

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**10 December 2019**

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**Statement and Question from Jane Laurie**

**Agenda Item 7 – Mid Year Updated Medium Term Financial Strategy**

**To Councillor Simon Jacobs – Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement  
and**

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

**Question**

The Council is to be congratulated for agreeing at the last full Council meeting that the business plan should be revised without delay to include the climate emergency, and that in the next business plan it should be a “golden thread” running through everything. Should recognition of the climate emergency then not also be included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy, for example in the sections on financial objectives and financial risks?

**Response**

At the last full Council meeting we explained that the council will set in February 2020 its budget for 2020-21 and all requests for funding will be considered at that time alongside the whole of the council budget. As the council has acknowledged a climate emergency and is seeking to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030, the decisions we make to set the budget will take this into account. As part of the budget setting process, Cabinet will propose a revised Medium Term Financial Strategy which will align with the next business plan.

The financial objectives would apply in respect of any financial decisions made in response to the climate emergency as they would to financial decisions relating to any service the council delivers.

In the meantime, the investment required for capital projects will be considered on a case by case basis, continuing the work that the council has undertaken to date. This includes the £12m to convert our street lighting to LED lights and the proposals for £5.2m investment in energy efficiency measures and renewable energy and the £3.5m for canopy based solar panels which were agreed by full Council at its meeting on 26 November.