

**Question: CQ08.02&03**

**Cabinet – 3 November 2020**

**Re: Agenda item 8 – Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme**

**Question submitted by: Councillor Martin Fodor**

Two years ago, November 2018, the council unanimously approved a Green " to declare a climate emergency and set a date of 2030 for the city to be carbon neutral. In July 2019 the council received a report, mandated by the motion, to set out the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan. This stocktake set out what had been undertaken and promised to date.

Then in February 2020 we saw the One City Climate Strategy, developed by city partners. This list of ideas can be used and is a reference document for use by various organisations but is subject to change each year when the city partners review it.

In terms of the emergency we declared as a whole council we are now two years through the twelve years called for by international scientists. Today must therefore be a chance to show how the city and the council are responding to the emergency in concrete ways that cut emissions, and also give a timely stocktake of the pace and reach towards the carbon neutrality target.

I'm delighted that the council itself has continued its long commitment to progress in tackling its organisational emissions, and also supported some funding success to help 6 communities develop their own actions.

The programme listed in the report has 20 items

What's less positive is the number of them captioned: call, urge, invite, encourage, commission, train, investigate, assess, work with, develop recommendations, develop a plan, continue, even quantify. While all these are important they are not a demonstration of achievement, more hope and preparation.

Some actions are also halted by the redeployment of resources or revision in priorities due to the pandemic. Of course the goal is an extremely ambitious one and circumstances are tight. I endorse the values and the direction. But let's be clear where we have got to with ten years still to go.

Therefore my questions are:

1. Do we now need a report that builds on this preparatory work and stocktake, and have one documenting physical progress towards 2030?
- **We share Cllr Fodor's sense of urgency, which is why, despite the pandemic and the impact this has had on Council finances, the administration has protected the additional funding allocated to Climate Change in February 2020. And this is why my Cabinet**

**portfolio has been created, to ensure we focus on climate action and I can work with my cabinet colleagues across the council.**

- **The Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme considered by Cabinet today is a programme of work which focuses on three areas:**
  - a. **The Council leading by example and delivering on the Mayor's commitment for it to be Carbon Neutral by 2025 for its direct emissions and create plans for implementation of key parts of the climate strategy.**
  - b. **Supporting action by partners – through co-ordination of the One City Climate Strategy**
  - c. **Supporting action by citizens – with deliberative democracy, climate information and community grants.**

**These are all practical steps and new things which help us to accelerate progress.**

- **Through the Council's Service Planning processes we are now drawing together all the action being taken across the council services – in transport, energy, housing etc into a BCC Climate Action Plan.**
- **Cllr Fodor is welcome to follow up if he has some solutions he'd like to put forward for the city.**

**2. Can we have regular reports of how the budget is being spent?**

- **In the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan he committed to reporting annually on progress with that plan, and this is included in the Cabinet Report. We will continue to do this, including how the resources have been spent.**