

Climate Change Emergency – Motion by Councillor Richard Watters and Councillor Fiona Sarwar

The Extinction Rebellion campaign and other similar campaigns led by Greta Thunberg and young people round the world are drawing critical attention to what is recognised as the number one issue facing the world today. This was re-emphasised in May 2019 when the UN body, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services, issued a report warning about the damage human beings are causing to the planet. The report notes that climate change is one of the top drivers of this damage and it is not too late to turn things around, but to do so require transformational change.

The contribution the Council has made to reduce our own carbon footprint is acknowledged, yet there remains much to do and as noted a transformational change is required.

As a Council we wish to play our part in accelerating this transformational change, understand the implications for climate change in everything we do, and lead by example. This Council requests the Chief Executive to set out a route map to deliver, through co-production with citizens and other stakeholders, a low carbon Perth & Kinross, specifically to:-

1. Under the auspices of the Perth and Kinross Offer, establish a forum with our Community Planning Partners to scope out the required vision and transformational change necessary for climate change.
2. Report back to the Council before end of March 2020 with details of
 - A baseline report on where we are now both as a Council and the wider Perth and Kinross CPP Area
 - An analysis of our current plans and strategies and their compatibility with the need for transformational change
 - A route map and the identification of the resources required for delivery
 - Arrangements to ensure that the consideration of climate change is embedded in our decision making processes
 - Measures to ensure the Council is seen as an exemplar in reducing its carbon footprint, including measures which can be implemented immediately