

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025

ITEM 6 - QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR D BIGBY TO COUNCILLOR M WYATT

“In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency and subsequently agreed a Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan. The Council Delivery Plan 2023-2028 identifies one of its four priorities as “clean, green and Zero Carbon.....looking after the environment we live in”. A key aim is “We will aim to be carbon neutral as a council by 2030 and a district by 2050”. The council’s Annual Zero Carbon Roadmap Update is an important document which provides evidence of this council’s record in implementing its Zero Carbon Action Plan. For the three years to August 2024 this report has been presented annually to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to allow thorough examination of progress, or lack of progress, against the Council’s net zero goals. Until recently, a Year 5 report on progress was timetabled to go to Corporate Scrutiny this summer.

Could the portfolio holder please explain why and by whom the decision has been made to withdraw this report from the scrutiny process?”

REPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR M WYATT TO COUNCILLOR D BIGBY

The report has not been withdrawn. As part of the Scrutiny Working Group meeting on the 18 June, all annual reports including the one on Net Zero, are a topic of discussion. This will ensure that annual reports being made to either committee align with the Scrutiny Principles. Once this is completed, the reports agreed will then be programmed through the agenda of the scrutiny meetings to ensure members are updated in line with the agreed protocols. As a Council Delivery Plan target quarterly reporting on the progress on Net Zero, is also taking place.

The report was removed from the agenda due to a combination of officer availability and work that was being undertaken in the background to inform such a report not being available for that date. Equally the agenda for the Corporate Scrutiny Committee meeting in September (there is no meeting of that Committee in August) has a number of other sizable agenda items.