



## COUNCIL MEETING – 22 September 2021

### Questions by the Public under Council Procedure Rule 15(1)

- Each questioner will have 2 minutes in which to ask their question. The order of the questions to be asked is as set out below and an officer will pass a microphone to the questioner when their name is called by the Mayor.
- Please note that following the response given by the Councillor, the questioner may also ask a supplementary question which must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.
- The total time allocated for questions will *normally* be limited to 20 minutes. For any question which cannot be dealt with at the meeting, a written answer will be provided, normally within one working week.

	From:
1	Leo Keay



## COUNCIL MEETING – 22 September 2021

### Questions by the Public under Council Procedure Rule 15(1)

#### QUESTION 1

From: Leo Keay

To: The Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency (Cllr Murphy)

“What measures is the Council taking to promote community renewable energy projects?”

#### Reply

“Positive steps have been taken recently to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the district. The council has installed solar panels on the new Winchester Leisure Centre and other operational buildings and is working with Marwell Zoo and Biffa to install solar panels on their premises. There has also been planning consent granted for a new 25MW solar farm site at Three Maids Hill near Winchester. The council is now investigating options for developing a solar farm on its own land to further increase renewable energy generation in the district.

The Local Plan Strategic Issues and Priorities document supports and encourages proposals for renewable energy, and proposes to boost renewable energy generation rates through the call for renewable energy sites. This sets a strong platform for increased generation of renewable energy in future years.

Our focus to date in relation to working with communities has been on engaging and helping them to understand the impact of their actions and the part they can play in tackling the climate emergency. We commissioned the Centre for Sustainable Energy and WinACC to collaborate on a year-long project of engagement and action planning with our many and varied communities. That work is progressing well, with more than 40 parishes and community groups involved to date and bespoke carbon footprint reports produced for every parish and city ward.

The next stage of this project is a series of community action planning days in October, which will see those communities start to develop ideas to reduce their carbon emissions and contribution to climate change. Community renewable energy is one of the ways in which they might choose to do this and they would be supported and guided as to how best to initiate such a scheme.”