

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 30 January 2020

Question 1

Mr R Palgrave, How Caple

To: leader of the council

I asked at the 8 March 2019 meeting if Council would bring to the attention of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Herefordshire MPs the Council's concern about climate change and the outcome of the Council's climate emergency vote that day. I also asked if Council would request help in developing its climate action plans. My point was that without central government support, Herefordshire Council cannot make sufficient progress on this most important issue. In response, the Leader said that climate change is a national and global issue going beyond the county boundaries, and agreed that we need to call on others to help. He went on to say that he knew that our MPs will be happy to help us address the issues I raised. What response has Council had from our MPs and from MHCLG?

Response

I note that the questioner highlights comments made by the previous Leader of the Council in March 2019. In responding to the climate emergency, the support of our MPs and central Government departments such as MHCLG will be important. Whilst I am not aware of any specific response being received, our national government has also declared a climate emergency and is supporting action by local authorities to address the climate emergency. In developing our action plans, officers will be following all appropriate government guidance including that provided by MHCLG. As Leader, I can assure you that the new administration takes the climate emergency very seriously and is committed to developing clear actions to achieve net zero by 2030/31. I will therefore be personally writing to our MPs and the Secretary of State for MHCLG to ask them to confirm what practical support they are able to provide to enable us to deliver our plans.