

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 6.30 PM

LANCASTRIAN, TOWN HALL, CHORLEY AND MICROSOFT TEAMS

Agenda No Item

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(Pages 3 - 4)

The response to the question is enclosed for information.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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(1) Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency in November 2019 can the Council confirm that financial and policy measures are now in place to reduce carbon emissions from the Borough so that the net zero target of 2030 will be achieved?

The council put aside a reserve of £500,000 in its budget in February this year to support the work to reach the net zero target by 2030. The challenge of overcoming the Climate Emergency was not one that could be completed in isolation and required coordination, cooperation and collaboration between Council's, communities and partners. I

n November 2020, a meeting is to be held to set the strategy for the Council for the coming years which will include a detailed report covering policy and financial plans.

Some of the actions that we have planned include:

- Planting a tree for every resident in the borough
- Developing a programme to support home energy efficiency
- Using the central Lancashire local plan that we are working on with our neighbouring authorities to improve future development – improving sustainable transport and improvements to biodiversity
- Recruiting staff to work on actions within the green agenda,
- Collaborate with South Ribble to work over a larger area,
- Working to improve air quality across the borough

Councillors have been holding the administration to account to ensure promises are delivered and the green agenda has all party support.

(2) What financial provision has been made for air quality monitoring arrangements including for particulates (PM2.5)?

We already undertake air quality monitoring in the borough and publish our findings on the website on an annual basis:

[https://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Environmental%20Health/ASR%20Chorley%202020_v2%20\(1\)nometa.pdf](https://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Environmental%20Health/ASR%20Chorley%202020_v2%20(1)nometa.pdf)

New methods of air quality monitoring are being tested and developed to establish a benchmark.

We know that air quality monitoring needs to change and improve – and we are aiming to introduce monitoring of particulates (in particular particulates (PM2.5), potentially funded by some of the money put aside to fight climate change and its effects.

The options for producing data that is good quality and approved by the government are very limited, so we are working with our colleagues at Lancashire County Council as the Transport Authority to work out the best approach. Councillor Margaret France is championing this.

(3) Motorways contribute significantly to high levels of nitrogen oxide in the Borough, will the Council press Government to extend 60mph speed limit restrictions to include the M6 and M61?

The decision around speed limits rests with Highways England and the government. We'll be paying close attention to the results of the trials that are currently being undertaken and will use the results to see what the best approach is.

We will continue to press the government to provide funding and clear guidance to local areas in tackling climate change and improve air quality, and we'll continue to lead improvements locally with our partners.

Smart motorways can already vary speed limits to reduce by-products of vehicle emissions and air pollution in local hot spots, such as Botany Bay.

A supplementary question was asked relating to the consideration of issuing an advisory notice to residents not to use log burners. This is particularly important during the current pandemic.