

## MOTIONS TO COUNCIL – MOTION TEMPLATE

<b>Date of Council Meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
<b>Title of Motion</b>	Support for Zane’s Law
<b>Proposer</b>	Cllr Beki Aldam
<b>Secunder</b>	Cllr Chloe Turner
<b>Recommendation for Council to vote on</b>	<b>The Council therefore RESOLVES to write to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Health, and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to express the Council’s request for the funding and resources necessary for the efficient undertaking of the proposed principles of ‘Zane’s Law’; and to request that these ministers support Baroness Natalie Bennett, by all possible means, in her efforts to advance ‘Zane’s Law’ through the House of Lords.</b>
<b>Context for the motion (i.e. why is the motion being submitted – what is the proposer aiming to achieve)</b>	<p>The current UK regulations with regard to toxic waste disposal and the danger to human life, to our environment, and to the planet as a whole, from both historic landfill sites and currently approved landfill sites operating the ‘dry tomb’ principle, are dangerously inadequate. Especially so, in the face of climate breakdown, with rising sea levels, increased rainfall, and widespread flooding.</p> <p>In 2014, 7-year-old Zane Gbangbola died, and his father was paralysed with a diagnosis of hydrogen cyanide (HCN) poisoning, during catastrophic flooding in the UK. It is understood that flood water passing through a historic landfill site carried HCN into Zane’s home, and this was detected there at high levels by the Fire and Rescue Services on the night of the tragedy. This is expected to be the subject of an Independent Panel Inquiry.</p> <p>‘Zane’s Law’ seeks to address the crisis of contaminated land in the UK, reinstating legislative provisions removed by successive governments from the 1990 Environment Protection Act, and recognising the Human Right to a Healthy Environment, approved by the UN General Assembly, in July 2022.</p> <p>Therefore, ‘Zane’s Law’ proposes that the following measures be adopted into legislation by the Government, to prioritise the protection and safety of people and planet, and the human right to a healthy environment. The legislation if passed would likely include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase national government funding and support so that each Local Authority is able keep a full, regularly updated Register of Land that may be contaminated within their boundary.</li> <li>2. The Environment Agency must keep a full, public 'National Register of Contaminated Land' to be regularly updated by information from Local Authorities.</li> <li>3. Information contained within the above-mentioned Registers of Land must be available to for enquiries and Local Authorities must have the funding, resources and support to be able to effectively answer enquiries from the General Public.</li> <li>4. Local Authorities must have the funding, resources and support necessary to inspect any land that may be contaminated and to remediate or enforce remediation of any land which poses significant harm to public safety, or which pollutes controlled waters.</li> </ol>

	<p>5. Relevant Local Authorities must be responsible for inspecting previously closed landfill sites and remediating them or enforcing their remediation when they pose a significant risk of harm to people or controlled waters.</p> <p>6. The National Government must take full responsibility for providing the necessary funds, resources and support for Local Authorities to meet these new requirements and to recover costs as appropriate where those responsible for the pollution can be identified, following the 'polluter pays' principle.</p> <p>7. National Government must work with relevant professional bodies to address the skills gap in the sector, providing resources and funding to enable Local Authorities to employ those with the correct expertise in contaminated land, so that all of the above can be carried out effectively.</p> <p>These measures are not all in place currently and would require significant investment and full funding from the Government to be implemented. These must take account of other statutory requirements (such as data protection provisions).</p> <p>Stroud District suffers from increasing flooding. In addition, members have experienced complaints from residents about unauthorised waste disposal. The combination of these can be deadly to our residents and another tragedy must be averted.</p>
<p><b>Motions must be about matters for which the Council has a responsibility, or which affect the district – please confirm how this criteria is met</b></p>	<p>This is taken from the Council's website: It is a statutory duty under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to identify contaminated land and to ensure its clean up. The Council has produced A Strategy for the Identification of Contaminated Land setting out how it intends to carry out its duties under this legislation.</p> <p>The Council has a duty to regulate a number of industrial processes which could give rise to further land contamination. The Council works closely with various regulatory partners, including the Environment Agency, to prevent new contamination being caused, or to require clean-up by the responsible polluter. <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/pollution-and-nuisance/environmental-protection/contaminated-land">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health/pollution-and-nuisance/environmental-protection/contaminated-land</a></p>
<p><b>Which Council Plan Priority does the Motion support? (select all that apply)</b></p>	
<p>EC5.1 Further reduce the quantity of resources discarded as waste and minimise its environmental impact</p>	
<p>This is also relevant to EC2.2 in that it relates to flooding, and CW1.2 in that it relates to the health and wellbeing of our residents</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion have potential financial or resource implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be:</b> No, other than the time to compose and send the letter</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion have potential legal or constitutional implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be:</b> No</p>	
<p><b>Are there any Environmental or Climate Change Implications that the Council should be aware of – if yes advise what these might be:</b></p>	
<p>The passing of this motion fits in with our 2030 pledge, of "protecting our environment"</p>	
<p><b>Are there any equalities impacts associated with the motion? If yes an equalities impact assessment will be required.</b></p>	
<p>No</p>	
<p><b>Does the motion require further background information to enable the Council to make a decision– if yes advise what might be required:</b></p>	
<p>This motion was recently unanimously passed by Lewes Council, with Zane's father present at the meeting: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-68298957">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-68298957</a></p>	

**END**

## OFFICER IMPLICATIONS

<b>Officer Name</b>	David Jackson
<b>Officer Title</b>	Environmental Protection Manager
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	dave.jackson@stroud.gov.uk
<b>Has the Council or is the Council doing any work at the current time in relation to this motion or any associated issues? If yes please add details:</b>	
Yes - The motion relates to contaminated land issues which are currently addressed by our Senior Contaminated Land Officer. Essentially, the motion requests expansion of the current work.	
<b>Does the motion support any of the priorities set out in the Council Plan?</b>	
Yes – The Environment and Climate Change priority in general; however the motion does not directly link to any specific objectives or actions.	
<b>Does the motion have potential financial or resource implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be and confirm whether budget is available:</b>	
The intent of the motion would create significant additional resource implications for the Council in terms of staff and finances for increased inspections, assessments, sampling and analysis, potential remediation, <i>etc.</i> The existing budget would not be sufficient.	
<b>Does the motion have potential legal or constitutional implications for the Council – if yes advise what these might be:</b>	
There should be no additional such implications as the motion seeks to expand existing measures.	
<b>Are there any Environmental or Climate Change Implications that the Council should be aware of – if yes advise what these might be:</b>	
These implications are set out within the motion.	
<b>Should an equality impact assessment be completed before the deliberation of this motion?</b>	
Not considered necessary	
<b>Does the motion require further background information to be carried out to enable the Council to make a decision – if so, advised what might be required:</b>	
Not at this stage – the motion is seeking action at a national level in the first instance.	

**END**