

LABOUR: GREEN NEW DEAL

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Full Council notes:

1. The Paris Agreement, which recognises that we must keep global temperature rises below 1.5°C to prevent the worst effects of climate change; said accord's commitment by national governments to reduce carbon emissions, and Bristol City Council's commitments to a carbon neutral council by 2025 and carbon neutral city by 2030~~though by less than the ambitious targets set and brought forward by Bristol's Labour council – most recently to 2025.~~

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2. The Council's draft Local Plan's commitment to carbon neutral homes and development, together with successive investments ~~by Labour budgets~~ in renewable energy; lower-emissions vehicles ~~for the authority, waste company, and Lord Mayor~~; progress towards a new recycling and reuse centre at Hartcliffe Way; low-carbon heat networks to tackle fuel poverty; insulating 20,000 council properties; and the £1 billion City Leap energy transformation programme~~delivering renewable energy projects.~~

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3. The Climate Emergency, which Bristol institutions have been the first in the country to declare ~~and which Mayor Marvin Rees led 435 UK councils to declare via the Local Government Association~~; the climate protests sweeping this country including the youth strikes for climate and Extinction Rebellion ~~and the increasingly widespread calls for a transformative Green New Deal to tackle the challenges that face us.~~

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4. The Mayor's response to the Climate Emergency, published in July 2019, which outlines initial proposals for further carbon reduction including radical carbon neutrality action plan, the Mayor's speech on Clean Air Day, Bus Deal negotiations, the £1 billion City Leap energy transformation programme, progressing plans for an underground/overground mass transit system~~the~~, introduction of carbon budgeting, and establishment of the One City Environment Board, advised by the expert Advisory Group on Climate Change; ~~and the data set out within July's action plan, which shows that the city's consumption and imports make up ten times the emissions of aviation and shipping, and twice as much as electricity, gas, and transport.~~

5. The shadow Chancellor's plans to bring forward the Government's net-zero emissions target from 2050, invest £250 billion in a National Transformation Fund, ensure 60% of energy is from low or zero carbon sources by 2030, and raise research and development spending to 3% by of Gross Domestic Product by 2030.

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6. The concept of a 'Green New Deal', created in the UK by a multi-disciplinary group of experts in 2008 [1] and inspired by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal of the 1930s, which aims to decarbonise the economy and eradicate inequality through public investment, and the Decarbonisation and Economic Strategy Bill proposed in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP and Clive Lewis MP to enact it.

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Full Council believes:

1. ~~As set out repeatedly by the Labour administration,~~ Social and environmental justice must go hand-in-hand – especially given the poorest suffer first and most from climate change and that the richest have carbon footprints four times larger than those of the poorest; and that cities have an increasingly crucial role in delivering on both fronts, as set out in the Global Parliament of Mayors' Bristol Declaration of 2018.

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2. In the work being done by this council with partners to locally implement the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which recognise the interdependence of the Climate Emergency with simultaneous crises including poverty, housing, and health.

3. Deregulation and cuts to support for renewable energy by the Government have discouraged corporations away from reducing their dependence on dwindling and damaging fossil fuels.

4. A state-led green industrial revolution of investment, regulation, and partnerships would decarbonise and transform our economy, and limit global average temperature rises below 1.5°C.

5. Bristol's world-famous aerospace sector, the birthplace of Concorde, should be at the forefront of decarbonising the aviation industry – increasing fuel efficiency advances and further accelerating the development of hybrid/electric planes. However, as such technological developments are still many years away and the percentage of the UK's emissions from aircraft is predicted to rise steeply [2], in the meantime there should be a moratorium on any further expansion of passenger capacity at airports (including at Bristol Airport).

6. That while proper funding and legislation to tackle the Climate Emergency are urgently needed from Central Government, there are still a lot of things that local government can do to start tackling climate change right now, such as the '33 actions' suggested by Friends of the Earth. [3]

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Full Council resolves:

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1. To restate the urgency of the Climate Emergency, and welcome declarations from the LGA and the West of England Combined Authority ([WECA](#)).

2. To back the One City Plan, aligned with the UN's SDGs, and to work towards delivering the Green New Deal locally where possible, as below.

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3. To call on the Mayor/Council administration to begin a Green New Deal for Bristol by committing to actions, as proposed by the Green New Deal group [1] and Friends of the Earth [3], that are currently within its powers, including:

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- Ensure that every decision made by the Council is commensurate with the Climate Emergency and UN SDGs by contributing to reductions in both greenhouse gas emissions and inequality;

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- Use [hisits](#) influence on the multi-billion pound Avon Pension Fund to fully divest out of fossil fuels and into socially and environmentally beneficial investments such as renewable energy generation and low-carbon housebuilding, over the next five years;

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- Begin work on a Congestion Charge or Workplace Parking Levy to raise funds and support cleaner, cheaper public transport;

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- Oppose plans for new road capacity which inevitably leads to more traffic and carbon emissions;

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- Build dozens of miles of cycling freeways and quietways across Bristol – by funding the cycling and pedestrian strategies that will improve quality of life and make it easier for people to get out of their cars;

- Stronger Local Plan policies and Council property management policies to ensure all new residential and commercial developments on private and Council land are 'climate emergency-proof';

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- Work with WECA and North Somerset Council to prioritise the skills training and improve local supply chains to accelerate and enable the retrofitting for existing homes and buildings to become carbon neutral.

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34. To request that Party Group Leaders write to their respective national party leaders for their support with national legislation, regulation, devolution and investment to enable the Council to go beyond the immediate actions listed above and be part of a national Green New Deal carry out the other Green New Deal group [1] and Friends of the Earth [3] proposals, including, to include, enable the accelerated delivery of the Friends of the Earth asks and projects set out in 'Notes 4' together with the following local and national pledges which we would like to work towards and deliver:

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- a commitment to zero carbon emissions by 2030;
- the rapid phase-out of all fossil fuels and a low carbon transport integrated network for Bristol and the region; fossil fuel infrastructure;
- a low-carbon transport integrated network for the whole of the UK;
- steps to tackle tax evasion and avoidance (which the Green New Deal group proposes would provide part of the funding for such a deal);
- a real reduction in emissions from our local airport, rather than the increase of 2 million passengers a year proposed in their current planning application;
- insulating every home and commercial building;
- large scale investment in renewables;
- more sustainable and local food production;
- a 21st century strengthening of the commons - both natural and digital - to steward nature sustainably and ensure data and digital technologies are organised as a common resource and developed to meet our needs;
- a just transition to well-paid, unionised, green jobs available for all, with skills (re-)training and support for the jobs of the present and future, together with workers' cooperatives and mutuals;
- restructuring the economy and world of work through a green industrial strategy shaped by workers and communities, that drives for more meaningful jobs and an expansion of leisure time, revolution expanding active workers' engagement, representation and consultation and public, democratic ownership as far as necessary for the transformation, green public integrated transport that connects Britain;
- a reshaping and democratisation of the financial system to drive a step-change in investment and ensure its power serves the interests of people and planet;
- support developing countries' climate transitions by increasing transfers of finance, technology, and capacity;
- assuring empowered communities and everyone's basic rights through the provision of universal services;
- and welcoming climate refugees while taking measures against the displacement of peoples from their home cities and countries and how that further compounds political and social instability.

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References:

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1. <https://greennewdealgroup.org>

2. <https://www.ft.com/content/285d31c6-1fbc-11e9-b126-46fc3ad87c65>

3. <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/33-actions-local-authorities-can-take-climate-change>

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