

COUNCIL
24 April 2024
Motions for consideration by Council

(a) Proposed by Councillor Mike Croker

The Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 21 March 2024. It is a vital, new, cross-party proposal, drafted by world-leading scientists, to ensure that the UK plays its full role in tackling biodiversity loss and climate change. Its second reading is tabled for 17 May 2024.

Though the UK has a record of environmental legislation, from the Climate Change Act 2008 to the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019, there is a gap between what is currently being delivered and what the Government needs to do to act in line with the latest science.

The CAN Bill would require that the UK:

- Makes its fair share of emissions cuts necessary to limit the increase in global temperatures to 1.5°C (the more ambitious end of the Paris Agreement).
- Accounts for its entire carbon footprint wherever the emissions occur. This means taking real action on the emissions we cause overseas through the production, trade and transportation of the things we consume.
- Halts and reverses the decline of nature by 2030, in line with COP15 commitment. Protects and restores natural and managed ecosystems, for healthy soil and water, increased biodiversity and thriving natural carbon sinks.
- Takes responsibility for its harmful impacts on nature around the world. This means being honest about the damage to the environment caused by our financing, investments and consumption; making sure we reduce our global impact on natural resources.
- Creates a Climate & Nature Assembly that would put forward recommendations to Parliament for the strategy to achieve the above requirements.

Therefore Horsham District Council:

1. Declares its full support for the Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill;
2. Undertakes to write to both MPs with constituencies that contain Horsham District Council wards to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CAN Bill, or thank them for already doing so;
3. Will write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Horsham District Council's support (councils@zerohour.uk).

(b) Proposed by Councillor Dennis Livingstone

We as members of this council have been elected to represent our areas based on the opinions and policies we put to our residents during the election period. However, not all agreed with us and I know many even at the last council election voted for other candidates representing other parties. With our First Past the Post election (FPTP) system these voters are now possibly under represented.

The council and its elected members strive to treat all our residents fairly, so a fairer voting system of Proportional Representation (PR) will ensure at elections all votes count and that seats won match the votes cast. The seats can be allocated in proportion to the votes cast by our residents.

PR is needed especially in local authority elections to ensure the elected members represent and reflect the communities that have elected them. This will lead to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.

Our electorate should have a fairer system for elections where they can recognise that their individual votes will count and PR is such a system and is used widely around the world in other democratic countries.

PR is also the national policy for many political parties and is already used to elect parliament and assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It is also used for local elections in Scotland and Northern Ireland and it is a local option in Wales. It should now be extended to include English local elections.

This Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for local elections in England.