate our wonderful library provision, I genuinely believe failure to do so will have catastrophic long term consequences on the lives of many many people.

Thank you

Andy Halliday, Former Manager Bath Central Library

COUNCIL MEETING 15th FEBRUARY 2022

COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS

Councillor statement (item 13)

- Cllr Dr Kumar *(statement attached)*
Re: Building Communities, Shared Dreams

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.

Building Communities, Shared Dreams

I have been suffering from bullying, discrimination, and manipulative lies for more than 3 years.

And I continue to suffer.

And my family with a teenage son who proudly represents our country and county in Chess and Maths suffers.

When I raised these issues, rather than any concern, I was muzzled, deselected and a false police complaint of 'being aggressive' was made against me.

This charge of aggression was I contend solely based on a single email that I sent to the then leader of the Libdem group, almost 2 years ago.

I talked about Karma and questioned why perhaps God has chosen me to eradicate rotten apples in our garden.

That was it! NO aggression, NO violence, NO threats.

And there was no action or complaint at the time!

But, when the Lib Dems learned last Christmas that I intended to leave the party, in what I regard as a pre-emptive attack, they approached the police in an attempt to rubbish my GOOD name.

There are several additional instances of me being insulted, maligned, and slandered by senior members of this council sitting before us today.

They know who they are.

I am very sorry to say that I believe the roots of some of these attacks are based in racism.

(The Chair interjects here)

Exactly madam Chair.

Councillor colleague and friends; we have a code of conduct that we must adhere to.

It states we must:

- ☞ Act with integrity and honesty
- ☞ Treat all persons fairly and with respect

And

☞ Lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

Friends, the leadership of the local Libdems have made public statements that I am the perpetrator and not a victim.

Let us get to the truth.

I today beseech you to support me in my call for a full investigation into what has occurred to me to be conducted by the Standards Committee, or any other panel containing independent voices that seek the truth.

I ask the Monitoring Officer to make this happen.

Lessons need to be learned. Communities need to be built, Dreams do not need to be shattered.

And those guilty people need to understand that they can't expect to remain in public office when they fail to meet the standards expected and instead continuously make some people and their family's lives and miserable and indulge in discriminatory behaviour.

Thank you

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

Date: 2nd 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: 2nd 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.
- b) Include a mechanism to use the proceeds fairly to ensure social justice and support a fair and equitable transition to a cleaner economy

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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 Jacob Rees-Mogg
jacob.reesmogg.mp@parliament.uk

Date: 2nd 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:

- 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.

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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.

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:

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- 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

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

Date: 2nd December 2021

Dear Mr Johnson,

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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Councillor Kevin Guy
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council

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

Date: 2nd December 2021

Dear Wera Hobhouse,

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



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.

10th 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 13th 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 IPCC 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.

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



31 James Street West, Bath, BA1 2BT
office@werahobhouse.co.uk
01225 307024 - @wera_hobhouse

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

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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