

CABINET 16 DECEMBER 2019

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. Question from Mark Fermor

On 16 May Shropshire Council recognised the climate emergency and committed to:

'Create a Climate Action Partnership of stakeholders and the wider community, to partner with the Council'

Please confirm when this Partnership will be established.

On 18 November Council officers held a discussion workshop inviting public participation at which the Council stated that

'7.7% annual reductions will be required to reach Zero 2030'

Please confirm whether the Council is committed to this target date, or if not, what date.

Right now the UN is meeting in Madrid to face the reality that 2030 is too late to ensure we avoid runaway climate catastrophe. Please confirm whether the Council will implement plans and liaise with central Government to ensure that Shropshire achieves as a minimum 7.7% annual reductions, and show leadership to mobilise the people of Shropshire to accelerate the fundamental changes we need commensurate with the emergency we face.

Response from Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Climate Change:

1. Please confirm when this Partnership will be established:

The Strategy Framework recommended for approval today gives a clear commitment to establish such a Partnership but further discussion is required with the Member Task & Finish Group which has not met during the General Election period before such a partnership can be established. However, I anticipate that the Partnership will be established as early as possible in 2020 to help guide the development of the 'Climate Action Plan' proposed in today's report;

2. Please confirm whether the Council is committed to this target date, or if not, what date:

The Strategy Framework recommended for approval today gives a clear commitment to reduce Shropshire Council's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net carbon zero by 2030. Taking early action on what we can directly control is considered to be a more effective approach than expending significant effort in planning and target setting.

3. Please confirm whether the Council will implement plans and liaise with central Government to ensure that Shropshire achieves as a minimum 7.7% annual reductions, and show leadership to mobilise the people of Shropshire to accelerate the fundamental changes we need commensurate with the emergency we face:

The Strategy Framework recommended for approval today gives a clear commitment that Shropshire Council will use its experience to work with others and provide community leadership to help reduce Shropshire's overall carbon footprint. However, much more work and evidence is needed before a target date can be identified for net zero GHG emissions for the county as a whole.