

Questions for Executive Portfolio Holder for Resources & Information Technology  
regarding the Environment & Economy Select Committee Climate Emergency Scrutiny  
Review

1. How are you reaching out to influence partners, residents and businesses in Stevenage and Hertfordshire towards our shared climate change ambitions? Can you please provide details of any Local Government networks or work with other local authorities such as the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) that you are involved in, working towards reaching shared goals and is this leading in any way towards influencing central government?
2. Members have heard from the Executive Members for (i) Environment and Regeneration and (ii) Economy, Enterprise & Transport and (iii) Housing & Housing Development regarding their plans towards Net Zero by 2030. What actions would you highlight as the most significant towards the Council achieving its ambitions for Stevenage to be Net Zero by 2030?
3. What issues do you perceive to be the main challenges for the Council to address in the Council's Climate Change Strategy to meet Net Zero, and thinking of your Portfolio area what are the main challenges for the financing of adaptations and mitigations to meet the Council's Climate Change ambitions for net zero by 2030 for the wider resources and for IT?
4. E&E Members are aware of the huge challenge this is for local government to decarbonise, and for many Council's like Stevenage with a net zero 2030 target date, this is with the backdrop of ever pressurised budgets, close to double digit inflation and government funding that has so far been limited to all authorities competing with each other for pots of funding for defined schemes. We are all aware of the financial pressures placed on Stevenage Borough Council and elsewhere in local government by the present economic situation. Where can Stevenage and other local authorities turn to for financial assistance, to assist the transition to net zero?
5. Do you think that Stevenage Borough Council is asking its employees to think critically about their role in achieving the Council's climate goals? Is environmental sustainability entering the core values of the organisation, through the appraisal process for all employees?
6. What mitigations and adaptations over the next decade do you see might be necessary for the Council to consider if the wider ambitions for globally keeping temperature increases to 1.5 degrees centigrade this century are not looking like they will be achieved by the latter half of this decade? (mitigations could be things like eating less meat, flying less, using electric vehicles, cycle more, stop using gas for domestic heating fuel, all of these are to try to curb excessive climate change rises and adaptations would be things like fitting sun screens to external windows to block excessive summer heat, coastal and river defences for flooding, protecting food supply chains etc.)
7. Are you more or less encouraged following COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021?
8. As an Executive Member of the Council do you think the issue yet has the priority it needs?
9. More generally, what level of public engagement do you think the Council should have for this over the next decade?

E&E Select Committee Members may have further supplementary questions for you at the meeting.