

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Thursday 3 October 2019

1. QUESTION FROM MR N TURNER (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Responsibility for street furniture

I would like to know who has the responsibility for the furniture for the lamppost. Am sure that on the last DCC meeting held on the 25th of July, it was said that DCC was responsible for the lamppost and the newly refurbishment of them. But sadly this was not recorded in the minutes or on the video as the sound was muted when the councillor gave his answers, I would like to know why that was as well.

If they do not know could they find out? I have the name of the company that is refurbishing them. Mayflower Smart Control. They work out of Heron Road, Sowton Industrial Estate, Exeter. The manual from Mayflower Smart Company states that the newly fitted furniture operates with 3G. Also plans for the street lighting.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

Devon County Council is generally responsible for the Street Lighting on the Public Highway within Devon and is continuing the upgrade of the lighting to LED technology to reduce energy consumption and the authority's carbon footprint. SSE is currently Devon's Street Lighting maintenance contractor (the contract is about to be retendered), and SSE do have a separate division, Mayflower Smart Control, but their technology is not currently deployed within Devon.

Devon has a Central Management System (CMS) that controls the street lighting in Exeter by a company called Harvard which recently went into administration. Devon is now looking to replace the CMS system as part of the new contract arrangements over the next few years. The Harvard system uses 3G SIMs to communicate with the control software.

In relation the last Council meeting, the Council does not write verbatim minutes of any meetings, therefore doesn't record supplementary questions asked by either Members of the Council or the public. Minutes are a record of decision, rather than debate. At the last Council meeting on 25th July, there was a loose connection in Councillor Croad's microphone. As the red light was working, it was assumed the microphone was operating correctly. As you can see on the webcast, the stem broke away from the base unit. https://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/414863/start_time/2808000?force_language_code=en_GB

Only a couple of minutes later in the video, you can see a Member of staff trying to rectify this with a new microphone stem. https://devoncc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/414863/start_time/2956000?force_language_code=en_GB

2. QUESTION FROM MR T THOMPSON (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Public Liability Insurance

Devon County Council has a duty of care towards the residents of Devon. An example of this would be public liability insurance, protecting their residents from such things as faulty highway manhole covers or slipped paving slabs for instance.

Does Devon County Council's public liability insurance cover their residents for the health degradation caused by high frequency radio transmissions that they are actively enabling through public spaces and if not why not?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

There is no cover under the Council's public liability policy for 5G illnesses. The policy will respond to any claims where the Council has been negligent in their duties, however potential effects of 5G do not fall within this (as is the case with 3G and 4G). Any claims relating to 5G would need to be directed to the network provider to investigate.

It may also be worth adding that Devon County Council has no statutory health protection responsibility for potential effects of 5G. This is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive. Public health information on the health effects of 5G is provided nationally by Public Health England and any additional evidence is reviewed regularly by their specialist advisers.

3. QUESTION FROM MRS T WELLS (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Testing of combined 2, 3, 4, & 5G

At the last meeting I asked Councillor Croad a supplementary question which said there has been no testing anywhere in the world on the combined 2,3,4 & 5G radiation frequencies & the potential effect not only on health, but also on the environment, so have DCC's Legal Team looked into the detail of responsibility to the members of the population that are Highly Electro Sensitive to see how to protect them from harm, for example White Zones ? Do the Council intend to make provision for Highly Electro Sensitive people within their vision of expansion for Devon? Will they provide, or even consider White Zones for equal opportunities in health & wellbeing for all residents affected by these frequencies?

Scientists & medical experts believe that 2-3% of the population are HES. According to Google, the population of Devon in 2018 was estimated at 1,185,800 people, 3% = 35,565. That's a large number of potentially affected people within Devon BEFORE 5G is rolled out. Do DCC have any plans to help these people, who's numbers will only increase as the levels of high frequency radiation are raised by 5?

The response from Councillor Croad at that meeting was "No, I haven't looked into it, but I will ask"

So my question is now Has Councillor Croad been able to look into the Legal obligation detail of Duty of Care for the population of Devon that are affected by high frequency radiation at it current 2,3&4G levels with regard to providing White Zones (areas free from EMF's/RW's) for people who suffer from the debilitating effects of being Highly Electro Sensitive and will that same provision be monitored to provide sufficient care & budget to deal with the raised numbers affected by the rollout of 5G?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Thank you for your question which you read out as a supplementary question at our last Cabinet meeting. As promised, I have since then sought advice on the matters you raised.

