

## Report of the Strategic Director

**RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT ON THE TEN POINT PLAN FOR A GREEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**1. Purpose of report

To seek approval for the response to Government on 'The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'.

2. Background

A report on the Government's 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' was presented to Environment and Climate Change Committee on the 1 February 2021.

Members considered the report and resolved that a written response to Government be prepared in relation to the Council's position on:

- Coal and Fossil Fuel Extraction
- Use of Nuclear Fuel
- Onshore Wind Technology
- Greener Housing Infrastructure
- Green Investment Banks
- Ethical Investments in Local Government Pension Funds

On account of the fact that the next Environment and Climate Change Committee would not be held until June 2021 it was proposed that the response be prepared and submitted for approval to the Policy and Performance Committee in March 2021.

The proposed response to be sent to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is shown at the appendix.

3. Financial implications

There are no financial implications.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the proposed response to Government outlining the Council's position on the Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution be approved.**

Background papers

Nil

**APPENDIX**

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Dear Mr Sharma MP

**RESPONSE TO 'THE TEN POINT PLAN FOR A GREEN INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION'**

In November 2020 the Government published 'The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'. The Prime Minister in his Foreword states that the plan will turn the UK into the world's number one centre for green technology and finance, laying the foundations for decades of economic growth by delivering zero emissions in a way that creates jobs and allows us to carry on living our lives.

The Council is extremely encouraged by the intention of the plan to significantly invest in infrastructure to address climate change. However, having considered the contents of the plan we feel that there are important issues which are either omitted from the plan or are of concern to us as elected representatives of our Community. The areas are outlined below.

Point 3 of the documents refers to increased usage of nuclear power as a source of low-carbon energy. It is the Council's position that nuclear power should not be used to underpin the national energy strategy. It is the Council's position that the £385 million Advanced Nuclear Fund earmarked for development in the nuclear field should instead be invested in opportunities for cleaner greener technologies, such as onshore wind, which appear to have been omitted from the plan as a consideration for energy provision. There are many inland areas suitable for this greener technology and we feel that this option should be a priority for exploration and investment rather than considering nuclear as a low carbon power source.

Point 7 of the plan relates to the topic of Greener Buildings. Whilst the plan makes reference to the availability of funds and practices aimed at making our homes and workplaces energy efficient the framework does not permit local authorities to go above and beyond the sustainability standards which would be set within the Planning framework. We feel that enabling local planning authorities to set higher environmental standards than the national framework sets the tone for local governance and responsibility which can only result in a positive outcome for our communities.

Whilst point 10 refers to the provenance of Green Finance and Innovation within the commercial sector the document makes no reference to expectations of local authorities with regards their investments. As part of the 'leading by example' agenda the plan should make local authority investment in low carbon technology, including pension fund investment, a key priority and oppose seeking investment and returns in anti-green carbon technology. Whilst we acknowledge this can currently be a local decision, direction and steer from Government carries the weight to ensure such matters are mandated. This will further help stimulate investment in low carbon green technology and help the shift away from non-green investments.

It is the Council's position that a Green Investment Bank should be established whose remit is to procure and invest solely in the green sector. Not only will this provide investors with the confidence that their funds are being invested ethically in green companies and technologies, but, will also present prospective investors with a clear and obvious choice for investing in green businesses.

Finally, the Council feels it must raise the issue of the recent decision to approve the deep coal mining in Cumbria. The Council's view is that the further extraction of fossil fuels should not be supported. The non-intervention by Government to stop this site receiving planning approval is contrary to its own position and the measures outlined within the Ten Point Plan aimed at reducing emissions and addressing climate change.

Our Council is extremely supportive of the green agenda having declared a climate emergency in 2019 and made a commitment to be net carbon zero by 2027. Whilst we welcome the commitment made by Government for investing in a greener future we feel there are areas which need further consideration and support if as a Country we are to meet our environmental targets and aspirations.

Yours Sincerely

Cllr M Radulovic

Leader of the Council

Cllr S Carr

Deputy Leader of the Council

Cllr R Jackson

Leader of the Conservative Party