



Members' Questions to Full Council

Councillor Stephen Davies to the Leader

What progress is being made with the "Climate Emergency" plan and the £60,000 allocated to this?

Reply:

A Climate Emergency was announced by the Stroud District Council Administration on 16th November 2018 which pledged to "do everything within the Council's power to make Stroud District Carbon Neutral by 2030.

This public call for action was followed up by a motion to the Environment Committee on 13th December 2018 which, after a minor amendment regarding timing of agreeing funding, was passed with unanimous support from all political parties. The motion was subsequently agreed at full Council.

This motion set out seven actions:

- 1 To set out a Plan of Action, including clear targets and transparent reporting, to develop District wide Locally Determined Contributions to complement National Determined Contributions in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C.
- 2 To include planning and support in the District for adaptation to the climate change that is already happening.
- 3 To develop a strategy for Stroud District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District, County and region.
- 4 To work with partner bodies across the county to ensure that the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all county wide strategies and plans, including Gloucestershire 2050, the Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy, Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and Gloucestershire Transport Plans.
- 5 To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment.
- 6 To work with key partner organisations within the County and region to secure external funding.
- 7 To report back on an annual basis to Council on progress made.

A report detailing the progress against these actions and future plans will be brought to a meeting of the Environment Committee on the 6th June 2019. A background document has been prepared and a number of work streams have already been initiated regarding the development of a zero carbon planning policy for major new builds and for renewable energy generation, alongside updating the council's previous adaptation plans. Arrangements regarding the approach to community engagement are being formulated and it is this area where the council will need to engage additional support utilising the £60K to manage the engagement positively. This is, however, not new territory as in 2007

the Council set up and supported the establishment of the former 'Global Challenges Think Tank' which was a group of experts set up to advise on the development of the Environment Strategy 2007-2027. This was the inspiration behind the Council's Target 2050 initiative and the 'warm and well' initiative which helped those at risk of fuel poverty, saved Carbon and achieved an investment in Gloucestershire of an estimated £30 Million pounds.

Stroud District Council will also be working in partnership with Gfirst LEP and Gloucestershire County Council to integrate this councils work with the implementation of the LEP energy strategy see <https://www.gfirstlep.com/content/?contentID=926>.

Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy to the Leader

The Council is keen to reduce unnecessary costs. As Chairman of the Audit Committee, I am duty bound to ask what have been the additional costs to date of clearing up graffiti and other detritus placed upon Council property by Protesters?

Reply:

There has been an additional cost associated to the protesters that have recently been spraying graffiti and putting up posters within the district. The costs directly associated to Stroud DC are approximately £2,300. These costs cover officer time as well repairing damaged paintwork.