Devon County Council responds to matters of public health concern by adhering to the guidance of Public Health England, which is the national body for the protection of the public's health. Public Health England's position reflects that of the World Health Organisation, which is that treatment of affected individuals should focus on the health symptoms and the clinical picture, and not on the person's perceived need for reducing or eliminating electromagnetic frequencies in the workplace or home. Devon County Council's position is therefore not to create 'White Zones' but to recommend that anyone affected should seek clinical advice. As I have noted previously, the legal responsibility for ensuring compliance with electromagnetic frequencies rests with the Health and Safety Executive and not with the County Council. Public Health England has been advised of the concern expressed locally by members of the public, such as yourself, regarding the impact of 5G. We will keep fully abreast of this advice and the Council will respond accordingly.

4. QUESTION FROM MR R VINT
Re: Baseline greenhouse gas emissions

All Devon's District and City Councils, Dartmoor National Park and 20 of its Town Councils have now declared a Climate Emergency. Each council needs to know its current baseline greenhouse gas emission level for their own area in order to write an effective Climate Action Plan. What are the current direct and indirect emission figures, in tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year, for each of these areas - and how are these figures calculated?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

There is a variety of greenhouse gases (GHG). The most significant are carbon dioxide (from fossil fuel combustion), methane (mainly from agriculture and waste disposal), nitrous oxide (mainly agriculture), and F-gases (mainly refrigeration). The effect of this basket of gases on the climate is combined into units of 'carbon dioxide equivalent' and referred to as a carbon footprint.

Territorial Carbon Footprint – Emissions Arising in Devon

Carbon dioxide data is published annually at district council resolution by UK government. This data is 2 years old at the time of its publication (i.e. the latest data currently available is 2017). The data presents emissions for each of the Industrial & Commercial, Domestic, and Transport sectors, as well as for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Emissions.

Methane and Nitrous Oxide emissions are available via the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, published at a 1km-grid resolution. District-level emissions can be estimated by compiling the 1km-grid squares that represent each district.

F-gas emissions are only available at a national resolution. These can be apportioned to the districts by using the ratio of local to national industrial & commercial emissions as a proxy measure.

In 2017, the Council worked with the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter to compile the carbon footprints for each Devon local authority and the Dartmoor National Park Authority using the latest available data at the time (2015). This data is available online at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/strategy/climate-change-strategy> and all of the local authorities are aware of it.

The data is based on the GHG emitting activity that occurs within a defined geography. For example, it includes the GHGs emitted by tourists whilst on holiday in Devon and the GHG emitted from the growing of food that is exported from Devon for consumption elsewhere. Whilst this might seem unreasonable, other counties of the UK will be acting to reduce emissions arising from goods and services that Devon enjoys from those areas – such as the emissions associated with a Mini car assembled in Oxford.

In cooperation with all of the local authorities in Devon, the recently-appointed Net-Zero Task Force, which is taking forward the design of the Devon Carbon Plan, at its meeting on the 23rd September commissioned the University of Exeter to produce updated carbon footprints for each area using the latest available data (2017). This will not be produced at parish or town council level due to the strategic nature of the Devon Climate Emergency project. However, should a parish or town council wish to produce a carbon footprint for their own area they can commission this work themselves.

Consumption Carbon Footprint

The structure of the UK economy has been shifting towards the services sector. The consequence of this is that more of the goods UK households consume are now produced abroad. This means that UK consumers are responsible for carbon emissions abroad and indeed consumers overseas are responsible for some of the UK's emissions associated with its exports.

The Devon Climate Declaration expects its signatories to act to facilitate the reduction of Devon's consumption emissions to net-zero by 2050 at the latest.

Experimental statistics have been published by the UK government about the UK's national consumption emissions since 1997. The latest data available is 2016 and it is updated annually by the University of Leeds. The data is not available at county, district or town/parish council level.

At its meeting on the 23rd September, the Net-Zero Task Force agreed to determine the most appropriate way to apportion the UK imported emissions data to Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, e.g. prorated by population or gross domestic product. As a first step the Task Force is to engage with the University of Leeds to understand more about how the statistics are compiled. For the same reason as for the territorial carbon footprint, this will not be produced at parish or town council level.

Getting Own House in Order

Devon County Council funded a carbon footprinting workshop for parish/town councils on the 23rd July. The Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter shared a standardised approach to preparing an organisational carbon footprint to enable signatories to the Devon Climate Declaration to meet the first commitment of the Declaration, which is to review organisational carbon emissions within 6 months. The presentation provided at the workshop is available for download online and was circulated to parish and town councils by the Devon Association of Local Councils.

