

Implications of Climate Change for Runnymede Borough Council

At the Environment and Sustainability Committee held on 16th November the Committee received a report regarding the implications of climate change for Runnymede Borough Council.

The full report can be viewed [here](#)

Draft minutes

The Committee received a report following the motion carried at Full Council in 2019. The motion required a report to be brought to the Environmental and Sustainability Committee setting out the implications of climate change for Runnymede Borough Council, and for this report to have regard to the matters set out in items 1-14 of the motion along with other relevant considerations. This required, amongst other things, the consideration of whether a Climate Emergency should be declared in Runnymede.

The Committee was fully supportive of declaring a Climate Emergency in Runnymede. It was fully acknowledged that climate change was happening and was due to human activities; along with warming, other changes that were occurring such as melting polar ice, rising sea levels and more frequent floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

The Committee wished to ensure that members of the Corporate Management Committee, when making their decision, were made aware that Members of the Environment and Sustainability Committee had stressed their concerns that there was a real climate emergency. Tough decisions needed to be made but funding for supporting Runnymede becoming net zero was essential. Costs of fixing runaway climate change impacts in the future would be much higher.

Recommended that:

The Committee NOTES that the net zero targets within the motion resolved on 17th October 2019 (in points 3 and 4) have been superseded by those subsequently agreed through the adoption of the Climate Change Strategy by the Council

That the Committee RECOMMENDS to Corporate Management Committee to recommend to full Council that a Climate Emergency is declared in Runnymede in line with the wording recommended at paragraphs 5.16 to 5.18 of the report