

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Full Council meeting 10 September 2020

Liberal Democrat Motion on the Local Electricity Bill

To be proposed by Alastair Singleton

Council notes:

1. An increase in the provision of locally generated, renewable electricity is needed to help tackle the climate emergency.
2. One of the three immediate priorities for action, identified in the Climate Emergency Progress Report to Council (October 2019) was “a rapid and large-scale increase in local renewable energy generation”.
3. Local renewable energy generation may also support the local economy towards a green recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, supporting jobs, services and energy security.
4. Community-scale renewable energy projects are blocked from becoming direct energy suppliers due to the very high setup and running costs involved as well as excessive regulations.
5. Making costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for locally generated renewable electricity to be supplied directly to local people and businesses.
6. The Local Electricity Bill would establish a Right to Local Supply, which would promote local renewable electricity supply companies and co-operatives by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply operation.
7. The Bill has received the support of 198 Members of Parliament and is co-sponsored by a cross-party group of MPs, including Bath MP Wera Hobhouse.

Council therefore resolves to:

8. Support the Local Electricity Bill and the Power for People campaign.
9. Write to relevant Government Minister(s) and local Members of Parliament, informing them of the Council’s support for the Bill and request that they support the Local Electricity Bill to become law.
10. Write to the Power for People campaign, expressing the Council’s support for the campaign and the Local Electricity Bill.

- *Unless where specifically set out in the statute, motions approved at Council do not bind the Executive (Cabinet) but may influence their future decisions.*
- *Councillors are reminded of their public sector equality duty which requires the Council to consider or think about how their policies or decisions may affect people who are protected under the Equality Act.*