

## Deputation to FBC Climate Scrutiny Panel May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

– Anne Stephenson

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Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you about the draft Climate Change Action Plan.

This will be an important document so it's vital that it's as good as it can be.

I welcome the ambitious target that Councillors have set to make the Council's activities net-zero by 2030, and to aim to achieve net-zero for all of the Borough by the same time. Now you, as Councillors, need to have confidence that these ambitions will be met: the Action Plan is the document that should be giving you that confidence.

There are many positive things in the Action Plan as it stands.

It's good to see the clear split between actions that address the Council's own emissions and those that cut emissions across the Borough.

It's fantastic to see that scope 3 emissions have been measured and that the Plan aims to address these.

And it's great that the Plan recognises the importance of adapting to climate change, building resilience and safeguarding biodiversity.

But, if you are to have confidence that Fareham will achieve its net-zero ambitions, there are many more things that need to be covered.

The Plan has plenty to say about the emissions for which the Council is directly responsible – but those only represent around 2% of the total emissions in the Borough.

The plan also includes some good actions to influence wider emissions by engaging with people and businesses;

But it's very light on using the Council's powers and policies to influence emissions.

Every decision the Council makes has climate implications: Every planning application, every policy in the Local Plan, every green space provision and design, every action to meet housing needs and every investment decision.

To take just one example, it's quite possible that policies designed to expand Solent Airport could lead to emissions that cancel out all the gains from the actions in this Action Plan.

I say "possible", because as things stand there's no way to tell how much impact the actions in this Plan will actually have. And this is one of several areas where the Plan needs to be fleshed out:

- You need to see – wherever possible emission cuts in the Plan being quantified;
- The plan should state that All Council and committee reports need to include the climate impact of the decisions they recommend;
- The Plan needs to have more detail about how actions will be achieved;
- It needs to show who will be responsible for each action;
- And when each action should be completed;
- And also what interim milestones will allow progress on the actions to be tracked.

Whether these details are in the Action Plan itself or in supplementary documents,

Councillors and residents need to see them to have confidence that the 2030 target will be achieved.