5. QUESTION FROM Ms R AUGENTHALER (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Impact of 5G on the environment and health

On Friday 20th September thousands of people, many of them students and teenagers, marched to DCC to express their grave concern about the current state of our environmental crisis. It is all over the media that many young people in their teens and early twenties are telling us that we (our generation) are stealing their future and that we are failing them. 5G as well as going digital is being marketed as part of the solution to the current ecological crisis.

Those who would earn millions if 5G was rolled out are marketing 5G as green technology and as THE solution to our current ecological crisis when the contrary is the case. Is the council aware of the detrimental impact the rollout of 5G would have on our environment, especially of the severely increased energy consumption that 5G would bring and is the Council therefore willing to consider being a trendsetter and leading influence within the UK by being a strong voice and informing the National Association of Councillors and/or other county councils and/or the local media that Devon prefers abstaining from this technology and therefore prioritizing sustainability for future generations?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Devon County Council is not responsible for the roll out of 5G and, as such, has no ability to abstain from the technology, the development of which is being led by the private sector.

6. QUESTION FROM MR ROCHESTER

Re: CO2 Emission Data

The table below taken from government sources suggest that in Devon hard won CO2 reductions made by industry in the 2015/17 period have been offset by increased CO2 emissions from transport. Please advise whether you consider the data shown to be accurate and provide your annual estimates for transport CO2 Emission for the next 3 years, advising how your figures are derived.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

	A. Industry and Commercial Electricity	B. Industry and Commercial Gas	C. Large Industrial Installations	D. Industrial and Commercial Other Fuels	E. Agriculture	F. Domestic Electricity	G. Domestic Gas	H. Domestic Other Fuels	Domestic Total	I. Road Transport (A roads)	K. Road Transport (Minor roads)	M. Transport Other	Transport Total	Grand Total	Population ('000s, mid-year estimate)	Per Capita Emissions (t)	
EDDC	60.9	26.2	-	57.5	24.7	169.2	69.0	109.9	30.2	209.1	168.2	86.7	8.0	262.9	641.3	142.3	4.5
Exeter	98.8	64.4	-	16.2	0.8	180.3	45.7	93.9	5.1	144.7	39.2	39.1	0.4	78.7	403.7	128.9	3.1
Mid Devon	48.9	42.4	-	31.0	31.8	154.1	40.1	42.5	27.1	109.7	93.2	58.8	1.1	153.1	416.9	80.6	5.2
North Devon	68.6	26.3	-	36.9	43.5	175.3	46.7	68.1	22.1	137.0	107.1	80.2	0.9	188.1	500.4	95.4	5.2
South Hams	65.6	38.5	-	58.8	25.3	188.2	52.1	57.5	26.5	136.1	181.4	58.3	1.0	240.7	565.0	85.3	6.6
Teignbridge	63.4	62.2	-	67.4	17.4	210.4	63.2	99.5	20.5	183.1	317.6	72.3	1.6	391.6	785.1	131.4	6.0
Torridge	33.5	6.0	0.1	55.1	36.0	130.6	35.2	33.0	28.5	96.7	57.6	59.9	0.5	118.1	345.4	67.8	5.1
West Devon	33.8	34.4	-	18.8	32.7	119.7	29.7	31.7	22.7	84.1	133.9	54.8	0.8	189.5	393.3	55.3	7.1
2,017	473	300	0	342	212	1,328	382	536	183	1,101	1,098	510	14	1,623	4,051	787	5.1
EDDC	66.3	21.7	-	59.4	24.5	171.9	79.3	112.8	34.7	226.9	157.2	85.5	7.8	250.5	649.2	140.3	4.6
Exeter	111.6	75.4	-	15.5	0.8	203.2	53.1	96.5	3.9	153.5	38.7	38.3	0.4	77.5	434.2	127.5	3.4
Mid Devon	53.6	41.4	-	31.9	31.5	158.5	45.8	43.4	32.3	121.5	91.0	57.8	1.1	149.9	429.9	79.9	5.4
North Devon	78.1	27.6	-	38.1	43.2	186.9	53.6	69.5	26.2	149.2	105.2	78.8	0.9	184.9	521.0	94.6	5.5
South Hams	72.6	37.2	-	59.7	25.1	194.7	59.5	58.3	30.4	148.2	173.6	57.2	1.0	231.8	574.6	84.8	6.8
Teignbridge	69.8	62.1	-	70.0	17.3	219.2	72.5	102.0	23.6	198.2	290.8	71.0	1.6	363.4	780.8	129.9	6.0
Torridge	36.4	6.5	0.1	56.4	35.8	135.2	40.5	33.8	33.3	107.6	56.7	58.9	0.6	116.1	358.9	67.0	5.4
West Devon	38.5	20.7	-	20.3	32.4	112.0	33.7	32.4	26.7	92.8	126.5	53.9	0.8	181.2	386.1	54.7	7.1
2,016	527	293	0	351	211	1,382	438	549	211	1,198	1,040	501	14	1,555	4,135	779	5.3
EDDC	83.1	21.3	-	55.9	24.5	184.8	97.8	106.3	34.4	238.6	154.3	81.6	7.4	243.2	666.6	138.4	4.8
Exeter	140.6	149.4	-	15.3	0.8	306.1	65.4	90.6	4.0	160.1	38.7	36.9	0.5	76.1	542.2	125.7	4.3
Mid Devon	66.6	38.5	-	31.1	31.6	167.8	56.5	40.5	32.1	129.0	87.8	54.8	1.1	143.7	440.5	79.6	5.5
North Devon	95.7	26.5	-	36.8	43.2	202.2	66.0	65.5	26.0	157.5	97.8	74.9	0.9	173.6	533.3	94.2	5.7
South Hams	86.2	36.2	-	53.1	25.2	200.6	73.4	55.3	30.1	158.8	170.0	54.2	1.1	225.2	584.6	84.9	6.9
Teignbridge	86.3	60.5	-	64.7	17.3	228.9	89.4	95.7	23.5	208.7	283.4	67.6	1.7	352.8	790.3	128.9	6.1
Torridge	45.9	6.4	0.1	52.8	35.8	141.0	49.4	31.7	33.0	114.1	54.7	56.0	0.6	111.2	366.3	66.3	5.5
West Devon	48.4	16.7	-	20.1	32.5	117.7	41.8	30.9	26.5	99.2	122.9	51.2	0.8	174.9	391.8	54.5	7.2
2,015	653	355	0	330	211	1,549	540	517	210	1,266	1,010	477	14	1,501	4,316	772	5.6
Reduction 2015-2017.	179	55	-0	-12	-1	221	158	-19	27	165	-89	-33	-0	-122	264	-15	0.4
reduction %	27%	15%	-5%	-4%	-1%	14%	29%	-4%	13%	13%	-9%	-7%	-2%	-8%	6%	-2%	8%
As% of total	84%																

