

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE – 7 MARCH 2023

AGENDA ITEM 5 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. From Mrs McCallum to the Chair

FULL DETAIL OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IS DETAILED BELOW

Note, the Chair will:

- invite questions from members of the public who have submitted in writing their questions in line with the Council's Constitution.
- confirm that Public Question Time allows Members of the public to ask one question at a time and that a maximum of one minute is allowed for each question;
- state that questions will be invited in the order in which they have been received and that if there is time remaining from the 15 minutes allowed for Public Question Time, questioners will be allowed to ask a supplementary question.

QUESTION ONE

From Mrs McCallum to the Chair of the Policy & Finance Committee

Question

According to Climate Emergency UK, which in turn cites the 6th Carbon Budget Report, local authorities can help to deliver around a third of the cuts in carbon emissions needed to get to net zero. With scorecards now moving from Climate Emergency Plans to marking and scoring councils across the country according to action taken, my question to the Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee is what progress based on SMART targets and action plans has so far been achieved by Arun District Council in terms of reducing emissions?

Please see methodology: Council Climate Plan Scorecards (<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>)

Response

Thank you very much for your questions, Arun is currently undertaking numerous projects to help reduce carbon emissions produced to hit the 2030 carbon neutral goal set in 2020. All projects are clearly outlined in the Council's climate change and biodiversity action plan, on our website and on tonight's agenda, item 7, Carbon Action Work Plan update that will be discussed in around 10/20 minutes time.

Since setting the baseline in 2021 yearly carbon emission auditing has taken

place on the Council's financial data. The second audit will take place during late summer/Autumn of 2023 to review emissions produced for the 2022-2023 financial year.

Our biggest challenge to hit the 2030 carbon neutral target is currently our procurement related emissions as they make up 91.20% of total emissions. We are therefore looking to undertake more projects to change our procurement process and looking to commission a 'deep dive' into this area to help highlight next steps. It is important to note that these score cards were published on 27 January 2022 and took into account the Council which had a published action plan before 20 September 2021. Arun scores 0 on this as our documentation was published to the public in April 2022.

Supplementary Question

It was zero, and that was the plan, we are actually asking about the actions, so with a third of the emissions being able to be reduced by council, the further question is which framework are you using to deliver that. For example, oneplanet.com is being used by Enfield Borough Council, South Down National Park and Horsham Council. So, I wonder what framework you are using to connect up all the various things that are going to deliver those actions or plans.

Supplementary Answer

I am very happy to provide you with a written response on that.