

Appendix 1

Council Meeting, 9 November 2021 Question Time (agenda item 14)

1. Question from Cllr Cato to Cllr Petty, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Engagement

Cllr Cato asked the following question of Cllr Petty:

“In the light of COP26, time is marching on and further to my points raised at the last council meeting on the 21st September 2021, and my question also raised in council on the 16th June 2020 as Question 3, following my question at Executive Committee on 5th February 2020, I am interested to hear what progress has been made towards delivering actual metrics for lifecycle carbon emissions in reports and projects brought to members that show how we are moving towards or away from our stated climate emission goals and when might we anticipate this being mandatory in our reports so members can make more meaningful climate related considerations and decisions?

Is this another matter that requires an immediate call upon Government to provide the data and tools to enable all local government to meet our climate related obligations? ”

In response Cllr Petty thanked Cllr Cato for his continued commitment to the climate emergency and confirmed these matters had been raised with officers. She outlined the difficulties in estimating carbon emissions particularly where behavioural change was an issue. She confirmed that a range of carbon accounting technologies were being considered and decision making tools used by other councils were being looked at to establish what was working well. She confirmed there was real commitment within North Somerset to address carbon emissions and she outlined the wide range of initiatives in place to embed change.

2. Question from Cllr James to Cllr Gibbons, Executive Member for Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning

Cllr James referred to the issue of intergenerational justice and the importance of engagement with young people, referring to the Parliament of Young People set up by the Mayor of Bristol, and he asked Cllr Gibbons what steps were being taken to progress this within North Somerset.

Cllr Gibbons responded that she was committed to introducing a youth parliament or similar forum and stated that delivery of this project was being overseen by Cllr Holland, who she invited to respond. Cllr Holland outlined progress with the development of a youth panel, with a cross district meeting to discuss this planned for the New Year. She added she would welcome a meeting with Cllr James and Cllr Cronnelly as the council’s youth champions to discuss how best to take this forward.

3. Question from Cllr Keating to Cllr Solomon, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Services

Cllr Keating asked for an update on progress with plans for Churchill Sports Centre.

Cllr Solomon referred to the statement from the public speaker earlier in the meeting and confirmed there had been communication with all parties on this. Various options were being considered but there were difficulties to be addressed around funding. Further meetings were planned for the coming weeks and he would report back once the position was clearer.

4. Question from Cllr Neve to Cllr Payne, Assistant Executive Member for Parking Strategy and Delivery

Cllr Neve asked the following question of Cllr Payne:

“I refer to comments made following the Climate Emergency Progress Update report at last month’s meeting regarding funding. Councillor Cartman stated that tough decisions will need to be taken on what key services to cut if resources were to be redirected to the climate emergency.

Have the Executive considered the option of a Workplace Parking Levy as a means to both discourage private car use and raise additional revenue that could help pay for active travel measures, public transport provision and EV charging points?”

Cllr Payne responded that addressing these issues was a priority for the council, with any revenue generated from parking schemes being used for such improvements. A workplace parking levy would be considered alongside other measures as part of the long term parking strategy which would be coming before Council in due course. He confirmed the Executive had yet to consider such a levy, stating it was important to understand the impact and implications for residents and businesses.