

Public Question Time

Cabinet – 11 October 2021

A. Rebecca Stevenson to ask the following question of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:

“When will there be a timetable for short, medium and long term progress on the climate emergency action plan?”

Councillor Lowe, Leader of the Council, to respond as follows:

“The Council's cross party Climate Emergency Member Working Group are currently working with officers to develop the Council's Climate Change Strategy, which will incorporate actions, performance measures and timescales.

As the Climate Change Strategy is a new strategy, a significant amount of groundwork, such as baselining the council's carbon footprint, needs to be undertaken in advance of producing the strategy. I am pleased to confirm that much of this groundwork, including the baselining exercise is now complete, with the results currently being analysed.

Furthermore, the Council considers it essential that a strategy of this importance reflects the aspirations of our communities and our delivery partners to ensure a genuinely joined up and sustainable approach. To this end, the Council has recently launched a residents survey and hosted the Borough's first climate summit. The issues, priorities and plans highlighted from both of these exercises are currently being analysed and will contribute to the development of Council's Climate Change Strategy.

In January 2022, the Council will consult on a draft Climate Change Strategy, giving residents and partners a further opportunity to have their say and contribute towards the final document. Once that consultation is complete, it is intended that the Strategy will be adopted in March 2022.”