

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT****ENERGY CRUNCH**

Insert a new fourth paragraph and two additional final paragraphs, six and seven, as shown in bold, along with the insertion of minor textual changes shown in bold in paragraphs 3 and 5, such that the motion would read:

ENERGY CRUNCH

“This Council notes with grave concern the Government’s predictions in the “UK Low Carbon Transition Plan” that they are expecting power cuts equivalent to three thousand megawatt hours a year by 2017. This is equivalent to a million people seeing the lights go out for 15 minutes at peak time on twenty-four winter evenings a year by 2017. This will have a serious and detrimental impact on both residents and businesses in Brighton & Hove.

Furthermore, this Council notes that North Sea gas supply peaked in 1999, since when the flow has fallen by half and by 2015 it will have dropped by two-thirds. By 2015 four of Britain’s ten nuclear power stations will have shut and no new ones are likely to be ready for years after that. Of a total UK generating capacity of around 75 Gigawatts, estimates suggest that between 20 and 32 Gigawatts will disappear by 2015.

This Council **notes that measures must be taken nationally and locally to increase our energy security and** regrets the lack of foresight and planning by the Government **and the Council itself** in addressing these putative shortfalls. For the last decade it has been known that:

- UK nuclear plants were reaching the end of their planned life
- The most polluting coal-fired power stations would need to be closed
- We continue to lag well behind most of our European neighbours in exploiting renewable resources.

This Council believes that nationally the Government must:

- **bring forward a massive energy efficiency programme for existing building stock – beyond the limited Community Energy Saving Programme – and bring forward the timetable for making new developments zero carbon through the Building Regulations;**
- **direct public and private investment towards a significant programme of renewable energy technologies (such as such as wind, solar, wave and tidal which produce low or zero carbon emissions and are not reliant on fuel supplies from less politically stable countries or regions) and decentralised energy networks;**

- **rule out a programme of new nuclear power stations, recognising that they will not be built in time to address either the energy crunch or the climate crisis, and that they will divert investment away from decentralised, renewable technologies;**
- **undertake regulatory reform for the energy market to provide genuine incentives for energy companies and consumers to save energy and generate their own.**

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change **outlining the views of the Council expressed above** and asking him what steps are being taken to address this vital issue for the residents of Brighton & Hove and the rest of the UK.
- **Request that the Cabinet considers bringing forward a report outlining potential measures that could be introduced locally by the Council to address the energy crunch, including but not limited to:**
 - **a significantly increased scheme of retrofitted insulation and low/zero carbon energy-generating technologies for the city's existing domestic and commercial building stock;**
 - **the tightening of local planning requirements for energy efficiency and low/zero carbon technologies in new developments, partly through the adoption of higher minimum BREEAM or Code for Sustainable Homes standards;**
 - **the development of Energy Service Companies for the city;**
 - **the development of decentralised energy networks, such as district heating schemes, to reduce reliance on inefficient national supply networks;**
 - **speeding up the delivery of the Council's Carbon Management Programme to reduce the Council's own energy demands;**
 - **providing support for residents, local businesses and other Council partners to help them become more energy efficient, and less reliant on insecure, inefficient centralised energy supplies.**
- **Request that the Cabinet considers making an application for funding from the new £10m Low Carbon Communities Challenge programme to support any such measure(s)."**

Proposed by: Cllr Paul Steedman Seconded by: Councillor Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett