

Agenda Item: 7b

Motion by Councillor N Unsworth – Supporting the Environment Bill commitment to better Air Quality in Braintree District

Report to: Council

Date: 13th December 2021

Key Decision: No

Decision Planner Ref No: N/A

Amendment Proposed by: Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt

Amendment Seconded by: Councillor John McKee

Enquiries to: Kim Cole, Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer

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1. Constitution provisions

- 1.1 Further to the publication of the Council Agenda, Councillor Mrs Wendy Schmitt and Councillor John McKee proposed and seconded an Amendment to the Motion. The Amendment was submitted in accordance with Rule 12:20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.
- 1.2 The Proposer and Seconder of the Motion have declined to consent to the Amendment. Consequently, the Amendment is to be debated by Full Council.
- 1.3 Before the Amendment can be debated by Full Council, the Motion as submitted by Councillor Unsworth is required to be moved and seconded. Before Full Council debates the Motion, Councillor Mrs Schmitt will be invited to set out the Amendment.
- 1.4 If the Amendment is carried when put to the vote, the Motion as amended will be the Substantive Motion for debate.
- 1.5 In the event that the Proposer and Seconder (or a Member nominated as such) of the Motion is not present at the meeting, the Motion will be declared by the Chairman of the Council has having failed, consequently the Amendment will automatically fall.

2. Amendment to Motion

2.1 The proposed Amendment to the Motion is set out below in paragraph 2.2 and seeks to add and delete text of the Motion. The deleted text is red and struck through and the inserted text is in purple. At paragraph 2.3 is the Motion edited to show the effect of the Amendment.

2.2 With the passing of the Environment Bill, Council welcomes and fully supports the commitment in this new legislation to improving the environment in every part of the United Kingdom.

Council notes that the Environment Bill focuses on Air Quality as one of its key priorities for environmental targets.

Council also notes that in its Adopted Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, it is committed to:

"Review our current air quality monitoring to ensure that it continues to monitor high risk pollutants and locations and take appropriate action"

Council agrees that in order to effectively deliver its duty to monitor and improve air quality, it is vital to develop an Air Quality monitoring regime that provides a network of modern effective detectors across the district.

Represents a significant technological advancement; Improves the scope of monitoring to include NOx, CO, SO2, O3 and small particles (PM 2.5 & PM 10) with accuracy certified to the correct standards; Makes data more openly available so as to help the public make informed decisions about their air quality:

Helps the Council make informed strategic and planning decisions; Enables Braintree District Council to notify Essex County Council of areas where 'standards and objectives' cannot be achieved in accordance with the Environment Bill.

And recommends the review also considers a system that: Can be remotely accessed so as to minimise detector visits; Does not require laboratory-based analysis of samples; Makes air quality data available in real time.

Council re-affirms this commitment and calls upon the Cabinet Member to implement any affordable changes that might be required following such a review.

2.3 To assist Members, the proposed Amended Motion is set out below:

With the passing of the Environment Bill, Council welcomes and fully supports the commitment in this new legislation to improving the environment in every part of the United Kingdom.

Council notes that the Environment Bill focuses on Air Quality as one of its key priorities for environmental targets.

Council also notes that in its Adopted Climate Change Strategy Action Plan, it is committed to:

"Review our current air quality monitoring to ensure that it continues to monitor high risk pollutants and locations and take appropriate action"

Council re-affirms this commitment and calls upon the Cabinet Member to implement any affordable changes that might be required following such a review.