

Motion to: Council

24 September 2024

Subject: Endorsing calls for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

Proposer: Councillor Hampton

Seconder: Councillor Stonard

This council notes that:

- 1) The scientific consensus is clear that fossil fuels are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change
- 2) Norwich, the UK and the entire global community will be impacted by the climate crisis. Vulnerable communities, and those who have contributed the least to climate change, will often be impacted most acutely.
- 3) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report states that it is unequivocal that climate change has already disrupted human and natural systems, and that societal choices and actions implemented in the next decade will be pivotal when it comes to avoiding the most damaging impacts of the climate crisis.
- 4) The International Energy Agency stated in its May 2021 report "Net Zero by 2050" that to reach that goal there should be no new oil or gas fields, or new coal mines, as of that moment.
- 5) The new Labour government was elected on a manifesto pledging to ban on new oil and gas exploration licenses and increase windfall taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers.
- 6) The Paris Climate Agreement is silent on the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs. Global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce more than double the amount of coal, oil and gas by 2030 than can be burned if the world is to limit warming to 1.5°C. This will need to be addressed by other means.
- 7) A new global initiative is underway calling for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that would plan the end of new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the global commitment to limit warming to 1.5°C and accelerate equitable transition plans globally.
- 8) This Treaty has already been endorsed by thirteen nation states, as well as over 100 councils, 3000 organisations and 900,000 individuals.

This council believes that:

- 9) New fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels.
- 10) The economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction.
- 11) The transition away from fossil fuels must be a socially, economically and environmentally just one: ensuring benefits are kept in communities, providing opportunities for secure, unionised green jobs and ensuring the cost of living and other crises people face are not exacerbated.
- 12) Norwich City Council has an important role in local decarbonisation, leading by example with its own operations and estate as well as working with partners – including Norwich Climate Commission, anchor institutions, businesses and community networks – on citywide action. But transformative national and international policy change is required to see progress on the scale required.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) Formally endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make that endorsement public.
- 2) Call on the UK government to also endorse the call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty; and
- 3) Reaffirm our commitment to rapidly decarbonising our economy at a local and national level.