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# Enhancement of Climate Emergency Declaration

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Committee:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Adrian Abbs
<b>Report Author:</b>	Kofi Adu-Gyamfi and Environment Delivery Team
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	C4447

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## 1 Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to propose changes to the Council's climate emergency declaration (made in July 2019). The changes that are sought will enhance, strengthen and bring clarity to the original declaration following the initial 4 years of delivery and all that has been learnt in that period.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Council approve the following enhancements to the original climate emergency declaration:
- (a) The ecological emergency is recognised through the new declaration being a **'climate and ecological emergency'**.
  - (b) Changing the language used in the declaration from **'carbon neutral'** to **'net zero'** to bring us in line with Government and business terminology.
  - (c) **Clarification of targets** within the declaration with the following being the Council's focus in relation to reducing emissions:
    - Achieving net zero by 2030 for the Council's operations and activities.
    - Facilitating, influencing, promoting and encouraging a reduction in emissions across West Berkshire to enable net zero to be achieved as soon as practicable for the District.
- 2.2 The proposed new wording for the declaration and recommended actions relating to the ecological emergency are included in section 8 of this report.

### 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
<p><b>Financial:</b></p>	<p>The proposals in this report do not create a specific financial pressure. Financial implications could be that thought is given as to how a range of projects using existing budgets can reflect and address the ecological emergency.</p> <p>Many actions are already taken to protect and enhance our natural environment and existing budgets include investing in nature. The proposed inclusion in the declaration is about bringing the recognition of the ecological work that needs to be done front and centre and enhancing what we are already doing rather than adding any significant financial pressures.</p>
<p><b>Human Resource:</b></p>	<p>The proposals do not create any new Human Resource implications. The need for an in-house Ecologist to be recruited has already been recognised and is underway. This is important to help support the delivery of the enhanced declaration.</p>
<p><b>Legal:</b></p>	<p>No new Legal implications at this stage.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management:</b></p>	<p>The proposals do not introduce any new risks to the Council. The delivery of actions flowing from the declaration are managed through the <a href="#">Environment Strategy</a> and its associated <a href="#">Delivery Plan</a>. The risks involved in achieving the objectives are managed through the Strategy and individual projects.</p>
<p><b>Property:</b></p>	<p>Significant actions to achieve net zero for the Council are focused on our own estate and making changes to our properties. This is not new as a result of this report but remains a key challenge on our pathway to net zero.</p>
<p><b>Policy:</b></p>	<p>The addition of an ecological emergency highlights the importance of nature in West Berkshire and the ecological recovery sought across the UK. It helps to support the Council's <a href="#">Environment Strategy</a> and the regional work developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Berkshire. It is also in line with and supports policies in <a href="#">West Berkshire's Local Plan</a> which in turn is in line with national policy in the <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework</a> (NPPF).</p>

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	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
<b>Equalities Impact:</b>				
<b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		It is considered that there are no aspects of these proposals that could impact on inequality.
<b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		The proposals should not have a specific impact on people with protected characteristics.
<b>Environmental Impact:</b>	X			The key driver for these proposals is to protect and enhance our environment. This report specifically seeks a focus on ecological priorities and recognition within a newly declared climate and ecological emergency.
<b>Health Impact:</b>	X			Action to improve our environment, especially our natural environment, has key links with supporting residents' health and wellbeing. The Environment Strategy Delivery Plan includes actions that seek to encourage people to use local green and blue spaces and increase access to the countryside as well as encouraging children to spend more time in nature.
<b>ICT Impact:</b>		X		There are no ICT impacts.

