

Title of Report: Update on Deferred Motion to Committee	Officer Presenting: Director of Environment and Regeneration Author: Lead Legal Services Officer
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To update Members on a Notice of Motion agreed to be deferred to the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

2 Background

- 2.1 At the Environment and Regeneration Committee meeting held on 12 May 2021, the following Notice of Motion was recommended for approval:

That Derry City and Strabane District Council recognises the importance of having adequate, functioning electric charging points within our district if we are to realise our objective of phasing out petrol and diesel vehicles in line with our Climate Change Emergency Pledge.

Council welcomes the commitment for immediate action to reduce carbon emissions set out in the New Decade, New Approach agreement, and calls on the Environment Minister to adopt the Private Members Bill developed by Climate Coalition NI to ensure that it becomes law in this term of the Assembly.

This Council will write to the Minister for Infrastructure to highlight the number of defective electric charging points within our district and calls on the Minister to help us move away from our reliance on fossil fuels by working with ESB to develop a sustainable model for providing additional charging points right across the north.

This Notice of Motion was subsequently ratified at the Council Meeting on the 27 May 2021.

- 2.2 At the Council Meeting on 29 July 2021 the following Notice of Motion was presented:

That this Council notes with concern the terms of the private member's climate change Bill currently before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Climate change and reducing carbon emissions is recognised as being one of the seminal issues of our generation

The Private Members Climate Change Bill currently before the Assembly includes a target date of 2045 for Northern Ireland to be net carbon zero. DAERA officials have warned after receiving evidence from the independent scientific UK Climate Change Committee that in their view this will "require a substantial reduction in output" which is likely to be "extremely damaging" to our livestock sectors in Northern Ireland.

This Council notes the 82% reduction target for Northern Ireland set by the UK Climate Change Committee by 2050 (comparing 1990 with 2050) Experts warn this 2050 target will be "incredibly challenging "

Given the importance of the Beef, sheep and dairy sectors to our Agri-food sector, this Council requests that a letter be sent to the sponsor and co-sponsors of the bill urging them to recognise and rectify the unacceptable and unrealistic demands that their Bill will have on business but in part our largest primary industry, the agri-food sector.

That this Council should write to the NI Executive, requesting that at the very least the Agriculture Ministers Climate Change Bill proposal is discussed as a matter of urgency and that potential amendments be discussed at the second stage and committee stages of the Climate Change Bill.

- 2.3 A Member queried the validity of this second Notice of Motion based on the interpretation that it conflicted with the Motion (2.1 above) which had been previously approved by Council.
- 2.4 It was subsequently agreed to review and defer the Notice of Motion to the September 2021 Environment and Regeneration Committee to allow Officers the opportunity to consider the matter further.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Having reviewed both Motions, officers would be of the view that there is a conflict between the Motion arising from the May Environment and Regeneration Committee and the subsequent Notice of Motion presented to the July Council meeting. The first gives support to the adoption of the Climate Change Private Members Bill, whilst the second calls for amendments to the Bill in its existing form.

3.2 Progression of the second Notice of Motion therefore would require a rescinding motion as per Standing Order 24(1) which states that any motion to rescind any resolution passed within the preceding 6 months requires the support of at least 30% of Members.

3.3 Proposing Members of both Motions have been updated on this.

4 Implications

Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection

4.1 None associated with this paper.

Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other

4.2 As above.

5 Recommendations

5.1 To note the update in respect of the Notice of Motion which had been agreed to be deferred to the September 2021 Environment and Regeneration Committee but which cannot be progressed.

Background Papers

Previous Minutes on Climate Change and Climate Emergency

C167/19, C163/19, ER173/21, C219/21, ER152/21, C392/21