

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 July 2020

Question from Peter Blacklock

Agenda Item 15 – Stone Circle Company Business Plans

To Cllr Pauline Church Cabinet Member for Finance, Procurement and Commercial Investment

Question

I am at a loss to understand why the next Cabinet meeting on July 14 2020 is being asked to accept the Report at item 15 on the council-owned property development company Stone Circle's Business Plan.

The Plan (Point 19) says the company proposals "do not propose carbon. neutral development". It then talks of providing "sustainable energy generation". This is clearly in violation of the full council's stated aim of February 2 2019 to make Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030 and should be voted out by Cabinet on those grounds. In any case a vote should await the review we are promised on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Response

Stone Circle development company is required to provide a business plan to its shareholder the Council each year setting out the business it intends to undertake. This is a high level plan and the current plan has been revised to take into account the change in the loan finance the Council will provide. Before a development proceeds the company is required to provide the Council a project plan that sets out the detail of the proposed development. Those proposals will need to be in accordance with planning policies and also be viable. It is at that stage the Council would need to decide whether to allow a development to proceed based on the recommendation of the company and whether the proposed development should be carbon neutral or the Council could look to offset the carbon from that development.