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<b>Digital Services Impact:</b>		X		There are no impacts for Digital Services.
<b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b>	X			The proposals support the overall Council priority of ' <b>Maintaining a Green District</b> '
<b>Core Business:</b>		X		
<b>Data Impact:</b>		X		There are no data impacts.
<b>Consultation and Engagement:</b>	<p>The proposed enhancements to the original declaration have been shared with the following groups and people and relevant comments have been incorporated into this report:</p> <p>Environment Advisory Group (Open Forum) 31<sup>st</sup> July</p> <p>Environment Strategy Delivery Board (internal officer group) 17<sup>th</sup> August</p> <p>Natural Solutions Delivery Partnership 21<sup>st</sup> August</p> <p>Officers in the following areas: Environment, Development and Regulation, Communities &amp; Wellbeing</p>			

## 4 Executive Summary

4.1 The purpose of this report is to seek changes to the 2019 climate declaration that will enhance and strengthen it and provide clarity for the remainder of the period of the Environment Strategy up to 2030 and beyond.

4.2 The proposal is focused around 3 main changes:

- It is proposed that the current climate emergency declaration is strengthened to reflect the need to protect and enhance West Berkshire's natural environment, wildlife, and biodiversity. The ecological and climate emergencies are closely linked and to solve one we must address the other. Therefore, it is proposed that a new declaration for 2023 will be a 'climate and ecological emergency'.
- Currently the climate emergency declaration uses the term 'carbon neutrality' to describe the aim of the Council and intention for the District. 'Carbon neutrality' means balancing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by offsetting and does not require a commitment to reduce overall emissions. The term 'net zero' means making changes to reduce GHG emissions to the lowest amount and offsetting as a last resort. It is proposed to amend the current terminology and use 'net zero' which is a true reflection of what we are working towards.

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- The last proposal brings clarity to the targets for net zero included in the declaration. It makes a distinction between actions that the Council can take to reduce the impact from its own operations and activities and the emissions across the District where it has less control. The clarified targets are therefore:
  - Achieving net zero by 2030 for the Council's operations and activities
  - Facilitating influencing, promoting and encouraging a reduction in emissions across West Berkshire to enable net zero to be achieved as soon as practicable for the District

4.3 Over the last 4 years, the Council has been delivering projects and taking action in response to the original declaration of the climate emergency. With greater knowledge and experience in this area, it is proposed that the above changes are made creating an enhanced declaration for 2023.

## 5 Introduction/ Background

### Introduction

5.1 This report is seeking to take the bold and positive action of the 2019 climate emergency declaration and update and enhance it now that we have 4 years more experience. The changes being sought will enhance, strengthen, and bring clarity to the original declaration.

### Background

5.2 On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019, the Council unanimously declared a climate emergency. The declaration was as follows:

### This Council notes that:

1. All levels of government (national, regional and local) have a responsibility to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. It is important for the residents of West Berkshire and the UK that we commit to working towards carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.
2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be of the utmost urgency.
3. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved health and wellbeing) but will also require changes in individuals' lifestyles and have a cost implication to both the individual and the state.

### West Berkshire Council therefore:

- Declares a Climate Emergency.
- Will create a strategic plan for West Berkshire that aims to deliver carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Calls on HM Government to provide the Council with the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
- Will work with other authorities to determine and implement where practicable best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

5.3 Since the declaration, many things have happened to help deliver the Council's aims. Some of the key elements are listed below:

- A new Environment Delivery Team was formed in July 2020
- The Environment Strategy was approved on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (the strategic plan mentioned in the declaration)
- A Delivery Plan has been established for the Environment Strategy with progress against the delivery plan being reported to the Executive through Annual Progress Reports. These are published each autumn on the Council's website.
- Groups have been set up to help deliver effectively on actions some examples being:
  - An informal Natural Solutions Delivery Partnership was formed in September 2021 to seek to coordinate and collaborate on nature recovery, biodiversity enhancement, carbon sequestration and anything relevant to our natural environment.
  - A Parish Climate Forum was established in May 2021 to provide a regular space for Parish and Town Councils to meet to discuss what they are doing relevant to the Environment Strategy, learn from each other and be kept informed regarding various actions across West Berkshire.
- A strategic policy has been included in the Local Plan Review (submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2023) which sets out how all development will be

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expected to contribute to West Berkshire reaching net zero by including principles of climate change mitigation and adaptation. This policy is 'Policy SP5 Responding to Climate Change'.

