

Agenda Item 4

Full Council Meeting – 14th September 2022

Petitions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Petition	Member(s)
Lily Grayson	<p>Request for a pedestrian crossing like a puffin crossing, toucan crossing or zebra crossing from the local council on Cross Hill, Ecclesfield, S35</p> <p>Lead Petitioner: Lily Grayson</p> <p>No of signatures: 7</p> <p>Petition has been referred to Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee</p>	Cllr Julie Grocutt / Cllr Mazher Iqbal
Liz Hnat	<p>Petition to save Graves Park Rose Garden Café</p> <p>Lead Petitioner: Liz Hnat</p> <p>No of Signatures: 5575</p> <p>A debate will now take place at Full Council on 2nd November 2022</p>	Cllr Bryan Lodge

Questions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Question	Member(s)
Geoffrey Cox	<p>SCC Officers have confirmed that approximately one third of the entire carbon budget available to Sheffield for the period from our Climate Emergency declaration to achieving net zero has now been spent. Will the leadership of the City Council speak at a public meeting to report on this spend, on the progress the city has made against its 10 point plan for reducing emissions down to net zero by 2030, and on its future carbon spend forecasts?</p>	Cllr Mazher Iqbal
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Yes. The leadership of the City Council, specifically the Transport, Regeneration, and Climate Change Policy Committee, would be happy to speak at a public meeting.</p>	

	<p>The leadership welcome this opportunity to speak to the latest carbon spend data for the city as a whole, and it looks forward to sharing an open update including more information about the progress and pragmatic steps the Council has taken to date on this issue.</p> <p>This includes but is not limited to highlighting progress on the development of our decarbonisation routemaps, progressing the BEIS Heat Network Zoning Pilot Programme, energy efficiency works to council buildings and homes, which will reduce carbon emissions and save tenants and residents money on their energy bills, the development of an internal Climate Impact Assessment tool, and the Carbon Literacy Training of Members and Officers at the Council.</p> <p>We recognise the significant ongoing work and efforts of stakeholders and citizens in every part of the city to reduce their carbon footprints and are planning a programme of engagement to help us to work collaboratively to tackle climate change. We acknowledge that there is much more we can and need to do and that we can only do this by working together as a city to respond to our Climate Emergency declaration, execute our Ten Point Plan, and achieve our climate goals.</p> <p>The leadership would like to thank the South Yorkshire Climate Alliance for submitting this question, which rightly draws attention to this pressing agenda at a timely moment in our shared journey towards a net zero Sheffield. We recognize the valuable work you do, and look forward to the future meeting and collaborating together.</p>	
Rob Udale	<p>Sheffield prides itself on being one of the more forward-thinking cities in the UK, putting climate considerations at the heart of its policies. This awareness should include every aspect of council activities, including food provision. Other councils, including Oxfordshire and Cambridge City, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their meetings and events. Given that animal agriculture is a major contributor to climate emissions, and reducing consumption of meat & dairy is known to be the single most effective way to reduce impact, will you show climate leadership by committing to serve only plant-based food at its events? Even if largely symbolic, this will be a positive and forward-thinking step, sending a powerful message which will</p>	Cllr Julie Grocutt / Cllr Mazher Iqbal

	<p>help normalise plant-based eating and bring council food policy into line with other climate-aware policies.</p>	
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>We are about to renew our Food Strategy. The new strategy “Fairer, Healthier, Greener” will recognise the need to safeguard our food system by ensuring it produces nutritious food, helps to restore nature and halt climate change and is resilient to withstand global shocks. Our internal conferencing team are keen to look at ways to make their offer more sustainable and discussions on the specifics of this are due to begin shortly. We will be considering whether to develop and adopt a range of sustainable standards for our internal catering including, for example, meat and dairy reduction, locally grown, reduction in single use plastic, reduction in food waste.</p> <p>In addition to internal catering the council also holds contracts and leases for many services and venues that include a food offer, for example our leisure centres and parks cafes. Climate impact assessments already prompt officers to consider the impacts of the sourcing of food and drink and we will continue to test and refine this process. We are also developing a consistent approach to incorporating climate impacts (including through food provision) into contracts and leases and to ensuring appropriate performance monitoring is carried out. This approach will be part of the SCC 2030 route map which will set out objectives and actions for reducing the Council’s climate impacts.</p>	
James Martin	<p>Considering the rising concerns of people being able to cope with the rising cost of energy and food are Local Area Committees (LACs) able to readjust their budget expenditure plans where necessary or do governance rules prevent such adaptations? I am concerned that if governance rules currently prevent LACs from responding to this emergency, this will undermine local groups of councillors from providing support where one or more wards is unable to provide a support location for warmth and advice this winter.</p> <p>I hope all councillors will carefully take in this question as though awkward amending budgets after much consultation, this could be the more compassionate thing to do – particularly if your ward has a venue to provide support but where vast fuel increases would mean that venues finances are unable to facilitate</p>	Cllr Terry Fox

	<p>opening without assistance. The distance to travel for support being a barrier for many in the city.</p>	
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Cost of living issues are a key priority for the Council. It has established a cross party group that is looking at its strategic response. This work includes scope to support or facilitate warm ‘welcoming places’ such as libraries and family centres where people can visit during the week.</p> <p>Local Area Committees (LACs) are supporting the Council’s work by gathering information about local needs and sources of support. Supporting the city’s voluntary sector is a central part of ongoing LAC activity, for example support for local food banks.</p> <p>LACs have a total budget of £930,000 for 2022/23 (£100,000 per area plus a city-wide sum of £230,000 for its 28 ward pots). Some of these funds have already been spent or committed to projects. By themselves LAC budgets cannot address cost of living issues but across the city, ward and LAC members will be supporting local initiatives.</p> <p>Amongst some of the plans, priorities have been agreed which would allow spending to support the Council’s response to the cost of living crisis without the need to change the plan. To re-purpose the money would require further consultation.</p> <p>We would encourage local organisations to contact their LAC team (Local Area Committees Sheffield City Council) to discuss any support they require. Members will then be able to determine what support they are in a position to offer.</p>	