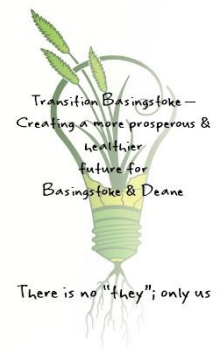


Basingstoke Transition Network

Press Release 14th May 2020 – In response to the climate emergency BTN calls on the Council to work with it on the Local Plan update.



Across Basingstoke our climate is breaking down. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council has declared a climate emergency and has promised to make Basingstoke carbon neutral by 2030.

Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) has today sent to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) a climate emergency response submission for inclusion in the 2023 Borough Local Plan Update.

The current Local Plan expires in 2029 but the Council is working on an update to go live in Summer 2023. Martin Biermann of BTN says “The current Plan does not reflect the urgency of reducing borough carbon dioxide (CO₂) output to net zero by 2030; nor does it reflect the Horizon 2050 aspiration that *“As far as possible the borough will generate its own energy from renewable resources and consume its own waste”*. “

We, in Basingstoke, are responsible for 1.4 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year, mostly from burning fossil fuels. BTN’s submission lists six initiatives for reducing this staggering figure and protecting our environment:

1. Ensure the impact of all council decisions on climate change are assessed prior to any decision being made.
2. Set clear annual targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and make the Council leader and CEO responsible for achieving them.
3. Improve energy efficiency by insulating existing buildings, insisting that all new buildings are zero-carbon, and replacing all existing oil- or gas-fired heating with renewable-fuelled systems such as heat pumps and bio-methane fired boilers.
4. Investing in renewable energy generation and storage (solar PV, wind, anaerobic digestion and hydro-electricity, batteries and hydrogen) to eliminate the Borough’s dependence on fossil-fuel power stations elsewhere in the country.
5. Get transport emissions down by encouraging public transport, making walking and cycling easier, for more people, and facilitating electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles.
6. Enhancing biodiversity to make our farming and forestry more effective and proof against ecological shocks, e.g. planning for wildflowers and blossoming trees to feed pollinating insects, and for natural pest controllers such as bats, hedgehogs and ladybirds.

Martin Heath, BTN, points out that all these measures will promote health and wellbeing in the Borough. He says “We have an opportunity to make Basingstoke a place truly to be proud of - a place that has the best environment possible and a place that has stepped up to its responsibilities to care for and nurture its people, and its natural environment”.

He says “the Council must live up to its climate emergency promise to “Ensure local people are able to contribute to the formulation and scrutiny of the strategic actions needed to address the environment and climate emergency”.

He concludes: “All of this takes political will and courage. But, more importantly, it means each of us steps up and takes responsibility for resolving the emergency we face. BTN and its members are prepared to make this step.”

We call on the Council to work with us in ensuring the Local Plan creates the sustainable, thriving and clean borough that all of us, that live here, want.

Notes

Basingstoke Transition Network is a group of local people that promote making better use of all our local resources in Basingstoke & North Hampshire– people, materials, energy and food – though example, education, publicity, and facilitation of projects.

All full copy of our Local Plan Submission can be found at:

www.basingstoketransition/localplan2020

Local Plan Update process is at: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/LDS

Horizon 2050 vision document:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/content/page/61894/Horizon%202050%20-%20A%20vision%20for%20the%20future%20of%20Basingstoke%20and%20Deane%20revised%20May%202019.pdf>



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