- A Climate Change Service has been formed with a new Service Lead for Climate Change bringing together Countryside, Environment Delivery and Waste teams.

5.4 Whilst the Council is continuing to make progress following the 2019 declaration, there have also been recent proposals and motions seeking to amend and enhance the original wording. The proposals in this report focus on the amendments that are considered most appropriate at this point in the Council's journey to net zero.

### Proposals

5.5 There are three key areas for enhancement / amendment that are being proposed. These are each dealt with in the following paragraphs and can be summarised as:

- (a) adding the ecological emergency,
- (b) changing the language we use, and
- (c) clarifying our targets.

#### *Adding the ecological emergency*

5.6 It is proposed that the current climate emergency declaration is strengthened to reflect the need to protect and enhance West Berkshire's natural environment, wildlife, and biodiversity. This could be achieved by amending our existing climate emergency declaration to a 'climate and ecological emergency'. The ecological and climate emergencies are closely linked and to solve one we must address the other. The Environment Strategy and Delivery Plan have already taken steps to protect our District's natural environment. Changing the declaration to specifically mention the ecological emergency will reinforce the Council's commitment and raise awareness of the importance of protecting all aspects of the natural environment.

5.7 A range of evidence exists which provides reasons for why this is important. The 2019 [State of Nature](#) report shows that 41% of UK species have decreased in abundance in the last 50 years and around 15% of UK species are threatened with extinction. West Berkshire has biodiversity of significant importance including 51 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 500 local wildlife sites (11% of the District) and three Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) which are of international importance. Improving nature also contributes to creating a strong economy and improves the health and wellbeing of residents.

#### *Changing the language we use from 'carbon neutral' to 'net zero'*

5.8 The 2019 declaration of the climate emergency makes use of the term 'carbon neutrality' as the aim of the Council and for West Berkshire as a District. There are other terms that are used nationally, and by other organisations relating to managing and reducing

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carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The use of different terminology and interchanging terms can lead to confusion.

- 5.9 The Environment Delivery Team, set up as a result of the Climate emergency declaration, have revisited terms used to describe actions around carbon and GHGs. This aims to reset and clarify terminology to members, officers, residents, businesses and community groups and support effective and accurate communication.
- 5.10 Based on research, a separate briefing paper has been prepared which outlines several key definitions and how these definitions relate to the Council's activity at a Council and District wide level. This will be communicated separately. In relation to the climate emergency declaration wording, it is proposed to amend the carbon/GHG terminology used and provide clarity on the actual approach the Council has adopted on carbon and GHGs.
- 5.11 Currently the climate emergency declaration uses 'carbon neutrality'. It is proposed to amend this and use 'net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (operational)' or 'net zero' for short.
- 5.12 'Carbon neutrality' means balancing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by offsetting – or removing from the atmosphere – an equivalent amount of carbon for the amount produced. This means a commitment to carbon neutral does not require a commitment to reduce overall emissions. In contrast, a commitment to 'net zero carbon' / 'net zero GHG' / 'net zero' means making changes to reduce carbon or GHG emissions to the lowest amount – and offsetting as a last resort. The definition of net zero that is being proposed relates to operational carbon and not whole life carbon which would include calculating all the emissions from materials and the manufacturing and construction period, operational use and the disposal of buildings and infrastructure. There is not an agreed approach to measure this therefore operational carbon emissions is where the focus is for purposes of the Council's reporting.
- 5.13 Proposing this change to using the term 'net zero' will bring the Council in line with Government and business terminology

### *Clarification on targets*

- 5.14 Since the declaration of the climate emergency in 2019, there has been a growing distinction between actions that the Council can take to reduce the impact from its own operations and activities and those actions that can seek to influence and affect the net zero journey for the District as a whole.
- 5.15 Data showing progress for both are reported separately within the Environment Strategy Annual Progress Reports. The control that West Berkshire Council has in each of these cases is very different. It is therefore proposed that the amended declaration clarifies the targets that West Berkshire Council is focused on. These are:
- Achieving net zero by 2030 for the Council's operations and activities
  - Facilitating, influencing, promoting and encouraging a reduction in emissions across West Berkshire to enable net zero to be achieved as soon as practicable for the District

5.16 This recognises that there are factors affecting the District emissions that are outside the control of the Council. However, there is a key role for the Council to play in demonstrating climate action leadership and using its position to bring about action within communities and amongst businesses.

