



Dorset Council's Climate Emergency 'Call for Ideas'

Friday 21st February 2020

Financing the Transition to Dorset's Low Carbon Economy

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**'If you are not part of the solution, you must be
a part of the problem'**

A simple idea :

- **I believe the public will more than willing to pay a small additional Council Tax precept towards Dorset Council staff costs needed to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency.**
- **Play to Dorset Council's strengths :**
- **Good staff recruitment and management systems in place.**
- **Already trusted and financed by the public to take care of our best interests in education, social care, infrastructure, planning and the environment.**
- **The over-riding issue for our future wellbeing is now clearly to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the shortest possible period.**

Details for further discussion :

- **The council tax precept should be increased by an average £3 per year (pro-rata council tax bands) and the proceeds ring-fenced to finance 8 new staff posts in a dedicated Climate Emergency Team (supplemented by existing staff in Dorset Council's current Sustainability Team)**
- **Council Tax payers should know full details of the new Climate Emergency Team roles and remit, i.e. what we are paying for.**
- **The Climate Emergency Team will be required to fully engage with the wider community, for example through quarterly meetings including representatives from local sustainability and environmental organisations.**

Details for further discussion (continued)

- **The Dorset Council Climate Emergency Team should be established at the earliest possible opportunity, following a vote taken at the next full council meeting.**
- **The motion to be discussed will include a proposal to utilise £400,000 from the Council's reserve funds to enable the recruitment of the Climate Emergency Team to start in May 2020, 12 months after Dorset Council declared a Climate Emergency.**
- **The ring-fenced Council Tax precept will be set at a level to raise £500,000 per year as from 1st April 2021. Of this sum £400,000 will be used to support the Climate Emergency Team posts on a stable financial basis and £100,000 per year used to repay the borrowing from the Council's reserves over the following 4 years.**

What type of roles could be included in the Climate Emergency team?

- A dedicated low carbon planning officer (eg to develop passive house standards for all new housing development , to offer specialist advice on renewable energy planning applications)
- A full-time Eco-Schools officer to support energy and climate education in Dorset schools
- A full- time community engagement officer to engage with, support and learn from the significant level of experience and expertise in the wider community
- A low carbon infrastructure officer to focus on developments likely to lead to large CO2 reductions and local job creation, starting with re-visiting the Navitus Bay offshore windfarm proposal, which would decarbonise the equivalent of the entire electricity supply in Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole
- One or more sustainable transport officers to help develop a greatly improved public transport network, cycle paths etc

Is this achievable?

Yes, you need look no further than the exemplar achievements of the current Dorset Council's Sustainability Team, who from a core budget of around £100,000 p.a. have secured £3m of external grant funding, matched by £3m of investment from local businesses and communities, delivered over £6m of new low carbon developments, created substantial local employment opportunities and 3 additional posts within Dorset Council, externally funded through the project.



Thank you for your attention

Any questions?