

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

15 February 2022

Item 12 – Climate Strategy and Council’s response to the Climate Emergency

From Pete Cousins

To Cllr Nick Botterill Cabinet Member for Development Management, Strategic Planning and Climate Change

Question (P22-12)

At present, Council policies make wind power a non-viable option for anyone considering renewable energy generation.

Ground based solar is well supported and providing a growing element of generation and storage in the county. However, there is no mandatory requirement for roof mounted solar on new build properties, either dwellings or business.

The Climate Strategy report, commentary on responses, highlights the fact that roof mounted solar and land based wind turbines are seen as a popular option for energy generation, supported by over 95% of those that commented on them.

With this high level of support, will the Council commit to changing its policies to positively support wind turbine generation and to mandate for solar installation on all new buildings?

Also, to ease the grid loading imbalance, mandate for energy storage in all cases?

Response:

The Council’s current local plan policy on standalone renewable energy installations is set out in Core Policy 42 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy. This does not differentiate between types of renewable energy and as stated in paragraph 6.38 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy “applies to all types” including both wind turbines and solar. We have committed as part of the Local Plan Review to review our planning policies on renewable energy and consider the potential for zero carbon development, which will include consideration of measures to achieve energy efficiency in new developments such as roof mounted solar. Evidence is being developed on both these areas and once complete will inform new local plan policies. Increasingly, we are starting to see housing developers incorporating roof mounted solar as part of their proposals.