

Wiltshire Council

Council

25 February 2020

From Vicky Moore

To Councillor Richard Clewer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Heritage, Arts, Tourism, Housing, Climate Change and Military-Civilian Integration.

Question (20-03)

A year ago today Wiltshire Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to an ambitious target of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. This was welcome news to many environmental groups and individuals but to date there has been little in the way of published progress reports to show the Councils action on this urgent matter.

Other councils such as Bristol City Council have now completed a gap analysis to meet their target. A gap analysis looks at the baseline carbon emissions of an area, considering them by sector, such as energy, transport and so on. Then it looks at the predicted level of carbon emissions in 2030 if no action is taken other than what is already planned. It calculates the gap between the existing trajectory and what is required in order to reach carbon neutrality.

This information is used to work out what action needs to be taken, looking again at each sector in turn. It looks at tangible, practical elements, for example in the case of energy, how many new renewable energy systems will be required, how many people will need to be employed to install them. This then allows you to consider questions such as how much of the workforce will need to be re-trained, how long will this take, etc. When you start thinking about all these elements, ten years is a very short time frame so huge steps need to be taken immediately for us to get anywhere close to the 2030 requirement! Failure to do this does not bear thinking about.

Bristol City Council have used their gap analysis to create a Climate Emergency Action Plan and are now putting it into place.

Has Wiltshire Council completed a gap analysis to meet their target of zero carbon by 2030? If this has been completed, when will the report be published? If not, can you confirm when this essential work will be undertaken? Because not doing this will almost certainly lead to insufficient action

A verbal response will be provided at the meeting.