## 6 Supporting Information

6.1 Research has been carried out into how other authorities have dealt with the ecological emergency alongside their declarations of a climate emergency. Some feedback relating to this can be found in Appendix A.

6.2 Research was also undertaken to ensure that the terminology used for the Council's work on Climate Change was correct, consistent and in line with language used nationally. An internal reference document relating to this has been prepared to guide Officers and Members and help achieve consistency across the Council.

6.3 A motion was submitted to the Full Council meeting held on 20 July 2023. The full motion can be found at Appendix B. Part of this motion calls for the Council to declare an 'ecological emergency'. The proposals in this report and the motion submitted by Councillor Culver were discussed at the Environment Advisory Group Open Forum meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023. As part of the discussion, it was proposed that as well as declaring the ecological emergency the essence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> point in Councillor Culver's motion should be incorporated into the enhanced declaration. This point from the motion reads:

*Work with residents and campaign groups to encourage action for nature, by promoting initiatives like #NoMowMay, the planting of trees, the installation of bird boxes, the creation of hedgehog highways, and so on, using council communication channels and public education opportunities.*

## 7 Options for consideration

7.1 There are two main options for consideration:

(a) The Climate Declaration made in July 2019 remains unchanged.

(b) The July 2019 Declaration is enhanced to reflect the importance of the ecological emergency and to bring it up to date in terms of language and targets based on the experience of the Council over the last 4 years.

7.2 There are no clear benefits to option (a). If this was chosen, the lack of the inclusion of the ecological emergency and the fact that language is used which is out of sync with how the Council is operating would cause frustration and confusion.

7.3 The preferred option is (b). It ensures our work on improving biodiversity is recognised as important through declaring the ecological emergency and provides the opportunity for updates and clarity where it has been highlighted as necessary.

## 8 Proposals

8.1 The explanation for the proposed changes has been provided in section 5. The proposed declaration of a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' is as follows:

The Council notes that:

1. All levels of government (national, regional, and local) have a responsibility to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown. It is important for the residents of West Berkshire and the UK that we commit to working towards Net Zero as quickly as possible.
2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be of utmost urgency.
3. The current rate of habitat degradation and loss of biodiversity within West Berkshire and the UK is likely to be having a detrimental impact and needs to be prevented.
4. Bold climate and ecological action can deliver social and economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings, and improved health and wellbeing but will also require changes in individuals' lifestyles and have a cost implication to both the individual and the state.

West Berkshire Council therefore:

- Declares a Climate and Ecological Emergency
- Will take action to reduce emissions from its operations and activities in order to achieve Net Zero by 2030
- Will continue to revise and deliver on our strategic plan for West Berkshire that aims to facilitate and influence the achievement of Net Zero for the District as soon as practicable.
- Will ensure the ecological emergency is highlighted alongside our climate action to maximise benefits.
- Calls on HM Government to provide the Council with the powers and resources to make the achievement of our Climate and Ecological targets possible.
- Will work with other authorities and external stakeholders and residents to determine and implement where practicable to best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C and to act for nature to protect the environment within West Berkshire and beyond.

