

Public Question for Cabinet – 10 December 2019

Extinction Rebellion are concerned that the draft Dorset Council corporate 4-year plan is not really set in the context of a Climate and Ecological Emergency. It appears to be an 'also ran' or side issue rather than the issue we are all facing and which needs to be urgently addressed and do whatever is necessary to avert the worst effects and catastrophic outcomes.

Following the last full Dorset Council meeting Cllr Ray Bryan offered to meet with a few Extinction Rebellion supporters to talk through the draft plan and our concerns.

Despite a number of dates being proposed by Extinction Rebellion this meeting has yet to take place. The deadline for consultation on the draft plan is on 20th December.

Given the timetable for the new corporate plan, there is no clarity on how any of the information and evidence currently being gathered, and feedback from the member and officer workshop session themed groups, will be picked and included in the corporate plan. Indeed as reported by Cllr Bryan at your last Cabinet, the outcomes from all of this will not be going to your Executive Advisory Panel until the spring and then back to Cabinet– so unlikely to have any impact on the final corporate plan.

We appreciate that the council is facing a lot of challenges. Particularly the need to meet statutory responsibilities within children and adult services. However it is these vulnerable groups that will be hit the hardest if the climate and ecological emergency is not addressed.

In the context of a declared Climate and Ecological emergency it is surely the basis for all decisions and in all departments. It is the top priority and we were led to believe that by declaring an emergency Dorset Council and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Executive Advisory Panel understood and accepted that.

The current framework for the draft corporate plan appears to be economic growth, economic growth, economic growth! But this is a defining moment for our climate and ecological future. What governments, local councils, corporations and individuals do in the next twelve months will either contribute to the escalating crisis taking us into catastrophe or will work to prevent it.

Will Dorset Council honour the climate and ecological declaration it has made, taking all actions possible to prevent the crises, giving leadership and direction to our community in its corporate plan, or will Dorset Council continue to pretend that 'business as usual' is somehow an acceptable response?

**Julie-Ann Booker
(on behalf of Extinction Rebellion)**