

Appendix 2 - Redditch Borough Council

24th June 2019

Agenda item no. 6 – Questions on Notice - Answer

We absolutely agree with Mr Bennett that the IPCC state with high confidence that a manmade carbon dioxide increase is causing rising global temperatures, the results of which we are starting to witness.

In light of this, it is entirely appropriate for Redditch Borough Council to declare a Climate Emergency and commit to working towards the IPCC report global requirements.

The IPCC report recognises however, that this is a significant challenge, which requires action and co-operation at every level. RBC cannot rise to the challenge alone.

The more that RBC can achieve prior to 2030, the lower the risk of being locked into carbon-emitting infrastructure, having assets which become useless or devalued and having less options, with higher costs.

I have therefore asked officers to set out a Sustainability Action Plan for the council showing short medium and long-term measures to reduce emissions from our own operations, estate and contracts. Where we have no direct control, we will look at how we can work with residents and businesses through our services to help them to reduce their emissions.

RBC has been working on this agenda for many years and more detail can be provided to Mr Bennett after the meeting.

Examples of actions that RBC have undertaken to reduce Climate Change:

Climate Change Strategy

Redditch Borough Council are a key member in the development and implementation of the Worcestershire Partnership Climate Change Strategy.

Renewable Energy generation

RBC have installed solar photovoltaic panels on 20 of our sites including key sites such as the Abbey Stadium, Palace Theatre and Redditch Town Hall.

Sustainable building improvements

LED lighting improvements at the Palace Theatre and the Abbey Stadium.

The heat exchange system which provides heat for the Abbey Stadium, using waste heat that is removed from the Crematorium flue gases when they are processed to remove mercury.

Domestic energy efficiency

Redditch Borough Council also helps local homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, for example through the Redditch Energy Efficiency Fund.

Sustainable fleet

In 2015, an electric van was added to the council fleet and a fleet review is planned with regards to the possibility of alternative, lower carbon, less polluting fuels.

Electric vehicle charging points

Abbey Stadium and Greenlands Business Centre host electric vehicle charge points run by Worcestershire County Council. A Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicle strategy is in the democratic process for member approval in July.

Circular economy

There is ongoing education around waste reduction and recycling.

Single Use Plastic reduction

The Council has committed to removing all unnecessary single-use plastics from its operations and to encourage its suppliers and other businesses in the area to do the same, starting with removing single use plastic cups from the Civic Suites and the Depot.

Business Support

Advice and grants for businesses wanting to improve their resource efficiency or to install renewable energy.

Sustainable Land Management

Redditch Borough Council has an environmentally sustainable Woodland Management Programme, partly funded through a Forestry Commission scheme and partly through periodical harvesting and sale to power stations as low carbon biomass.

Supporting the Community

Additionally the council is supportive of community orchard planting on its land e.g. on Headless Cross Green, at the Abbey Stadium and the Woodrow and Greenlands Community Orchard.