Devon County Council is unable to comment on the accuracy of these estimates as the data is produced by national government. You can review their methodology in the technical report at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

The data show that emissions from the Industrial and Commercial sector in Devon reduced by 221ktCO2 between 2015 and 2017, whilst emissions from Transport over the same period increased by 122ktCO2. Therefore, the emissions reductions from the Industrial and Commercial sector were partially offset by increases from the Transport sector, but overall emissions from these two sectors combined did reduce by 99ktCO2e. The effect of CO2 emissions on global warming is the same irrespective of which sector they are released from and so it is more useful to review the Total figures to understand emissions performance in Devon. That data shows that between 2015 and 2017, the total emissions reduced by 6% despite the population increasing by 2%.

Projections of greenhouse gas emissions (not just CO2) arising from all sectors, including transport, is provided in the 2017 analysis (page 21) undertaken for the review of Devon County Council's Climate Change Strategy. This is available online and describes the methodology. The projections of emissions are provided for three scenarios that reflect 'business as usual', the implementation of 'low risk' policies and 'at risk' policies. If the 'low risk' policies are implemented, transport GHG emissions are expected to rise by about 8% over the next 3 years. If the 'at risk' policies are implemented, the GHG emissions are projected to fall by 3%.

**7. QUESTION FROM MS M HILLIARD (IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: Totnes 5G Moratorium**

I request to see your exact definition and full written procedure on a 5G Moratorium and how this declaration will effect the more important demand for a total ban and ceasing on any and all plans to roll out a 5G technology infrastructure within Totnes and the wider County of Devon, to protect us from the serious health dangers and surveillance implications of the people's privacy.

I see no clear and full information from the Council of this procedure and how it could:

- a) affect The People's rights and whether this is actually a true and positive action for The People of Totnes and Devon County; and
- b) addresses potential hidden dangers of corporate manipulation of The People's rights and powers of consent.

