

COUNCIL – 18 APRIL 2024 – SO 30 QUESTION AND RESPONSE

Question from Councillor Cooper

Question to the Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee (Councillor Langton)

Council committees generally attract councillors who have an interest/knowledge of particular subjects. For instance, the S&R Committee tends to have councillors with financial expertise, whereas Housing attracts councillors with general knowledge of housing issues etc. However, where councillors require out of the ordinary specific knowledge, eg Planning, then they are required to attend courses to educate them as to the intricacies of the subject.

Recently, this council established a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan Working Group. Given this is a large, complex, and not well understood subject which few, if any, councillors have real knowledge of, what training is being established for councillors to attend before sitting on this group?

Response from the Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee (Councillor Langton)

No specific training has yet been provided to date for members of the Climate Change Working Group. However, during the last six months, free training initiatives on climate change, sustainability, and carbon literacy has been offered to all Councillors. This includes opportunities to attend online workshops run by the LGA and an introductory seminar about infrastructure for electric vehicles. Officers have also shared details of green skills training which can be accessed through a portal set up through the Local Enterprise Partnership. Furthermore, free training from the Local Climate Academy will be available for newly appointed councillors in June and July, details of which will be shared after next month's elections.

Officers will continue to provide updates, including any new opportunities in the councillors' newsletters.

The Climate Change Working Group has only met once to date, but I will ask Officers to consider the scope for tailored training for its new membership once its composition for 2024/25 has been determined at Annual Council.