

CABINET 19/01/22

Public Questions

Question from:	Mike Streetly
Subject:	Carbon Emissions
Portfolio Holder:	Ian Nellins

I note the details of the council's carbon emissions provided in Table 1: Shropshire Council Carbon Emission 2020-21 of the recently issued CORPORATE CARBON PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT 2021. This table does not explicitly mention carbon emissions from the Highways and Transport team other than the line 'Transport Fleet' which presumably covers the whole council not just the 'Highways and transport Team'. Could you please explain how Highways and Transport emissions are accounted for in this table? Could you also please explain how emissions from constructing the North West Relief Road will be accounted for in the council's carbon performance monitoring?

Please explain how Highways and Transport emissions are accounted for in Table 1 of the Corporate Carbon Monitoring report?

The reference to Transport Fleet under 'Scope 1' in Table 1 of the Corporate Carbon Monitoring report refers to the Council's passenger transport fleet, for which carbon performance is compiled from fuel records and milage logs submitted (litres of petrol and diesel consumed). As stated in the exclusions in para 4.13, this does not include data for public buses (Arriva) for the reported year due to a lack of data.

Table 1 (and Table 3) of the report also include reference to highway maintenance vehicles. In this case, emissions are counted under Scope 3 and performance is calculated from mileage and fuel consumption records, together with summary carbon performance information supplied by the Council's commissioned service providers, WSP and Kier.

Table 9 (p.11) of the report summarises Council emissions in the transport and highways sector at 2,000 tonnes, against a sector total for Shropshire of around 730,000 tonnes.

Please explain how emissions from constructing the North West Relief Road will be accounted for in the council's carbon performance monitoring?

As with other large capital construction projects commissioned by Shropshire Council, the carbon performance of the proposed NWRR will be published as part of the documentation supporting funding or regulatory decisions to ensure that an informed decision is reached. In the case of NWRR, the planning application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement (a link will be attached to the written response:

https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/files/518AE8D3BE16236518D741665BCDEA6E/pdf/2100924_EIA-REVISED_-_SUPPLEMENTARY_ENVIRONMENTAL_STATEMENT_9_CLIMATE_ADDENDUM-4370016.pdf

which suggests that, whilst the construction phase of the scheme will generate a footprint of around 48,000 tonnes CO₂e, the lifetime operation of the road will generate a net positive outcome of around 21,000 tonnes CO₂e, leaving a net residual lifetime footprint of around 27,000 tonnes CO₂e. I understand from discussion at a meeting of full Council last week that there may be plans to offset all or part of this residual footprint by investing in formally validated carbon capture and storage activities locally in Shropshire. If this occurs, then there would be no net carbon emissions to report as part of the Council's performance monitoring which would normally expect to capture the annual implications of capital construction or infrastructure works by the appropriate service area/directorate.

Question from:	Stephen Mulloy	
Subject:	Voting on Expenditure	
Portfolio Holder:	Lezley Picton	

The Government has said local authorities should not be dealing with those that avoid their tax obligation so can I ask if you think it is morally right for someone to become a councillor, voting on public expenditure, if they avoid paying taxes by having beneficial interests registered offshore in tax havens like the British Virgin Islands?

Mr Mulloy, as your question was addressed directly to me am I to presume that you are alleging that I have beneficial interests registered offshore? If you are suggesting this I can assure you that I have no such holdings.

If you are asking a more general question regarding this matter then whilst I personally consider it to be important for individuals to pay whatever tax they have been legitimately assessed as owing I note that holding monies offshore is not illegal, that tax avoidance is different from tax evasion and that it is for each councillor to decide if this type of holding was appropriate.

Question from:	Stephen Mulloy	
Subject:	Food Enterprise Centre	
Portfolio Holder:	Dean Carroll	

I would be grateful if you could answer the following question without obfuscation as is becoming the norm with responses from Shropshire Council. Is Shropshire Council in **any way at all** beneficial owner of the Food Enterprise Centre at Vanguard Way which is registered offshore (SL203586) in Jersey and does the Council have any control whatsoever, directly or indirectly, over PUK GLF Nominee Ltd who are the registered owners?

For the purpose of this question Beneficial ownership is "an interest in the economic benefit of the property". Your beneficial ownership in property reflects your share of any gain/loss from the property including rent and profit/loss on sale.

I confirm PUK GLF NOMINEE A LIMITED and PUK GLF NOMINEE B LIMITED are the registered freehold owners of the land at the Food Enterprise Centre.

The Council does not have any control whatsoever, directly, or indirectly over PUK GLF NOMINEE A LIMITED and PUK GLF NOMINEE B LIMITED.

In accordance with your definition Mr Mulloy, the Council does have a Beneficial ownership in the Food Enterprise Centre as it has a leasehold interest by virtue of a 125 lease of the property granted to Shropshire County Council in October 2007 by Advantage West Midlands.