I need to know - clearly - what the Council is agreeing to on my/our behalf. Please stand notified that I consent to neither a moratorium nor the possible introduction of the 'Precautionary Principle' at a later stage, as there has been no adequate information on this subject for all see and know of, which is fundamental to true democracy and whether the 'fourth industrial revolution' goes forward and how that may affect us all.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Totnes Town Council is independent of Devon County Council and therefore any question on the Totnes 5G Moratorium should be referred to the Clerk of Totnes Town Council. Regrettably I am unable to comment on the Town Council's policies or decisions.

8. QUESTION FROM MS E DANGERFIELD Re: cycle routes to school

Many parents drive their children to school because of a lack of safe cycle and walking paths. What is DCC doing to increase the number of safe cycle routes and footpaths in Devon towns and parishes to encourage healthier, greener ways of getting to school?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HUGHES

This Council recognises the benefits of promoting healthy, active lifestyles and continues to invest in cycling to improve access to work, education and leisure opportunities. Increasingly we are dependent on Government grant funding, which often needs developer match funding and evidence of supporting housing or jobs delivery. This has resulted in new routes in Barnstaple, Exeter and Newton Abbot, although the County continues to fund improvements to the multi-use leisure trails, including the Exe Estuary, Wray Valley Trail and Tarka Trail. Against a backdrop of reducing capital transport funding, the best opportunity for local communities to secure walking and cycling improvements is through inputting to the Local Plan processes and including proposals in neighbourhood plans. This could ultimately secure funding and there are examples where the County Council has secured developer funds to deliver such aspirations, for instance in Tiverton, Broadclyst and Bovey Tracey. The County Council continues to deliver the successful Bikeability training Countywide, which has delivered training to almost 70,000 pupils since 2006.

9. QUESTION FROM MS G GOLDEN (IN ATTENDANCE) Re: Devon Carbon Plan

My question originates from a question originally asked to my Parish Council who kindly referred me to County Council. Similar to my sub-question of the last Council meeting of 11th September, I re-ask this question in view of the fact that Climate Action Plans take their reimits, irrespective of democratic opinion, from the United Nations who are in favour of, effectively, 5G technology (erroneously considered to be a low carbon emitter).

The credible date for an evidence-led Devon Carbon plan had been democratically decided, by council, to be 2050 and the 2030 zero emissions target was rejected (regardless of grounds of viability).

Following a Totnes Council Climate Emergency Group reassessment, the zero emissions target has jumped forward by 20 years! This is a small group, as are the Citizens Assemblies which, I hereby inform you, did not democratically encourage diverse representation. Have County Councillors, who

democratically represent me, delegated such important decisions to a few, selected, unelected, unaccountable community members?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Devon County Council has declared that it will facilitate the decarbonisation of Devon by 2050 at the latest. The 'at the latest' statement is important because this reflects the advice of the United Nations and acknowledges the desire of some individuals, communities, organisations, local authorities and councils to decarbonise more rapidly – all of which will need to collaborate if plans to decarbonise Devon are to be effective.

The decarbonisation date for the Devon Carbon Plan has yet to be determined. The responsibility of recommending a credible date has been assigned to the independent Net-Zero Task Force that has recently been established. The Task Force will use a series of themed hearings, a citizens' assembly and a public consultation to explore the significant decarbonisation barriers and opportunities for Devon. The citizens' assembly will not be making political decisions – that is for elected members of local authorities and councils to do – but its opinions will be used by the Task Force in designing the Devon Carbon Plan that will subsequently need to be endorsed by the full range of organisations involved in the Devon Climate Emergency project.

10. QUESTION FROM MR P SCOTT (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: annual carbon reduction targets

Will this Council set annual carbon reduction targets for the next decade and review its target of zero carbon by 2050 in light of the earlier targets set by many local authorities in Devon, the increasingly serious forecasts of the IPCC in recent months and the growing concerns of the vast majority of the population about the need to take urgent action?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Devon County Council has declared that it will facilitate the decarbonisation of Devon by 2050 at the latest; its target is not 2050.

