

Questions from Councillors for Cabinet 8 September 2020

1. Question from Cllr M Roe

The climate crisis inevitably affects everyone. However, there is a widespread awareness that the impacts of climate change are not distributed equally, and the consequences are likely to be far worse for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable. So, there must be a process in place to identify communities that are at highest risk to the consequences of climate change. One would also expect community engagement to gain a greater understanding of actions needed to mitigate or in terms of adaptation to climate change.

How does the council identify those who are most at risk from the impacts of climate change, and what is being done to assist the most vulnerable?

2. Question from Cllr Paul Kimber

Future of the High Angle Battery

Many Portlanders were appalled at the vandalising and have requested me to ask what plans Dorset Council has regarding the future of the site.

3. Question from Cllr B Heatley

The Draft Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy issued on 15 July 2020 refers to Dorset Council 'securing a certified 'green' renewable energy tariff for electricity supply from September 2020' (pg 02).

Could we have some more detail about this very welcome development, such as:

- with what supplier or suppliers this arrangement has been made
- what proportion of Dorset Council's total electricity procurement is involved
- how long the arrangement will initially last
- who has certified the tariff as 'green',
- whether the Council is satisfied that this arrangement creates genuine additionality in the generation of green energy,
- how many tonnes per annum of CO2 emissions this arrangement is estimated to save, and
- an estimate of any price premium that this arrangement has cost?

4. Question from Cllr N Ireland

The paper detailing the new Corporate Procurement Strategy quite rightly recognises that we, as an organisation with a substantial budget, can make a

real impact to our local economy by maximising the 'Dorset Pound' through prioritising spend with local employers and businesses rather than further afield. The impact that this can have in addressing the Climate and Ecological Emergency is also highlighted, although worryingly only amounts to half a page. Phrases such as "procurement is so much more than purchasing of goods, services or works" and "not about minimising upfront prices" give some confidence that this council will take into account many other factors than just the headline cost. The "social value" derived from spending locally cannot be underestimated in our Dorset economy dominated by below-average wages, high rates of temporary and seasonal employment, and above average house prices; therefore it is a concern that the report highlights the difficulty in evaluating or measuring that as part of the procurement process. One criteria to apply would be to recognise the low levels of pay that persists throughout our area – 20% of jobs are paid less than the Real Living Wage - and address this by giving weighting and preference to employers accredited with the Living Wage Foundation.

Will this council recognise the need for all employees to be paid at least the Real Living Wage by ensuring that any business or employer we enter into a contract with guarantee all their employees receive as a minimum the Real Living Wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation?