

Wiltshire Council

Environment Select Committee

13 January 2021

**Agenda Item 10 – Executive Response: Global Warming & Climate
Emergency Task Group**

Statement from Adrian Temple-Brown

Statement

The Executive response to each call for Action by the Emergency Task Group team is at best, vague and as usual, disappointing.

Consistently we see:

- No dates,
- No drive,
- No urgency,
- No leadership.

The a common theme across the Executive responses:

- Delay,
- Business as Usual,
- Do the minimum,
- Caveat everything with get-out phrases.

There is not a single example of the executive itself suggesting taking Action proportionate to an Emergency.

Since this Executive declared a Climate Emergency, every single measure of climate health has continued to get worse at an exponential rate [see here at [this link](#)].

To date, National and Local Government policy has made Zero difference to climate health.

Absolutely no impact at all.

How can that be given all the fine words ??

Well, the top priority of the politicians who occupy Leadership positions is making money - economic growth is (almost) a worldwide mantra.

This is Wiltshire Council Policy and I quote the Executive response to Section 17, Page6:

“The council will always look to maximise the return from it’s investments, as it is required to do.”

Stopping the dumping of 43 billion tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere annually will never make a financial return on investment.

Drawing down 43 billion of tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere annually will never make

a financial return on investment.

So a change is required in how politicians value the return on investment.

It is possible to effect the required Carbon Reduction *but* our leaders first need to look inwards and recognise that first and foremost, they value money and financial wellbeing, above all else.

I would therefore recommend to this Executive that every member listens to and reflects upon the series of four Reith Lectures given by Mark Carney: [see here on [BBC Sounds](#) or [BBC iPlayer](#)].

He is talking directly to you.

And another thing

Acting now on everything detailed in the Emergency Task Group Energy Report would give a reasonable chance of significantly cutting Wiltshire emissions before 2030.

This report doesn't touch on the much bigger problem of removing CO₂ from the atmosphere.

The energy required expressed as a number is incomprehensibly huge. To draw down 43 billion tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere would require the full-time electrical output from around 2800 Hinkley-C-sized Nuclear power stations.

Wiltshire has world-class wind power directly above it [see [here](#)]. Wiltshire Policy *actively* prevents people or business from harvesting it. To get an idea of the energy we're currently wasting, just six [HalideX-12MW](#) would supply Chippenham's annual electrical and heat power requirements.

After reflecting on their values, the Executive should contemplate which they value more: Money, a View or a Future ?

Please stop waiting and talking and blocking and start to take Urgent Action.