

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**2 February 2021**

**Agenda Item 7 – Wiltshire Council Budget**

**Statement from Adrian Temple-Brown**

**To Councillor Pauline Church Cabinet Member Finance, Procurement  
and Commercial Investment**

**Statement 1**

In the [MTFD Document](#) Appendix 7, the Risk Weighted Impact table lists “Extreme Weather” as the second highest **risk**.

By combining data in the [Stonehenge Tunnel Environmental Statement \(Sec 14.6.8\)](#) with 30 years of hourly temperature records from [Meteoblue](#), I was shocked to see that the average annual temperature here in Wiltshire has increased by 1.69 degrees since 1960. Compare that to the Paris target of 1.5 degrees and you’ll see how far political rhetoric is from actual reality.

But temperature rise, wind and rain are *not* the biggest **Risks** to our complex society here in Wiltshire.

The bigger **risk** comes from mass human migration due to drought, flood and famine from North Africa and Southern Europe.

Current modelling suggests that for every 1 degree rise in global average temperature, a billion people will need to migrate to avoid starvation.

A cursory look at [the trajectory](#) of average annual global temperature rise shows that a 0.5 degree increase over the next 15 years is highly likely.

So what’s the **risk** to us here in Wiltshire when hundreds of millions of people begin to migrate north to Northern Europe ?

A quick Risk assessment is in order:

It’s fair to assume that the EU will continue to accept climate migrants and that Russia will not.

It’s fair to assume that when populations have to move due to climate change, not only do they need food in their new host country, but their home country will no longer export food.

If the UK **doesn't** accept a fair share of climate migrants, it will be excluded from global food markets.

If the UK **does** accept a fair share, our current complex society will buckle, then break, in trying to accommodate millions of migrants each year.

In a year *without* extreme weather events, the UK grows around 40% of its own food, so the biggest Climate **Risk** to us in Wiltshire is the inability to feed our population and the timescale is around 15 years.

Within and beyond the next 15 years, extreme weather events in the UK will become more intense and more frequent, lowering the yield from UK farming and increasing the **Risk** yet further.

I looked at the [Cabinet responses](#) to the first Climate emergency Task Group report and read through the MTFs report and I asked myself yet again,

How long are you, our Local Government leaders going to ignore the **Risks** associated with Climate change in favour of Economic Growth for Wiltshire?

It's not *just* that you have to plan, and spend to lower these **Risks**, you actually have to stop planning and stop spending on your hugely destructive projects.

[CO<sub>2</sub> and Temperature data](#) show that our political leaders have made no progress whatsoever on the most serious **Risk** to all Life on this planet – the changing climate. What will it take to wake you people up to the **Risks** you're running by keeping Economic Growth as your top priority?

To those of you in this Cabinet who *still* don't get the **Risks** we're facing, watch the BBC's A Perfect Planet series.

It takes around five hours to scratch the surface of what's wrong with our Climate and our Environment and what could be done about it.

The **risk** of losing all life on this planet is already extremely high.

Your capital expenditure plans, core policies and destructive projects increase climate and ecological damage and you still refuse to acknowledge it.

Your Personal values place Economic Growth higher than the *existential risk* to Life on Earth.