



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**Agenda Item 4**  
**Environment Committee**  
**14 September 2017**

QUESTIONS FROM	QUESTION TO
<b>Richard Lupo, Sustainability Consultant</b>	<b>Councillor Simon Pickering</b>
<p>Item 11 Strategy Outcomes - Could the council publish carbon emissions for whole of Stroud each year? This includes homes, businesses, public services and transport? (Forgive me if you do already, but I couldn't find them on the website). This will allow progress monitoring towards carbon reduction aims.</p>	<p>These statistics are published in June each year on the government website <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2015</a>. The current figures are for the period 2005 -2015. These include tables broken down by each local authority area and the methods used to calculate CO2 emission.</p> <p>The focus of the Council has largely been on emissions associated with its own activities or those that are within its effective control. This enables effective year on year comparisons to be made and also actions to be focused where there is a clear cause and effect relationship. The Council's carbon management plan and reporting arrangements have historically tracked the Council's performance.</p> <p>The forthcoming review of the Council's Environment Strategy will further consider how the organisation manages its carbon reduction aspirations.</p>

Item 9 Local Plan Review - Can the council develop a policy that all developers or households with planning applications for domestic residences should be encouraged by officers to build to an energy efficiency of SAP 86 minimum? SAP is the way that energy efficiency is rated for domestic properties and there is evidence to suggest that SAP 86 corresponds to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions in domestic regulated emissions as required by the Climate Act. The SAP methodology is already used by housebuilders for building regulations Part L compliance and so demonstrating SAP 86 should not be an extra burden. Furthermore new build homes are generally achieving ~SAP 81 so it is not a huge step forward to gain the extra energy efficiency. (Note a SAP rating is not required by building regulations. Instead a carbon emissions against a flexible target is imposed, which can sometimes lead to perversions

There is a long history of Councils attempting to require higher standards of energy performance through the design and implementation planning policy. The 'Merton rule' (as in the London Borough of Merton) was the best known of these approaches which required a proportion of a developments energy needs to come from on site renewables. This prompted an improvement to the efficiency of buildings as the more efficient they were the less renewable technologies were needed to meet the target percentage.

Now, the guidance within the 'Planning Practice Guidance' expects local standards to be consistent with the 'national described standards', in respect to this question these are the nationally set Building Regulations. Opportunities to step outside the Building Regulations are limited to access and water efficiency only.

The Governments 'Red Tape Challenge' in 2013 removed unnecessary technical regulations to streamline the process of building homes. The Council cannot therefore set its own SAP target for new build dwellings through planning policy. The Council will be encouraging developers to complete a sustainability checklist to help applicants consider issues related to sustainable construction and design early in the development process through policy ES1 adopted under the Local Plan.

In terms of the Councils own developments where we are able to go beyond the building regulations, there are opportunities to improve post construction testing in order to measure actual as opposed theoretical performance.