

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

17 October 2023

Item 5 – Public Participation

From Andrew Nicolson

To Cllr Nick Botterill – Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning

Pre-amble

Bearing in mind that the Anthesis Wiltshire County Report states (on page 3) that it should be noted that even its 'High Ambition Pathway' does not achieve Wiltshire's carbon neutrality ambition by 2030, and achieves only a 55% cut in emissions by 2030, compared with a Paris-Agreement-aligned reduction of 80% and your target of net 100%

Question (P23-26)

- a) In the Local Plan Review process, have you (and if so how have you) addressed the areas where the March 2022 Anthesis Wiltshire County Report identified that:
- the Council **currently** has low influence on Carbon reduction pathways, but that
 - planning has a **key role** today, and that
 - you have opportunities in the planning system to **increase** your influence?
- b) If the Local Plan is adopted as drafted for consultation, do you anticipate that will it cause the County to:
- **exceed,**
 - **line up with,** or
 - **fall short of**

the Anthesis Wiltshire County Report 'High Ambition Pathway', in terms of the matters it covers such as:

- the location and energy efficiency of domestic and non-domestic buildings [in] new developments,
- the outcomes of policies for new transport infrastructure, and
- other planning policy areas such as:

- waste,
- industry,
- energy supply and
- the natural environment?"

Response:

- a) The draft Local Plan does address the areas where Anthesis suggested the local authority planning function has a role to play. The NPPF sets out that planning can play a key role, and the regulatory planning powers are an opportunity to influence the county's carbon emissions and these have been used by updating policies to reflect the carbon neutral ambitions of the council. The Plan seeks to incorporate measures required to adapt to the effects of climate change into its development policies. The framework for this is Policy 4 which is specific to climate change. This signposts to other policies which include measures with the potential to affect climate change, such as sustainable transport (Policy 70, 71 and 73), sustainable construction and renewable energy (Policy 85 and 86), woodlands, hedgerows and trees (Policy 90), and design (Policy 98). Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments as part of the live public consultation, which runs until 22 November 2023.
- b) The Council are required to monitor the Plan, and the effect of development over the plan period against the vision and objectives set out in Section 2 of the Plan. The Council is committed to an action within the Climate Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-24 to "Investigate development of a method to better understand the climate and energy impacts of the Local Plan policies." The timeline for this is to 'investigate the methodology by end of 2024'. Therefore this is not a methodology that would be outlined in the plan, but one that would be developed to look at implementation of policies and track their impact where possible. The draft Local Plan Policies are just part of the whole suite of actions happening within Wiltshire to reduce emissions, so it would not be possible to say to what extent the Local Plan would cause the county to align with any of the Anthesis 'pathways to carbon neutral'.