

Motion to Council pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12 submitted by Councillor Terry Barrett in relation to this Council's opposition to any move by Essex County Council to retreat from its commitments on climate action, biodiversity, environmental protection or nature recovery

"This Council -

- (a) notes that **Essex County Council** has adopted clear and significant policies and strategies to protect the environment, tackle climate change and support nature recovery across Essex, and that these commitments have been presented as central to the county's long-term wellbeing and resilience;
- (b) further notes that these policies are not symbolic gestures but are grounded in scientific evidence, statutory duties, cross-party commitments and years of partnership working, including through the **Essex Climate Action Commission**, the **Climate Action Plan** and the **Local Nature Recovery Strategy**;
- (c) therefore expresses its unequivocal opposition to any move by **Essex County Council** to dilute, delay, dismantle or walk away from its commitments on climate action, biodiversity, environmental protection or nature recovery, as any such retreat would be reckless, short-sighted and wholly contrary to the interests of residents, communities and future generations, particularly if pursued without proper consultation, transparent evidence or a credible public mandate;
- (d) **resolves:** (1) to reaffirm its full support for robust climate action, environmental protection and nature recovery across Essex; (2) to make clear its opposition to any attempt to weaken or remove existing strategies, protections or programmes in these areas without compelling evidence and full public accountability; and (3) to request that the Leader of the Council write to the Leader of **Essex County Council** in the strongest possible terms, urging that there must be no reduction in commitment to climate and environmental protection and that all existing strategies and programmes should be maintained and implemented in full."