

**Response from the meeting of the Cabinet on the
O&S Committee's Comments – 4 November 2021**

Item Number: 9 – Riverside House Development Brief

Requested by: Chair- O&S

Reasons Considered: Because the Council own the site and it is important to the people living in Royal Leamington Spa. It is important that due diligence is undertaken.

Scrutiny Comment:

The Committee welcomed and supported the report and asked that information on the sample size should be added to give context to the statistics provided in the report.

The Committee recommended that in the brief, the Council's wish for the developer to find carbon savings in the build/construction process and to investigate the reuse of materials, be made clear.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the recommendation from Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Item Number: 11 – Climate Change Action Plan

Requested by: Chair - O&S and the Green Group

Reasons Considered:

(1) Chair – O&S:

Since this is a stated strategic priority for the Council and important to the residents in the District, the Committee decided a while back that this report would be called in when it appeared on the Cabinet agenda to ensure due diligence was undertaken.

(2) Green Group:

As it's a strategic priority of the Council.

Here are some of the issues that we'd like discussed, but are sure other members will wish to raise other points. We are delighted with the plans to appoint more officers and many of the actions within appendix 1 are excellent.

We would like to know more about the context of the Heat Decarbonisation Plan (ambition 1 appendix 1, points 1.1. 1.2 and 1.3), including: How much are already agreed projects expected to reduce WDC's carbon emissions from heating using gas? Which 'net zero standards' will be used?

In section 4.1 of ambition 1 appendix 1, it states that WDC has moved all investments away from fossil fuels! Can you please confirm this is the case, and whether this excellent news has been/ will be publicised widely.

Ambition 2 appendix 1 section 3.5 refers to “the standard used for Europa Way”. Please provide a link to this standard so members can see what it is. Section 3.6 refers to the WDC zero carbon DPD as also providing a standard. How do these 2 standards relate? In what ways is one stronger than the other? How do they relate to the recent government announcement that "effective from June 2022, for England that would result in a 31% reduction in carbon emissions from new homes compared to current standards"? see [Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener - October 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/102422/net-zero-strategy-build-back-greener-october-2021.pdf)

Scrutiny Comment:

The Committee welcomed the report and the request for additional resource.

The Committee recommended the following:

- That a carbon descent plan was created for use as a target and tracker for use to measure progress on the programme.
- The Council should promote good news stories, e.g., the divestment of fossil fuel investments, so that residents were aware about the progress being made.
- A consolidated view of the different standards in Housing that were in use across the District should be produced to give more clarity on which standards would apply and where they might apply, e.g., in or near the Conservation Area.

Cabinet Response:

The recommendations in the report were approved, along with the recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee.