

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**14 July 2020**

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**Statement and Questions from Benji Goehl**

**Agenda Item 15 – Stone Circle Company Business Plans**

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

**Statement**

The Stone Circle business plan says in no. 15 that "proposals do not propose carbon neutral development".

**Question 1**

Given that the development company is controlled by the Council, and that the Council has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, how does the Cabinet justify this proposal?

**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.

**Question 2**

If cost is the main justification for this proposal, what representations has the Cabinet made to Government regarding its inability to achieve carbon neutrality for Council-built homes, and the impact this will have on UK carbon emission reduction targets?

## **Response**

As mentioned above it is too early to assume that a development proposed by the development company would not be carbon neutral. Even if the development was not capable of being carbon neutral the Council could consider offsetting the carbon from the development.