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My Ref: GH/DLH

1 July 2019

The Rt. Honourable Theresa May, MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London, SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you as leader of Teignbridge District Council to impress upon you the urgency of the climate change debate, and show commitment to leading the change required to help ensure our environment remains sustainable in the future.

All elected members of Teignbridge District Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency at Full Council on 18 April 2019.

In Teignbridge we have a large community that wishes to take action but are looking for support and backing from central government.

As a district authority we are showing local leadership by making sure our own house is in order. We have committed to reduce our environmental impact through our own waste management strategies, energy consumption plans and implementing new working practices that reduce our carbon footprint.

We are working with our private and public sector colleagues in Devon to shape policy locally and will continue to work with other partners within the voluntary sector to effect positive change.

Taking this action will have a positive effect not only on our environment but also on our economy and so I am asking that government considers some actions to take that will address the climate emergency.

I am now appealing to you to help us by:

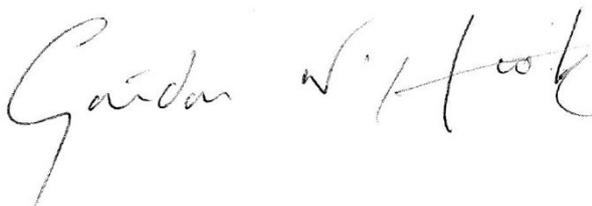
1. Putting climate change impact at the heart of government policy, regulation and investment decisions including setting explicit decarbonisation objectives for Ofgem.
2. Announcing a commitment to deploy 45 GW of new renewable electricity capacity by 2032. This could be achieved with continued support for offshore wind and the removal of the artificial barriers to onshore wind and solar.
3. Bringing forward the commitment to ban the sale of new diesel and petrol vehicles to a more meaningful date of 2030.
4. Regulating for net-zero targets for all new homes and commercial buildings.
5. Bringing aviation and marine into the UK's climate change targets and commit to a reduction in aviation emissions.

Making a healthy and desirable place where people want to live, work and visit

6. Committing to extending the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme beyond its current end date of 2021 to accelerate the uptake of low carbon heating technology.
7. Announcing a massively increased programme to incentivise the deployment of energy efficiency measures in UK homes and businesses, saving both carbon and energy costs.
8. Banning all new oil and gas production in the UK, including fracking.
9. Planting 700 million trees (70,000 hectares) per year, and improve grant schemes for small scale planting.
10. Introducing a Frequent Flyer Tax.
11. Rolling out free bus travel for young people and those on lower incomes.
12. Investing in new technologies to end carbon emissions from heavy industry like steel and cement.
13. Creating millions of jobs in a new green economy, with help for workers to transition their skills to the green economy.
14. Retrofitting our homes to go zero carbon, empowering and supporting local authorities to improve building efficiency and heat supply at a local level.
15. Radically changing the farming and food system to encourage a less meat-based diet, providing support to farming communities to make the shift to more sustainable production methods, whilst ensuring those on lower incomes have access to affordable, healthier, more sustainable food.
16. Backing these measures with industrial and skills training policies to equip UK businesses and workforces to deliver decarbonisation locally and compete in the global economy.
17. Rescinding the proposed increase in VAT on the installation of a renewable and sustainable energy sources and battery storage. This makes no sense when VAT on coal will remain at the lower rate.
18. Providing local government with a funding stream to deliver zero carbon initiatives and projects that support the Climate Emergency.

Our mission at Teignbridge is to make our district a healthy, more desirable place where people want to live, work and visit. Addressing the changing climate is one of the biggest challenges we all face. We are playing our part in leading the change locally and ask that you join us and contribute to the changes required nationally and globally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Hook', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Gordon Hook
Leader of the Council