The decarbonisation date for the Devon Carbon Plan has yet to be determined. The responsibility of recommending a credible date has been assigned to the independent Net-Zero Task Force that has recently been established. Annual targets may be used, dependent on the advice of the Task Force. Information about the Task Force is available at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/devon-climate-emergency/net-zero-task-force>

11. QUESTION FROM MS H WHITTEN (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Council message re. Global Strike for Climate

What is Devon County Council's message to the estimated 4000 children and adults who joined the Global Strike for Climate and marched across Exeter to gather at your doorstep at County Hall on Friday 20th September?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR HART

We welcome everyone's right to demonstrate concern about the environment. We too share that concern. That's why we declared a climate emergency last year, and why it's one of this council's top priorities. It is at the forefront of our planning, management and delivery of the services that we provide and commission. The Council has put aside £250,000 to fund work on this issue. That is why we convened the countywide Devon Climate Emergency Response Group to develop a Devon Carbon Plan, in collaboration with experts and involvement from the people of Devon.

12. QUESTION FROM MS S JACKSON (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: training workshops around climate change

Many councillors are unsure how to act now they have made a climate emergency declaration, or they are wary of making a declaration because they do not understand the implications of doing so.

What training workshops and networking meetings will DCC be running in the next twelve months to assist Devon County, District, Town and Parish Councillors and working group members in understanding how they can achieve carbon neutrality in their towns and parishes.

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Following this Authority's own declaration of a climate emergency, a background briefing has been circulated to all County Councillors, a Scrutiny Masterclass session staged and a Climate Change Standing Overview Group established to support Member scrutiny and engagement in this issue.

Whilst DCC has no specific responsibility to provide training or support to other local authorities in the achievement of their own carbon reduction programmes, it is facilitating a coordinated approach to the Devon climate emergency through a network of strategic bodies, including all District Councils. In response to a specific request from this group, DCC staged a free carbon footprinting workshop in July this year, attended largely by District and Town / Parish Council representatives. The desirability of providing further forms of advice and guidance has been recognised and will be addressed as far as resources and competing priorities allow. The immediate emphasis is on expanding the available information currently published via the Energy and Climate Change web pages at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/energyandclimatechange/>

13. QUESTION FROM MS A WILLES (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: Updating Council policies in line with Climate Emergency

Is the Council reviewing and updating its procurement, investment, waste and public transport policies, and all other relevant policies, to ensure that these address the Climate Emergency and fully accord with the emerging Climate Action Plan?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

In line with the expectations of the Devon Climate Declaration, an updated Carbon and Energy Strategy for the County Council's operations is due for imminent consideration by DCC's Cabinet and, subsequently, by the full County Council. The achievement of the updated targets will require significant new action across many areas, including all of those listed by the question. Existing policies and action plans to achieve improved environmental performance across these areas are available at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/environmental-policy>

14. QUESTION FROM G SIMONS (IN ATTENDANCE)

Re: 5G Safety Studies

Due to the lack of any safety studies carried out by the PHE or others regarding this specific 5G technology and its effects on the environment, PHE has once again used ICNIRP short term thermal (cooking skin) guidelines to mislead ministers, councillors and others.

These ICNIRP guidelines (dated 1998) are totally inadequate when it comes to 5G. They are totally unreliable and state advisory limits for short term exposures of radiation for six and thirty minutes only, and not for long term exposure as 5G microwave radiation exposure will be.

Unless of course that is, PHE and you are now saying that 5G will be switched off twenty three and a half hours every day? And if not why not, when PHE and you are using an outdated guideline from ICNIRP that sets limits of exposure for a maximum of thirty minutes?

Please see this link to the PHE document mentioned above:

<https://www.icnirp.org/cms/upload/publications/ICNIRPmfgdl.pdf>

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

Public Health England is the statutory national body with responsibility for providing national guidance on public health risks. As part of the wider public health system, local authorities accept the national public health guidance, as they already do on a range of health protection matters, alongside other relevant statutory bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive. Nevertheless, we have recently

advised Public Health England of ongoing public concern over 5G and will continue to follow their guidance on health protection matters.

**15. QUESTION FROM MS K ARMITAGE (NOT IN ATTENDANCE)
Re: 5G Act**

Please can you set out the relevant Act or directive that determines the rollout of 5G in Devon and what are Devon County Councillors thoughts on this?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR CROAD

We are not aware of any directive or Act that determines the roll out of 5G in Devon. The County Council will continue to review its position in light of guidance from Public Health England, the ambitions from Government and guidance from Ofcom on the deployment of 5G technologies. Currently the Council is not involved with mobile planning applications, this is a District Council responsibility as part of the planning authority remit. Where street furniture is concerned, we are not aware of any Council assets that are currently hosting mobile network operators 5G technologies, but we would review any such request from mobile network operators in accordance with Government guidance and PHE guidance.