

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**Title:**

Plant Based Solutions

**Proposer of motion:**

Councillor Gez Kinsella

### **Background/supporting information:**

- A recent study found that it will be impossible for the EU to cut its methane emissions in line with what the science says is needed (45% reduction by 2030) without cutting emissions in the meat and dairy sector.[1]
- Producing a kilo of beef creates, on average, 12 times more CO<sub>2</sub>e than a kilo of tofu or other soya-based proteins; [2]
- Savings to the NHS will come from healthier, plant-based diets. Sustain estimates that meat over-consumption costs the NHS directly £1.2 billion, and 45,000 deaths annually. [3]
- A 2018 Oxford University study concluded that adopting a plant-based diet is the single biggest thing we can do to reduce emissions.
- In June 2021, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommended that the consumption of beef, lamb and dairy should be reduced by at least 20% by 2030.
- Sir David Attenborough has said that we ‘must reduce our meat & dairy consumption for the sake of the planet’ and that the planet ‘simply cannot sustain billions of meat eaters’.
- A growing number of councils have made a commitment to plant-based catering or a shift away from meat:
  - Lewisham Borough Council - fully plant-based in all corporate events
  - Enfield Borough Council - does not serve meat at any meetings or events
  - Faversham Town Council - fully plant-based at events
  - Hythe Town Council - fully plant-based at all council functions
  - Leeds City Council - two meat free days per week in schools
  - Oxfordshire County Council - fully plant-based in all meetings & events
  - Cambridge City Council - fully plant-based at meetings & promoting PB at events
  - Exeter City Council – fully plant-based catering for all meetings and events
- Without meat and dairy consumption, global farmland use could be reduced by more than 75% – an area equivalent to the US, China, European Union and Australia combined – and still feed the world. Loss of wild areas to agriculture is the leading cause of the current mass extinction of wildlife. [3]
- Reduced meat and dairy farming globally could significantly reduce farmland usage. If land wasn’t being used for livestock farming, even a small proportion of this land could be used to benefit the climate, eg, reforestation, solar farms, etc.

### **That Council:**

- Asks Council officers to explore options to:
  1. Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.
  2. Ensure that the County Council’s school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least one day per week.

3. Invite schools to sign up to Meat Free Mondays, along with the other 3,000 schools in the UK.
4. Work on outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform of food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare. Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
5. Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects.
6. Recognise the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
7. Use County Council Civic events to promote and showcase plant-based food options, alongside displayed information about the climate benefits and relative cost of different protein/food sources.
8. Ensure at catered County Council events most of the food options are plant based.
9. Secure through a contract specification when re-tendering for suppliers that plant-based food and drink options are to be available at County Council food outlets/events.
10. Review the Climate Change Strategy (2021-25) action plan to include actions leading to an increase in plant based dietary options.
11. Report back to Improvement and Scrutiny – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction within the next six months providing an update on progress.

### Footnotes

1. [http://changingmarkets.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/06/CE\\_Delft\\_210502\\_Methane\\_reduction\\_potential\\_in\\_the\\_EU\\_Def.pdf](http://changingmarkets.org/wpcontent/uploads/2022/06/CE_Delft_210502_Methane_reduction_potential_in_the_EU_Def.pdf)
2. [www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/climate-impact-meat-vegetarian-vegan-diets](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/climate-impact-meat-vegetarian-vegan-diets)
3. <https://www.foodfortheplanet.org.uk/faqs>

**Date and time received:**  
*(for completion by Democratic Services)*

30 January 10:32