

To Dorset Councillors

20 January 2021

Dear Councillor X

Greetings.

We make bold to send you – attached – a narrative version of the formal response that Dorset Climate Action has submitted to your Council's draft Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

We applaud the sustained effort that Councillors and officers have given to the production of this wide and detailed policy. We welcome the focus on partnership between the Council and other interests in the County, and the proposals for Making it Happen.

However, we believe that the timetable proposed in the Strategy, with 2040 as the end-date for the Council's own action to cut carbon emissions and 2050 for other stakeholders, grossly under-estimates the true emergency facing the world and this country. **We are calling on the Council to think again, and to fix 2030 as the date by which the whole county should achieve zero carbon emissions and broadly reverse the loss of wildlife.**

In support of that view, we attach also a letter from the independent group Scientists Warning Europe, which states graphically why high urgency should be applied by all local authorities and others to address this global crisis. **Some neighbouring County Councils, including Wiltshire and Cornwall, have set 2030 as the target date for zero carbon.**

We recognise the massive challenge of stimulating action by all stakeholders within that ambitious timetable. We stand ready to contribute to the partnership that will be needed. Our Network is newly formed, but we have a rapidly growing membership of community organisations and of towns and parish councils across the county, who are keen to take action locally. As a Councillor, you will know the high potential – and often the high desire – for local action to tackle this great challenge.

Our response has been shaped by intense debate within our network, and is co-signed by many organisations and networks, with a membership totalling over 3500 plus many affiliated organisations.

We have asked the Leader of the Council for the opportunity to meet the Council at senior level to debate the implications of the radical shift in gear that we are advocating.

Kind regards

Michael Dower

Belinda Bawden

Rob Waitt

Dorset CAN action team members