

## **Motion - to support the ICAN Cities Appeal, to encourage the UK government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.**

Motion proposed by Cllr Mandy Bannon, seconded by Councillors: Jason Wood, Jean Parr, Tim Dant and Kevin Frea.

### **Background**

The ICAN Cities Appeal is for local governments in nations that have not yet ratified the United Nation's **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**.<sup>1</sup>

In 2017, the **International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons** (ICAN) was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**<sup>2</sup>, following successful campaigning which resulted in an overwhelming majority of the world's nations adopting the text of a global agreement to ban nuclear weapons – the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Fifty-one countries have now fully ratified the UN Treaty which enables it to come into force on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.<sup>3</sup> But, unfortunately, successive UK Governments have refused to even attend discussions on the Treaty.

In this context, ICAN and its 570 partner organisations throughout the world have appealed to all local authorities worldwide to show support for the **Treaty and to call on their governments to join it**. Many local authorities have already done so. In the UK this includes Manchester, Oxford, Norwich, Shaw and Crompton, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Hebden Royd, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire. Further afield, local authorities in Paris, Berlin, Washington DC, Los Angeles, Toronto, Sydney, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have supported this appeal.

In November 2020, Church of England leaders added their weight to this campaign, when Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, and Stephen Cottrell, the archbishop of York along with 29 other bishops signed a letter urging the UK government to sign the Treaty.<sup>4</sup>

Nuclear weapons pose an unacceptable threat to people everywhere. This is why, on 7 July 2017, 122 nations voted to adopt the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. All national governments are now invited to sign and ratify this crucial global agreement, which prohibits the use, production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and lays the foundations for their total elimination.

Local authorities can help build support for the treaty by endorsing the ICAN Cities Appeal.

### **Motion**

Lancaster City Council is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/06/anti-nuclear-campaign-group-ican-wins-nobel-peace-prize>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/25/treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons-made-official-with-50th-un-signatory>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/15/church-leaders-urge-uk-government-to-sign-un-anti-nuclear-treaty>

would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

Lancaster City Council therefore resolves to:

- **Warmly welcome the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by the United Nations in 2017**
- **Call on our national government to ratify the treaty**

### **Action**

That the Chief Executive:

- Writes to the UK government – Secretaries of State for 1) Defence and 2) Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - to inform them that Lancaster City Council has endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal to call for our Government to sign the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- Informs our residents and media about our support of the ICAN Cities Appeal, and informs ICAN by emailing them at [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org)
- Takes steps to ensure that funds administered by Lancaster City Council are not invested in companies that produce nuclear weapons. See [www.dontbankonthebomb.com](http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com).

### **Officer briefing note:**

The motion proposes 3 actions.

Actions 1 and 2 are entirely for Council to debate and, if agreed, officers will carry out those actions on Council's behalf.

Regarding action 3, officers would need to undertake further work to research and establish exactly what is meant by 'funds administered' and 'companies that produce nuclear weapons'. Is this intended to include the whole supply chain? What is covered by investment? Without this information officers are not in a position to advise on the implications of this action to Council. There is a capacity issue. At this point in the year, the capacity of officers who would be undertaking this work is fully taken up with the work needed to administer grants to our businesses, report to Government on use of funds, prepare the 2021/22 budget and support the financial management of front line services.

(The S151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.)