

EXECUTIVE

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) From Sheila Grace to the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder

In regard to agenda item 6.12.2 (page 43) – Carbon Neutral Initiative Fund of £875k for “pump priming”,

What will the pump priming activities be and why is no further money allocated to the Carbon Neutral Initiative Fund for future years? (Page 37 and Appendix 5, page 80).

Reply:

Having delivered Carbon Management Plan 1 (CMP1) achieving a 14% carbon saving and exceeded CMP2’s projections delivering a 33% saving on carbon emissions, we are confident that energy efficiency and carbon tax savings will continue to allow delivery of invest to save projects to advance towards Carbon neutrality for council activities. The full use of the pump priming budget is not allocated at this point, but I expect will include adding delivery detail to net-zero Council Carbon Policy and CMP3 (2019-2029) and identifying particular schemes. The strategy will be reported to Environment and Community Services PDS Committee at the end of this month with more detail.

Supplementary Question:

Ms Grace asked that, in view of the huge public awareness and concern for the climate emergency, what were the opportunities for members of the public to engage with the Council’s spending proposals for carbon reduction?

Reply

The Portfolio Holder responded that there would be regular reports to the Environment and Community Services PDS Committee, and residents would be able to ask questions at those meetings.

(2) From Sheila Grace to the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder

Whilst a major financial risk to the Council of addressing Bromley wide emissions is noted in Appendix 10, (page 163), where, and to what extent is the financial risk of failing to address these emissions found in the report?

Reply:

It is not envisaged that there is a mitigatable financial risk to the Council, other than those already captured in the Council’s Strategy. For example, residents’ segregation of recycling saves carbon and disposal costs for the Council are less and general uncontrollable events.

Supplementary Question:

Ms Grace asked how risks from climate catastrophes across all portfolios such as increased health costs of an ageing population with increasing temperatures, and increased numbers of unaccompanied children seeking asylum from countries devastated by climate change, were being taken into account?

Reply

The Portfolio Holder responded that the Council would do its bit to address carbon emissions, but it could not control these issues as the Council's emissions were a small proportion of UK and global emissions. The Council's risk management plan already included some of these risks, but not every aspect of the future could be worked out in detail, and the Council's budget plans were only projected over a four year period; risks arising later would be for future budget plans.

Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:

Cllr Fawthrop asked whether the Portfolio Holder was aware that one of the biggest risks facing the Council was the Mayor of London's proposed London Plan which suggested that large areas of garden land should be built on.

(At this point the meeting was suspended for a short period between 7.05 and 7.08pm).

Reply:

The Portfolio Holder responded that he was aware of the London Plan, but whilst the proposals would have a small negative impact, equally in a UK and global context the impact would be small.