

Questions from the SBC Environment & Economy Select Committee Climate Emergency Scrutiny
Review for a joint session with:
HCC Executive Members for Environment, Cllr Eric Buckmaster
HCC Executive Member for Transport, Cllr Phil Bibby/Deputy Cllr Graham McAndrew
Chair of Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership, Cllr Graham McAndrew, East
Herts District Council

1. We are all aware of the financial pressures placed on local government by the present economic situation brought on by Covid, the War in Ukraine and the related cost of living crisis. Where can local authorities turn to for financial assistance, to assist the transition to net zero and is there a real risk that actions that are required now will be delayed because of other priorities?
2. Can you please share what plans there are in Hertfordshire regarding upskilling and training opportunities for a green economy in the County? As an example, there is currently huge interest from consumers for PV solar panels but anecdotally it appears that there are shortages of trained personnel and materials to meet the demand.
3. How are you reaching out to influence partners, residents and businesses in Hertfordshire towards our shared climate change ambitions? Please provide details of the work of the Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership (HCCSP) are involved in, working towards reaching shared climate change goals and is this leading in any way towards influencing central government? Have you found Stevenage Borough Council's to be an active member in the HCCSP?
4. SBC Scrutiny Members have established that 2/3 (64%) of the overall CO2 emissions for the area of Stevenage are caused by domestic dwellings/heating emissions (28%) and transport (34%). SBC Council has some direct influence over the domestic heating of its housing stock of 8,000 properties and has some indirect influences over the remainder of residents. What actions would you highlight as the most significant towards Hertfordshire Councils achieving their Net Zero ambitions, specifically regarding (i) domestic housing and (ii) transport? An example that Scrutiny Members are aware of regarding transport and showing excellent collaboration is the plans for the 27 electric buses as part of the Zero Emissions Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) electric bus scheme to be run by Arriva in Stevenage, replacing their old diesel fleet.
5. What mitigations and adaptations over the current decade and beyond do you see might be necessary if the global target of keeping temperature increases to 1.5 degrees centigrade this century is not achieved? We are seeing the effects of Climate Change already happening in Hertfordshire with extreme weather events such as storm Eunice in February 2022 and the extreme heat between June to August 2022. Hertfordshire is one of the driest Counties in England, and there were devastating fires in July which affected the neighbouring County of Essex. Members are particularly thinking about the impact on adult social care services and excess deaths from heat events for older and vulnerable citizens.
6. From what you know about Stevenage Borough Council's efforts to move the area to net zero, how would you describe the Council's strategies and progress so far to move towards Net Zero? What areas should SBC be looking to improve upon?
7. Across Hertfordshire do you think climate change yet has the priority it needs?
8. What level of public engagement do you think is required over the next decade?

Depending on your responses (in writing or verbally at the meeting) E&E Select Committee Members may have further supplementary questions for you at the meeting.