

COUNCIL – 20 JUNE 2023

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR D BIGBY TO COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN

“This question is seeking clarity on the administration’s current net zero target for its council homes in light of the Council’s latest bid for Eco4 funding for uprating the heating efficiency of our housing stock appearing to have been unsuccessful. Could the portfolio holder explain where that leaves the council in terms of the following points please.

- The number of council homes that have been uprated in the last 4 years (since the council declared a climate emergency) and the number that still require uprating over the next 7 years to 2030 to meet the Council’s net zero carbon targets and the likely availability of funding between now and 2030
- is it still the aim for our council stock to achieve an overall reduction in annual carbon emissions from some 15ktCO₂e in 2016 to less than 2ktCO₂e by 2030, as set out in the adopted 2019 roadmap, or is it that all council homes reach an EPC rating of C by 2030 which now seems to be the regularly quoted metric, and, if the latter, what difference will this make to the council’s total carbon emissions by 2030 (in ktCO₂e) when compared with the original target?”

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR A WOODMAN TO COUNCILLOR D BIGBY

On first glance this seems a simple question; how many homes have we improved the SAP or EPC rating on in the past 4 years?

However it is not that simple as it requires tracking all works, pre and post with a full assessment and this is then set against a moving definition of the prime measure of EPC assessment.

I can tell you how many homes have had improvement work done, but this is not the answer to the question you have asked.

In order to answer the real question, we need to conduct a thorough Stock Condition and Quality Survey. This is currently being undertaken and as we begin to receive more robust data and enter it into our new intelligent energy performance management software (Sava) a full analysis will be done and the results shared. This data will be key in developing the new Housing Asset Management Strategy which will be developed over the next year.

We are in the midst of a 3 year asset plan, and we are on track with our ambitions set out in the Zero Carbon Roadmap and graphics and data appended to the Zero Carbon Annual Report are taken from our Sava system.

The detailed answer to the second question relies on the same data from the survey above. But in summary the Council is indeed signed up to the climate emergency and has a target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. We have a regulatory target of reaching EPC C or above on all properties by 2028; so there are two targets we are working to.

Once we have the outcome of the stock survey we can calculate the required reduction that will be achieved via the Asset Management Plan. It will then be for the council through the Asset Management Plan, the HRA business plan and budget setting to make decisions regarding the best way to reach both targets. Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council have a role to play in all these decisions and I am sure members will look forward to those debates at the appropriate time.