



In May 19 a climate emergency was declared by Cheshire East, and it has suffered in any meaningful community action due to a lack of coordinated action which is primarily a management issue.

Climate Change action is fundamentally about us acting now to do our part for the food security and quality of living of future generations. It has taken 150 years to get to this point and we now see across the planet differences in weather that make this long predicted natural reaction to our current way of living more believable to us. We will not see the ultimate benefits of net zero choices we make now in our lifetime so for all of us it is a very hard topic to grasp and equally as hard to act on. But act we must for future generations.

We welcome all the recommendations and observations contained in the report and note the main point of change for council will be believing in the different directorates that climate change impacts of decisions are as important as its current budget issues and all decisions should ALWAYS include both considerations. Currently we note a bias toward decisions saving money in the short term and communications stating what we can't do because of X.

We would rather see other disclosures stating what we could do which is Y but... and what we would ideally do Z as well.

In an open process of decision making communicating the obstacles to what officer's feel would be perfect decisions should be part of a feedback to those responsible for the obstacles and policies developed, competing policies ratified, and changes petitioned for accordingly.

The report does not touch on the significant impact legal services review and financial review with a view on carbon cost and policy implementation could contribute to the process of unifying net zero policy climate approach. If in these departments staff had adequate training in the topic, they are full of sharp minds that could be operating a bias to net zero support that would then run across the full council and be transformative to the council's performance in this issue and implementation of its policy.

In the report we see all directorates in their day-to-day purchasing have carbon Neutrality dimensions, but this is especially true in Planning and Highways which we believe as the plan does can do more to promote different attitudes and approaches toward supporting the residents and businesses they influence. By amending their processes and interactions to inform, educate and encourage net zero beneficial behaviour in the application of competing policy decisions and interpretations.

The report also does not include reference to a developing a Bias toward helping and backing change where possible by way of concessions and practical support and encouragement originating from council. For example, proactive identification of tree planting areas, review of policies preventing activity like tree planting, proactively giving information on design considerations like triple glazing and other net zero benefitting decisions to planning applicants. Identifying buildings where for example in town centres they would be perfect for an

uncontested and technically ideal solar installation or car charging location and informing their owners for example.

Car sharing is also totally omitted despite the importance of cars in our transport infrastructure now and for the future and as we know many making similar journeys but not in volumes warranting or allowing bus provision currently. Supporting local car share / ride share apps that offer live information on local short journeys to be shared by near neighbours could be supported or defined.

Current bus policy is biased toward those without other transport means rather than as a competitor to wider or local car travel. Such a policy excludes the opportunity for a financial viability that would provide a service for everyone. And like other policies hampered by other budget choices which compound a polarisation of spend on minorities at the expense of a wider net zero agenda. Council needs to find its balance again in supporting all residents.

Overall, we recognise this document as a step forward if implemented and encourage council to accept the proposals. We suggest in summary.

- Look at the role of legal and financial services in encouraging and ensuring a net zero bias is part of each department's decisions.
- Inclusion of policies around better car use like car sharing and driving choice.
- A proactive and innovative approach to supporting community lifestyle change.
- Be proactive in areas where residents are unaware, they can make a difference to our carbon footprint and encourage uptake by confirming where no obstacles to change would exist and individually confirming they should consider options and engage.
- Bringing net zero choices and recommendations into all conversations Council has with residents to educate and inform.

Kind regards,

Planning, Environments and Consultations Committee on behalf of Sandbach Town Council