

## **MOTION ON DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON 31 OCTOBER 2024**

Proposer: Councillor Mark French

### **PREAMBLE:**

How the economy works is crucial for everyone's basic well-being. Money certainly isn't everything, as they say, but it's obvious that if you don't have enough for the basics, money and the opportunities to earn money are crucial. As we all know, this is a very stark reality at present for many people in the face of the cost-of-living crisis combined with insecurities in the workplace and the difficulty of finding affordable long-term accommodation.

Equally, we all know there are times when some of the things we do in the name of the economy have a negative impact on the environment – whether that is climate change emissions, habitat loss, pollution or resource depletion – and those environmental impacts, in turn can have a huge effect on people's lives, livelihoods, health and well-being. The challenges that our changing climate and declining wildlife are presenting us with require us all to continue with the process of transition to sustainability that is already under way, and it is important that everyone in our Borough can continue to thrive.

We know that there are complicated relationships between economy, environment and society – and this Council has already recognised this to some extent within its Corporate Plan 2023-27.

The approach to decision making and policy development advocated by Oxford academic Kate Raworth and known as 'Doughnut Economics' is currently inspiring a lot of people across the globe. Referred to by some people as 'a recipe for thriving' its central idea is built around the inner and outer circles that make up the doughnut – the outer circle being the planetary boundaries or environmental impacts which threaten our future safe existence such as climate change, habitat loss and pollution – and the inner circle being the social foundation – the elements that are required for everyone to have a good life including social fairness, political voice,

education and the basics such as food, water, health, housing, income and work. The ‘sweet spot’ for humanity – globally and locally – lies between the two circles.

The approach also emphasises the strength of human potential to collaborate – which we have seen a lot of in the Ribble Valley over many years – and suggests that the economy is about more than markets and the state but also about households where a lot of unpaid work is done and about volunteering and community in our civic society. It’s also about the complexity of these relationships.

So, this motion isn’t asking you to sign up to any of this right now – simply to support the proposal that we all learn more about it and consider how it might complement and enrich our Economic Plan, Climate Action Plan and future policy making. This is a time of great challenge but also an opportunity to embrace the new and innovative ways of working that we need to meet those challenges. Please support the motion.

## **MOTION**

### **Finding the Sweet Spot – Carbon Reduction and Economic Prosperity**

“Committee notes:

- The aspiration of this Council to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and to work with others in the Borough to be more environmentally sustainable.
- The need to tackle often hidden pockets of poverty and inequality in the Ribble Valley, to create the jobs of the future in the Green Sector and support our local economy.
- The innovative work being done by local councils as diverse as Amsterdam and Cornwall to use the globally acclaimed economic model developed by Oxford academic, Kate Raworth – now widely known as ‘Doughnut Economics’ – to make sure that all their policy decisions achieve both environmental sustainability and economic/social fairness.

[www.doughnuteconomics.org](http://www.doughnuteconomics.org)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/kate\\_raworth\\_a\\_healthy\\_economy\\_should\\_be\\_designed\\_to\\_thrive\\_not\\_grow](https://www.ted.com/talks/kate_raworth_a_healthy_economy_should_be_designed_to_thrive_not_grow)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/the\\_ted\\_interview\\_kate\\_raworth\\_argues\\_that\\_rethinking\\_economics\\_can\\_save\\_our\\_planet?utm\\_campaign=tedsread&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=tedcomshare](https://www.ted.com/talks/the_ted_interview_kate_raworth_argues_that_rethinking_economics_can_save_our_planet?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

**Committee resolves:**

To request officers to prepare a report on Doughnut Economics and report back to this Committee on how Doughnut Economics could inform the next review of the Council's Climate Action Plan 2024/2025 and Economic Plan 2023-2026.