

COUNCIL – TUESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2025

ITEM 6 - QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR D BIGBY TO COUNCILLOR R BLUNT

'In the light of Kemi Badenoch's recent statements that she believes the UK's 2050 net zero target is "impossible" to achieve and that, if ever elected again to government, the Conservative Party plans to repeal the Climate Change Act, as Council Leader and Leader of the Conservative Group, can you confirm the Administration's continued commitment to the Council's current net-zero policies including working towards a net-zero council by 2030 and a net zero district by 2050.'

RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R BLUNT TO COUNCILLOR D BIGBY

'The Council declared a climate emergency on 25 June 2019 and adopted its Zero Carbon Roadmap and Action Plan on 31 March 2020. The Action Plan recommends activity to achieve the ambition of working towards a net Zero Carbon Council by 2030 and a net Zero Carbon district by 2050.

Whilst I share the view that these targets are challenging, the Administration remains committed to doing all it can in addressing climate change.

There is no change in the Council's position and commitment. "Clean green and zero carbon district" remains a Council Delivery Plan priority with the aim to be carbon neutral as a council by 2030 and as a district by 2050.

The Council's emissions are predominantly driven by utilities and fuel. We have transitioned fifteen vehicles to electric and there is a long-term commitment to use HVO instead of diesel for all other fleet, driving significant emissions benefits. Costs to decarbonise the Council's property portfolio, across both the general fund and HRA, however, may prove unaffordable, however, without additional government funding.'