

## **Motion for traffic carbon emission reduction**

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council:

Declared a climate emergency in 2019 and continue to develop and implement policies across council functions to reduce its carbon footprint, with a low carbon growth strategy.

It is important that the council now recognises:

That until all energy supply comes from sustainable renewable sources even a rapid transition to electric vehicles is not enough on its own to reduce carbon emission sufficiently to protect us from excess levels of climate change as reported by Friends of the Earth. If the predicted growth in electric vehicles as reported in an article by Thompson Reuters is correct, we could see a 300 fold increase in demand of electricity consumption by 2040.

That increasing road capacity encourages more vehicles and thereby increases the release of damaging greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. Conversely greater investment in publicly owned, clean energy public transport significantly reduces traffic congestion and pollutants.

That more vehicles negatively impact the health of our residents by traffic carbon emissions and figures for respiratory diseases in Southend was considerably higher than the national average in the public health report of 2018/19 prior to COVID 19.

Recently a coroner in South London changed the death certificate for a child to state that she had died as a result of traffic related air pollution. Locally increases in air pollution can impact respiratory illnesses, heart disease and lung cancer with cars contributing 25% of the nitrogen dioxide.

Rather than being anti car we should seek to support sustainable car use and protect the health of Southends population with particular attention to the impact of air quality on our developing children.

To further support Southends low carbon growth and green city status the council resolves to:

Draw on Friends of the earth actions for local authorities and set a locally led carbon reduction target that includes reducing traffic a minimum of 20% by

- Increasing incentives for cycle to work using an improved cycle network, and trial low cost or free use of ebikes for key workers and job seekers.
- Giving greater parking concessions to car club vehicles.
- Providing transport and delivery hubs while increasing the opportunity for cargo bike deliveries and to move to electric vehicles across the Council fleet & contractors as soon as possible.

- Setting local planning requirements for all new developments to provide sufficient EV charging points and source renewable energy supplies.

and

- Working with local businesses to provide incentives for visitors to access Southend by public transport.
- To continue to lobby government and identify opportunities to work with the fossil fuel industry to promote a just transition to renewable energy including a local supply.

Proposed by: Councillor Kay Mitchell  
Councillor Stephen George  
Councillor Peter Wexham