

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING ROOFTOP SOLAR

Council:	10 October 2024
By:	Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer
Cabinet Portfolio Member:	Councillor Everitt, Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	No
Decision classification:	Unrestricted
Call in status:	No
Ward:	All

Purpose of the Report

This Council will consider a notice of motion requesting that the Council writes to other Kent district councils, Kent County Council and the national government urging a mandatory legislation requirement on all new builds that rooftop solar, or rainwater catchment systems, are used as a viable alternative to reduce solar parks on the countryside.

Recommendation(s):

With reference to the options in section 3.0 of the report, Council is invited to consider the motion.

1. Summary of Reasons

- 1.1 This report ensures that the Council complies with Council Procedure Rule 14.

2. Background

- 2.1 The following motion has been received from Councillor Pressland in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 3:

“Rooftop solar panels are a viable alternative to solar parks in the countryside as a way of reducing both bills and carbon emissions. The Solar Together scheme has installed them on residential buildings – but adding them to all new build appropriate aspect roofs domestic and commercial would greatly increase the energy generated.

Similarly, rainwater catchment systems help reduce volume rainwater run-off from commercial and domestic properties.

In view of the many positives these two installations offer, will the Council:

Write to the new Government to make solar panels and rainwater catchment systems a mandatory requirement on all new builds, both residential and commercial, using oil, gas and water company tax receipts to provide funding, with additional taxes on these companies where needed to achieve the outcome?

In the meantime do everything we can to encourage developers and commercial property owners in Thanet to install these as a matter of course?

Actively seek ongoing external funding to help residents and businesses wishing to fit these on existing buildings.”

3. Relevant Issues

3.1 Council could decide to:

3.2 To debate the motion,

3.3 Not to debate the motion, in which case the motion will fall

3.4 If the motion is debated, at the end of the debate a vote will be taken to agree the motion or not. As only Council can agree to this motion, if the motion falls then it will not be referred to any other committee.

4. Consultation

4.1 There is no public law duty or statutory requirement to consult on this matter.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 Finance and Resources

5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.2 Legal and Constitutional

There are no particular legal implications arising from this report and the relevant parts of the constitution are referred to in the body of this report.

5.3 Council Policies and Priorities

5.3.1 This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- To keep our district safe and clean
- To deliver the housing we need

- To protect our environment
- To create a thriving place
- To work efficiently for you

5.4 Risk

5.4.1 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

5.5 Climate Change and Biodiversity

5.5.1 The recommendations in this report are expected to have a positive impact on the environment.

5.5.2 The proposals support Corporate Priority: Protect our Environment and help to meet aims within Thanet District Council's Net Zero Strategy. Additionally the proposal within the notice of motion supports further Corporate Priorities: To create a thriving place and to work efficiently for you. The motion sets out to reduce bills to property owners long-term.

5.5.3 The use of rooftop solar photovoltaic on new builds is a positive proposal which plays an important role in mitigating climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the district, thereby supporting the district on its journey to net zero.

5.5.4 This proposal supports theme ten in Thanet District Council's Net Zero Strategy which aims to "address emissions from new housing and development" and aligns with the Government's Future Home Standards.

6. Equality, Equity and Diversity Implications

6.1 Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

7. Crime and Disorder Implications and Community impact

7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications to this report.

8. Subject History

8.1 N/A

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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Report Sign Off

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