

Redditch Borough Council

24th June 2019

Agenda item no. 6 – Questions on Notice

1. From Mr Michael Bennett to the Leader:

Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to the increased risk of flooding and localised extreme weather - the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.

Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly.

More alarmingly, there is evidence that important tipping points, leading to irreversible changes in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system, may already have been reached or passed.

In October 2018, The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report based on updated research around the impacts of global warming. While previous estimates focused on estimating the damage if average temperatures were to rise by 2°C, this report shows that many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark.

With clear benefits to people and natural ecosystems, the report found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C could go hand in hand with ensuring a more sustainable and equitable society.

Since the IPCC report was published, 85 local authorities have passed motions declaring a Climate Emergency and proposed steps to cut emissions. This has happened in councils ruled by all the major parties and has often been organised on a cross-party basis.

Is it not time that Redditch Council acted to protect the lives and property of Redditch residents by declaring a Climate Emergency and committing to a series of concrete measures designed to reduce carbon emissions to net zero as soon as possible?