

**Wiltshire Council**

**Full Council**

**17 October 2023**

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**Item 7 – Update on the Council's Response to the Climate Emergency and revised Environmental Policy**

**From Andrew Nicolson**

**To Cllr Nick Holder – Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change**

**Question P23-32**

- a) One of the most serious gaps in the Update being progress on Procurement, where you still haven't even defined a KPI target for G1 Supplier Emissions, does your proposed Environmental Policy's plan to merely "work with" and "encourage" suppliers and contractors, with no mention of climate or Net Zero GHGs, mean that you have abandoned your two-year-old "Starting immediately!" commitment to "Develop a requirement for suppliers to measure and reduce their environmental impact", and indeed your nearly 15-year-old Sustainable Procurement commitment? and if not, then what are the difficulties and obstacles, when do you think you will manage to define a target, and would you like Wiltshire Climate Alliance or other NGOs to help you out?
- b) How far have you got with Climate Strategy Delivery Plan Actions G2.1 "Engage and establish baseline with top 10 suppliers where possible by Autumn 2023" and X1.3 Support Area Board Environment Leads, including training all Environment Leads, bearing in mind that some Area Boards have new 'ABELs' or all members are now leading on Environment?

**Response:**

- a) The proposed Environmental Policy says that we will work our suppliers and contractors and encourage them to demonstrate commitment to our shared environmental objectives – which include being carbon neutral, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The delivery plan action to "Develop a requirement for suppliers to measure and reduce their environmental impact" has not been abandoned, and is being progressed through procurement policy and practice, and was indeed started immediately:

One month after the delivery plan was published, Cabinet endorsed the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (discussed at [Cabinet Nov 2022](#)) and the development of accompanying toolkits, which include guidance for

consideration of climate considerations through tendering and contract management. Implementation is already underway, with climate-related questions being built into recent major contract tendering processes. We work with our suppliers to understand their carbon emissions, and KPIs are built into contracts as they renew.

A KPI relating to supplier emissions (G1) can only be developed and a target set once we have data for a baseline and an understanding of suppliers' emissions and the data that can be provided. This is part of current work with suppliers, as per actions G2.1 of the Climate Strategy Delivery Plan and C7 of the Carbon Neutral Council Plan.

- b) Work is underway with the top 10 suppliers by carbon emissions, as defined in the Pathways to Carbon Neutral study 2022. Milestone is one of the newest contracts and has been setting out their first carbon report to establish a baseline and specific actions. We have regular contract meetings with key suppliers and climate issues are on the agenda. For example an Environment Forum meets quarterly to discuss environment and climate issues with highways contractors and consultants. In November a Sustainability and Carbon Reduction event is being jointly organised by the council's highways team and contractors Milestone, and key supply chain partners are invited to showcase new innovation and share learning.

A specific event for Area Board Environment Leads was held last year, and now that area board priorities have been set we are looking at where we can add value and support to what the area boards are already doing. A video presentation was produced in May 2023, and a similar one will be provided following this update to cabinet and council, highlighting climate activities that area boards, local councils and community groups can be involved in.