

12 JULY 2007

NOTICE OF MOTION

NUCLEAR AND WIND POWER

“This council is opposed to the possibility of siting a new nuclear power station within, or in close proximity to, Brighton and Hove, but welcomes sensitively-sited wind turbine installations as a contribution to combating climate change.

This council notes that:

- there have been recent media reports that the Government is considering Brighton and Hove among possible locations for new nuclear power stations;
- the Government’s independent advisory body on sustainable development (SDC) concluded that even doubling the UK’s existing nuclear capacity would provide only an 8% cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2035 and no cuts before 2010, and identified five major disadvantages to nuclear power: long-term waste, cost, inflexibility, the undermining of energy efficiency programmes and risks to international security;
- the council is a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change, committing us to “work with central government to contribute, at a local level, to the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for carbon dioxide reduction by 2010 [of a 20% cut in CO2 emissions on a 1990 baseline]”;
- sensitively-sited and designed onshore and offshore wind turbines represent a significant opportunity for cutting the carbon emissions associated with electricity generation, quickly, at relatively low cost, with no major security risks or waste issues. The SDC has found that UK wind resources are more than enough to meet the Government’s renewable energy target of 20% of electricity by 2020;
- the council has held exploratory discussions on the concept of installing a significant amount of wind turbine capacity at Shoreham Harbour, some of which falls within the Brighton and Hove city boundaries.

This council therefore:

- asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, attaching this Notice of Motion, seeking assurance that no new nuclear power station will be built within, or in close proximity to, Brighton and Hove;

- expresses its hope, without prejudice to any specific planning application, that future developments at Shoreham Harbour will incorporate significant, sensitively-designed renewable energy generation capacity, such as wind, to help meet our commitments under the Nottingham Declaration.”

Proposed by: Cllr Paul Steedman

Seconded by: Cllr Ben Duncan