

Strategy & Resources Committee – 2nd December 2021
Standing Order 30 Questions and responses

Question from Councillor Cooper

The TDC Strategic Plan (Page 109 in the S&R Agenda) includes a statement about becoming greener; 'the Council is taking all the steps it can to become carbon natural (I assume the word should be neutral?) by 2030'. As it is about two years since the Council decided on this policy, I assume it is now understood what is needed to achieve this goal.

Therefore, could the following information be supplied about each of the areas to be addressed to meet this objective? (housing, travel etc):

- a) Current total carbon generated annually by each TDC council activity
- b) The intended approach to reduce the carbon generated to zero
- c) The cost to TDC of carrying out this work
- d) A total of carbon currently generated and the total cost of the work to be carried out. (Whether the work may qualify for government or other grant or not).

Response from the Chair (Councillor Bourne)

The following responses have been provided to me by the relevant Officer:

- a) *We have carbon emissions data for the buildings we operate, i.e. pay the bills for, and the fuel we use in our vehicles. However, we are still working on the most accurate way of accounting for emissions from other sources such as council homes and leased commercial assets.*
- b) *In brief, our intended approach is to focus on reducing our organisational emissions i.e. gas, electricity and fuel we consume. We also have actions to reduce emissions for our leased assets and to install EV chargepoints in the district.*
- c/d) *We do not have officers who work solely on this work nor a separate budget for climate change per se, it therefore forms part of our BAU activities. Some climate change work may qualify for government grants, however they do require resources in terms of officer time, i.e. to write grant proposals, prepare evidence and claim forms and so forth.*

The annual update on the climate change action plan is due to come to the next meeting of this Committee on 11th January. It will also be discussed with the Climate Change Working Group on the 14th December, after which your colleagues on the Working Group should be able to update you.

Supplementary question from Councillor Cooper

We need to understand the size of the problem if we are going to address it properly. We need to know the quantity of emissions being generated by the Council; the reductions our initiatives are intended to generate; and the cost of the work. When will the promised report on the Council's greenhouse gas emissions (which was supposed to ensure we are effectively measuring and managing our emissions) be published?

Response from the Chair (Councillor Bourne)

My responses [on climate change matters] have been provided by officers. During the last six months, I've been concentrating on our significant financial challenges. The climate change issues have been assigned to the [Climate Change] Working Group and, until it reports back to us, I don't have any information on the subject. Perhaps you can wait until the 11th January meeting when the latest update on climate change actions will be given. Until then, I haven't got any information which hasn't been provided to me by the officers concerned.