8.2 There are some specific actions proposed alongside the enhanced declaration that particularly pick up on the 'ecological emergency' element. As well as the motion to Council (detailed in 6.3) being picked up in the last bullet point of the proposed new declaration, it is further re-enforced in the list of actions below. Executive will therefore be asked to consider the following:

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- Ensure the Environment Strategy and the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan emphasise the importance of ecological protection alongside Net Zero.
  - Work with local authorities and other partners in the development of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Berkshire ensuring the opportunities for biodiversity protection and recovery in West Berkshire are maximised.
  - Introduce a 'Sustainability impact assessment tool'. This will ensure ecological, climate and other sustainability priorities such as health and wellbeing are at the forefront of the decision making and project planning processes within the Council.
  - Develop a Green and Blue Infrastructure framework for the Council to highlight our priorities for ensuring the environment is managed for biodiversity and our residents.
  - Work with residents and campaign groups to encourage action for nature, by promoting relevant initiatives using council communication channels and public education opportunities.
- 8.3 The above actions will form part of the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan. Monitoring of progress will be included in the Annual Progress Reports published each autumn.

## 9 Conclusion

- 9.1 Over the last 4 years, the Council has been delivering projects and taking action in response to the declaration of the climate emergency. With greater knowledge and experience in this area, there are some changes proposed that will result in an enhanced declaration.
- 9.2 The most significant change proposed is the addition of the ecological emergency which recognises the decline there has been in nature and the importance of the work we need to do to bring about nature recovery. The other changes enable clarity of both terms used and targets for delivery.
- 9.3 The recommendations in section 2 and the full proposal detailed in section 8 highlight the importance of the natural environment alongside tackling climate change and reduce any confusion around how West Berkshire is working towards net zero. The new proposed declaration for 2023 will bring greater focus for the remainder of the period of the Environment Strategy up to 2030 and beyond.
- 9.4 Appendix A – How other Councils have dealt with the ecological emergency
- 9.5 Appendix B – Motion by Councillor Culver to Council 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

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### Background Papers:

None

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**Subject to Call-In:**

Yes:  No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees or Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

**Wards affected:** The proposals are District-wide

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### How other Councils have dealt with the ecological emergency

The research below has helped to inform proposals in this report. It relates to how other Councils have considered the ecological emergency in their declarations.

#### Ecological Emergency

- [South Oxfordshire District Council](#): Ecological Emergency declared 11/02/21 which builds on the Climate Emergency declared in April 2019. Actions:
  - Renamed the Climate Emergency advisory committee to Climate and Ecological Emergencies advisory committee
  - Add ecological impact implications alongside those for climate and sustainability in committee and council reports.
  - Ensure the climate and ecological emergencies are considered strategic priorities for planning policy and design guides for new development.
  - Establish a biodiversity steering group.
  - Set measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase, in both species and quantities.
  - Work with partners to develop the nature recovery networks and nature recovery strategy for Oxfordshire.
  - Look for opportunities to work in partnership with local charities and environmental organisations to deliver nature recovery in South Oxfordshire
  - Develop a district wide Tree Planting Policy and Strategy, including having Member Tree Champions, to support nature protection and recovery and carbon sequestration
  - Build on the work of the Thames Champion to improve the ecology of the Thames and its banks and flood plains, a hugely important habitat in our District
  - Ensure the Strategic Property Review considers opportunities for biodiversity enhancements and tree planting on Council landholdings
  - Investigate new approaches to nature recovery such as habitat banking that deliver biodiversity objectives and provide new investment opportunities
  - Embed climate action and ecological initiatives within all council work areas, including COVID-19 recovery projects and programmes.
- [Bristol City Council](#): In February 2020 Bristol City Council declared an Ecological Emergency. Vision: *From today, we will work together as a city to ensure that 30% of Bristol's land is managed for nature. We will create space for nature, and unite to find new, fair and inclusive ways to reduce and eliminate the threats to habitats and wildlife. Together we will take action for nature so that both people and wildlife can benefit.* They developed an ecological emergency [strategy](#) for the city. In response

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to the strategy they then produced an ecological emergency [action plan](#). The strategy has four main goals to support nature recovery by 2030:

