



QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
Wednesday 13 March 2019

1. QUESTION FROM MR BARRY COHEN (IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Climate Emergency and Target Date for Zero Emissions

The Council declared a Climate Emergency at the full council meeting on 21st February. Given that no target date was set for Zero Emissions, how will the Council ensure that this declaration signals a deliverable and measurable change in policy?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Changes in policy will need to occur at all levels of Government and within every organisation alongside behaviour change by communities and individuals to deliver a carbon-neutral Devon. The authority will facilitate a Devon-wide Carbon Plan; we'll look to establish a task group with other organisations to research the implications of Devon becoming carbon neutral and how this can be achieved in practice. An indication has already been given by Cabinet that Devon should aim to meet this internationally recognised target of carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest; however, the task group will review this issue and define a more specific target date for the Plan that it develops. Arrangements for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Plan will also be developed collaboratively by the task group.

2. QUESTION FROM MR SCOTT (IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Policy Change as a result of a Climate Emergency

What change in existing policy does the declaration of a Climate Emergency on 21 February signal, and how will that change be reviewed, monitored and evaluated, given that no target date was set for Zero Emissions?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

I would refer to the answer given to question 1, asked by Mr Barry Cohen.

3. QUESTION FROM SUE IFOULD (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Communication to Constituents - Measures to Reduce Emissions

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency. How do Councillors intend to communicate to their constituents that they are prioritising measures to reduce emissions to Zero so that constituents are aware that they are indeed treating this as an emergency?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

The authority will facilitate a Devon-wide Carbon Plan to address the declared emergency; we'll look to establish a task group with other organisations to develop the Plan. If it is to succeed, the Plan will have to contain prioritised measures for a wide range of organisations. A communications strategy will be developed by the task group to keep interested parties up to date with progress on the Plan's development and to promote collective engagement in its implementation.

4. QUESTION FROM MS TISSANDIER (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Environment Strategy and Zero Net Carbon Emissions

Having read the DCC Environment Strategy, I am pleased to learn of the efforts being made to reduce the county's carbon footprint. It was hugely encouraging that the Council voted on 21st February to declare a climate emergency - with a view to increasing the urgency of those efforts, as recommended by the recent IPCC report. With this in mind, would the Councillors confirm that they are doing all in their power to meet targets set, and would consider a zero net carbon emissions target by 2030 if the science supports this? (Many believe it does).

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

DCC's existing target related to the reduction of the county's carbon footprint is set in its Climate Change Strategy. This commits DCC to supporting the UK in meeting its carbon budgets, which reflect a trajectory to meet an 80% reduction on 1990 levels by 2050, by prioritising carbon reduction from its own activities, areas of influence and by encouraging others to do the same. Carbon emissions from DCC's own activities are, currently, 36% below 2012/13 levels and are ahead of schedule to meet our target set within our Corporate Energy Policy of a 50% reduction by 2030; DCC has committed to reviewing and strengthening this internal target. County Councils' generic areas of influence on carbon reduction have been identified and prioritised by the UK's independent Committee on Climate Change: the action plan set out in DCC's Climate Change Strategy stated how we would address these opportunities.

In response to its declaration of a climate emergency, the authority will now facilitate a Devon-wide Carbon Plan that will be collectively designed, endorsed and implemented with other organisations. This will include the consideration of the target year that needs to be set for zero net carbon emissions.