

**Motion to:** Council

28 November 2023

**Subject:** Encouraging local councils to choose climate friendly banks

**Proposer:** Councillor Hoechner

**Seconder:** Councillor Champion

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Currently Norwich City Council, alongside many other councils regionally and nationally, relies on Barclays for its banking operations. Barclays is Europe's biggest funder of fossil fuels.

Despite a nominal commitment to net zero and the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Barclays has continued to increase its funding for the fossil fuel industry since 2016 and poured billions of dollars into companies active across the fossil fuel life cycle. This includes key oil, gas and coal companies expanding fossil fuel exploitation.

The number of providers of banking services to the local government sector is very limited. But what is more, current procurement legislation does not allow local councils to take into account the makeup and associated carbon footprint of a bank's investments when choosing their banking partner. This means councils are unable to take into account carbon reduction in a meaningful way when procuring banking services, and continue to hand over citizens' money to financial institutions that bankroll climate breakdown. Many local councils, including Norwich City Council in 2019, have declared a 'Climate Emergency'. It is essential that they have the right to switch to a climate friendly bank as part of addressing this emergency.

Council **RESOLVES** to;

- 1) ask the Leader of Norwich City Council to write to the national government asking them to review current procurement legislation to enable net zero compatible banking by local councils
- 2) ask the Leader of Norwich City Council to write to the leaderships of all opposition parties in parliament asking them to commit to reviewing current procurement legislation to enable net zero compatible banking by local councils if they come to power in the next elections; and
- 3) work with relevant bodies, including the Local Government Association, to address existing challenges to net zero compatible banking by local councils in relevant policy fora.

- 4) write to all major banks to highlight concerns about the role of the banking sector in contributing to climate breakdown through fossil fuel investments, and to demand that they immediately stop all investments in companies active across the fossil fuel life cycle.
- 5) request information from all major banks about their exposure to fossil fuels resulting from their investment portfolios.
- 6) Signpost to residents on the Norwich City Council Website, and on Norwich City Council social media, resources to assist them in making informed choices on who they bank with, with particular reference to ethical considerations, including fossil fuel exposure.