

Tackling the Climate Emergency in the North West

Passed at Spring 2020 Conference in Southport, 15 February 2020.

1. **Conference commends** Federal Policy Paper 139 “Tackling the Climate Emergency” and recognises the relevance of our Party’s ambitious but realistic goals to forthcoming debates ahead of the UK hosting of the 2020 UN Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC-COP26) in Glasgow during November this year.
2. **Conference notes** with concern the potential threats to UK biodiversity posed by any post-Brexit diversion from EU legislative frameworks for environmental protection.
3. **Conference recognises** that;
 - a. there are existing and planned measures in this region and elsewhere which, although they go some way toward our objective of introducing programmes to increase UK forest cover and restore peatlands, lack the level of ambition exemplified by our recent manifesto target of planting an additional 60 million trees a year.
 - b. mitigation measures, however ambitious, need to be seen as complementary to the primary goal of minimising emissions and not as an excuse for relaxing
 - c. “bottom up” campaigns and actions can play an important role in tackling the Climate Emergency both through direct contributions to improving the environment as an as means of harnessing public opinion to exert pressure on local and national government
4. **Conference proposes** that;
 - a. Party Policy, as set out in Policy Paper 139, which proposes that each principal local authority set out its own Zero Carbon Strategy, should be a key issue in forthcoming local government election campaigns in this region.
 - b. all future Local Plans should include a “Greener Communities” Annex which identifies opportunities to utilise public land and develop partnerships with local landowners to stimulate local tree planting or sapling nursery schemes and other measures for increasing biodiversity such as the planting of wild flowers.
 - c. Councillors and local activists should be alert to opportunities to serve as a catalyst for collaboration between local authorities, schools or community groups and organisations such as the Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trusts or initiatives such as Grow Wild