- 30% of land in Bristol to be managed for the benefit of wildlife
  - To reduce the use of pesticides in Bristol by at least 50%
  - For all waterways to have excellent water quality which supports healthy wildlife
  - To reduce the consumption of products that undermine the health of wildlife and ecosystems around the world.
- [South Cambridgeshire District Council](#): In July 2019 South Cambridgeshire recognised both a climate and ecological emergency. They agreed to support the aim of doubling nature in South Cambridgeshire through the [doubling nature strategy](#) which sits alongside the sister document South Cambridgeshire's zero carbon strategy. *Vision: Our vision is to double nature in South Cambridgeshire by 2050 and, in so doing, enable wildlife and people to thrive and businesses to prosper, this means more wildlife rich habitats, an increase in tree canopy cover and better accessibility to green space.*
  - [Bath and North East Somerset Council](#): An ecological emergency was declared in July 2020. In response to this they produced an action plan. *Vision: Our vision is to be nature positive as an organisation by 2030. This means that B&NES Council will be making a positive contribution to nature recovery, with all parts of the council integrating the response to the Ecological Emergency into their decision-making. It will also mean that we are taking a regional and national lead in responding to the Ecological Emergency, working in step with communities and partners across the district to restore nature.* The actions follow the following themes:
    - Mainstreaming nature recovery in leadership and decision-making
    - Increasing the extent of land and waterways managed positively for nature
    - Increasing investment into nature-based solutions and wildlife-friendly interventions
    - Increasing the abundance and distribution of key species across B&NES
    - Enabling more people to access and engage with nature
    - Improving our evidence base and monitoring
    - Working in partnership

## A combined climate and ecological emergency

- [Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole \(BCP\) Council](#): A Climate and ecological emergency was declared in July 2019. No wording to indicate how biodiversity is being tackled as everything seems to be focused on climate change.
- [Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council](#): In June 2019 an environment and climate emergency was declared. *Vision: Our vision is to be a Borough where the community collectively works together to achieve a sustainable future, protecting and enhancing our natural environment and achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.* The Environment and Climate Strategy focuses on four key themes:

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- Circular Economy: More sustainable resource use, increasing recycling rates and supporting less resource-intensive lifestyles.
  - Energy: Reducing consumptions and decarbonising our supply of energy.
  - Natural Environment: Supporting biodiversity, health and wellbeing.
  - Transport: Reduce the need for carbon intensive travel by encouraging walking and cycling, as well as investing in digital infrastructure.
- [Brighton and Hove City Council](#): Declared a climate and biodiversity emergency in December 2018.

## Changing climate emergency to incorporate ecological emergency

- [Herefordshire Council](#): In March 2019 Herefordshire Council declared a climate emergency, this was then strengthened to a 'Climate and ecological emergency' in December 2019.
- [Dorset Council](#): Declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and updated it to a climate and ecological emergency in November 2019.

## Appendix B

### Motions submitted for debate at the Council meeting on 20 July 2023

#### (a) The following Motion has been submitted in the name of Councillor Culver:

This council **notes**:

The UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world.

The explicit and commendable reference to 'biodiversity' in the relevant portfolio holder's job title.

Many local authorities have declared an ecological emergency as well as a climate emergency.

This council's officers have assisted wildlife by reducing verge cutting, planting wildflowers and supporting the Lockdown Woods project.

The Environment Act includes an obligation for local authorities to publish a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

This council's sole ecologist left in June.

We can all help to protect and restore the natural world and any positive action, large or small, should be encouraged.

The draft Local Plan is being revisited by the current council administration.

This council **resolves**:

To recognise the precarious state of the natural world by declaring an ecological emergency.

To recruit a new ecologist urgently, and ideally more than one, to ensure a.) planning applications are examined by a trained ecologist and b.) the council has an appropriate expert who can liaise with Windsor and Maidenhead Council to fulfil the collective responsibility of local authorities in Berkshire to create a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Work with residents and campaign groups to encourage action for nature, by promoting initiatives like #NoMowMay, the planting of trees, the installation of bird boxes, the creation of hedgehog highways, and so on, using council communication channels and public education opportunities.

Undertake the green infrastructure work promised under the current Local Plan 2012-2026 including mapping and categorisation of all public open spaces to form the basis of a current state assessment of all council managed lands.