

30 November 2018

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Environment Committee will be held on **THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER 2018** in the Council Chamber, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud at **7.00 pm.**



Kathy O'Leary
Chief Executive

Please Note: This meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.stroud.gov.uk). By entering the Council Chamber you are consenting to being filmed. The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the press and public.

AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive declarations of interest.
- 3 **MINUTES**
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018.
- 4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
The Chair of Committee will answer questions from members of the public submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.
DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF QUESTIONS
Noon on Monday 10 December 2018.
Questions must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive, Democratic Services, Ebley Mill, Ebley Wharf, Stroud and sent by post or by Email: democratic.services@stroud.gov.uk
- 5 **WORK PROGRAMME**
To consider the work programme.
- 6 **MEMBER REPORTS**
 - a) Planning Review Panel
 - b) Stroud Concordat
 - c) Performance Monitoring
 - d) Waste and Recycling Task and Finish Group

- 7 **APPOINTMENT OF PERFORMANCE MONITOR**
To appoint a performance monitor, following the resignation of Councillor Hayward.
- 8 **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) GOVERNANCE AND SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS**
To recommend CIL governance and spending arrangements to Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 9 **MARKET TOWNS CENTRES INITIATIVE FUND**
To seek a recommendation to Strategy and Resources Committee of the allocation of the market towns initiative funds.
- 10 **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REVENUE ESTIMATES - REVISED 2018/19 AND ORIGINAL 2019/20**
To present the revised Committee budget for 2018/19 and original 2019/20 revenue budget estimates for 2019/20.
- 11 **ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY UPDATE**
To advise Committee of the findings from the recent strategy consultation and work programme.
- 12 **FRAMPTON COMMUNITY DESIGN STATEMENT**
To adopt the above as supplementary planning advice (SPA).
- 13 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**
See Agenda Item 4 for deadline for submission.
- 14 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

A motion regarding Achieving Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment has been proposed by Councillor Pickering and seconded by Councillor Butcher.

Humans have caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels¹. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm)². This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity. In order to reduce the chance of runaway global warming and limit the effects of climate breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂ equivalent (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible. The latest information gives us 12 years to take emergency action in order to prevent global warming greater than 1.5°C³.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released a report focussing on the impact that 1.5°C would have on the planet compared to 2°C. Above 1.5°C, the risks to humanity of floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty become much greater. At current levels, the world is on course for 3°C of warming.⁴

In addition to the IPCC report, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has called for government leadership to make the changes necessary to reduce carbon emissions. According to the WWF Living Planet Report 2018, "*Earth is losing biodiversity at a rate seen only during mass extinctions*". The losses in vertebrate

species - mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles - averaged 60% between 1970 and 2014⁵.

Stroud District, and other local and regional authorities, have a role in contributing towards achievement of national, legally binding, carbon emissions reduction targets, as agreed at the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.⁶

In Gloucestershire, the consequences of no action include:

- Increased risk of flash flooding and the resulting damages to buildings, crops, farmland and infrastructure as a result of more extreme rainfall events.
- Health problems due to increased heat stress, particularly for vulnerable adults and children.
- Increased costs associated with changes to crops and biodiversity.
- Higher energy costs.
- Crop failures associated with extreme heat, such as was experienced in 2018.⁷

There are significant economic, social and environmental benefits to be secured from these changes. Both the Government and the Committee on Climate Change believe the shift to a very low carbon energy future represents the best course for the country's economic development while lowering the risk of fuel poverty and reducing air pollution.⁸

The Committee acknowledges:

- That individuals cannot be expected to make carbon emissions reductions on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation and infrastructure to make low carbon living easier and the new norm.
- That greenhouse gas emissions result from both production and consumption.
- That Stroud District Council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the issue of climate breakdown, having met its corporate carbon reduction targets and in becoming the first Carbon Neutral Council in Europe.
- That the consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.
- That the time for business as usual is over, as acknowledged by the recent action by Gloucestershire County Council, creating an additional cabinet role with responsibility for overseeing the authority's approach to prevention of, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
- Bold climate action can deliver local social and economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and sustainable livelihood opportunities, as well as improved wellbeing.

The Committee resolves:

- To ask Stroud District Council to endorse the 'Climate Emergency' announced by the administration on 16 November 2018⁹ and pledge to do everything within the Council's power to make Stroud District carbon neutral by 2030.

- To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that initial funding of £200,000 from the business rate pilot gain, (expected to be a minimum of £500,000, and which has not been included in the base budget for expenditure¹⁰) is ring-fenced to support scoping and delivery of the Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment¹¹. These funds will support action:
 1. To set out a Plan of Action, including clear targets and transparent reporting, to develop District wide Locally Determined Contributions to complement National Determined Contributions in line with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5C.
 2. To include planning and support in the District for adaptation to the climate change that is already happening.
 3. To develop a strategy for Stroud District Council to play a leadership role in promoting community, public and business partnerships for this Carbon Neutral 2030 Commitment throughout the District, County and region.
 4. To work with partner bodies across the county to ensure that the climate emergency is adequately reflected in the development and implementation of all county wide strategies and plans, including Gloucestershire 2050, the Gloucestershire Industrial Strategy, Gloucestershire Energy Strategy and Gloucestershire Transport Plans.
 5. To investigate all possible sources of external funding and match funding to support this commitment.
 6. To work with key partner organisations within the County and region to secure external funding.
 7. To report back on an annual basis to Council on progress made.
- To call on Central Government to provide additional powers and resources to support local and national action towards the 2030 target.

¹ [Climate Analytics – Global warming reaches 1oc above preindustrial, warmest in more than 11,000 years](#)

² [YaleEnvironment 360 - How the World Passed a Carbon Threshold and Why it Matters](#)

³ [BBC News – First call to save the world from 'climate catastrophe'](#)

⁴ [IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - Reports](#)

⁵ [WWF Publications – Living Planet Report 2018](#)

⁶ [The Bonn-Fiji Commitment – Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#)

⁷ [Gloucestershire County Council, Cabinet Report – Responding to Climate Change](#)

⁸ [Gov.uk – Policy Paper – Clean Growth Strategy: Executive Summary](#)

⁹ [Stroud New & Journal – 'Climate emergency' declared, how councillors plan to tackle it](#)

¹⁰ [Recommendation from Strategy & Resources Committee on 4 October 2018 to Council on 18 October 2018 – Budget Strategy 2019/20 to 2022/23](#)

¹¹ Subject to confirmation of the funds being received at the end of the financial year 2018/19

Members of Environment Committee

Councillor Simon Pickering (Chair)
Councillor George Butcher (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Chris Brine
 Councillor Paul Denney
 Councillor Jim Dewey
 Councillor Trevor Hall

Councillor Gary Powell
 Councillor Tom Skinner
 Councillor Haydn Sutton
 Councillor Brian Tipper
 Councillor Jessica Tomblin
 Councillor Tim Williams