

| Questioner | Question | Answer |
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| Councillor Carr | <p>I and several other councillors raised concerns to Councillor Barnett during the sewage leak major incident at Bulverhythe this summer around how the public were informed that the water was dangerous and contaminated from Bulverhythe and all along the coast as far as Pelham Beach by The Stade. When we offered to help make signage etc we were told local news items and a post on the council's website were sufficient and that after the incident had concluded there would be a full investigation in to how it was handled, as well as an opportunity for all councillors to be involved in renewing and updating the council's emergency protocols. Later there was also mention of three electronic signage boards that could be used to warn the public during future incidents. I would like to know when this review of the incident is likely to take place, when the review of the protocols is scheduled for so we all can contribute and also more details on the purchase, specifications and proposed locations of the electronic notice boards.</p> <p>Also as we move away from the incident itself, will the council commit to regular meetings with Southern Water that include not just officers and cabinet members but also councillors from coastal wards and members of the local clean water action group in the interest of openness, transparency and community working and in line with the council's constitution.</p> | <p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>There are regular meetings already diarised with the Leadership and Southern Water. The last meeting was on 31st January, when disappointingly there were still a number of outstanding actions that Southern Water had not yet completed. The incident in our view is therefore still not closed until these actions are closed. These meetings are also focusing on the long term actions needed to improve water quality across the town, including improving the communication about incidents to the public who use our beaches.</p> <p>In addition the Bathing Water Quality Group is meeting with SW and the Environment Agency. The most recent meeting was on 31st January, chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Environment.</p> <p>There are two electronic signs which already exist and operate to tell swimmers whether it is safe to swim on our bathing beaches (Pelham and Marina where the lifeguards are based). Additional signs, both electronic and manual, will be considered as resources allow.</p> <p>There was no commitment to including councillors in the review of the incident. The incident itself was handled well from an internal perspective – officers were on-site and working all hours to ensure SW fulfilled their duties and were updating the public via social media and the website regularly. Leadership gave several TV interviews to inform the widest community. Foreshore colleagues and SW also posted numerous warning signs physically at the site.</p> |

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| <p>Councillor Hilton</p> | <p>What is your response to the Council Climate Scorecards release last week? Hastings comes in just below average and 11th out of the 36 councils in the most deprived areas, scoring lower than many other deprived areas in the south east. See the Council Climate Plan Scorecards Climate Emergency UK (councilclimatescorecards.uk) Please can you tell us how the Council will urgently improve action particularly on the following sections;</p> <p>Mitigation and adaption, Education, Skills and Training Diversity and Social Inclusion.</p> <p>Will the council be using the useful Climate Plan Action Plan checklist created by Ashden and used as part of the assessment process to update and improve the rigour of the Hastings Council climate Action plan?</p> | <p>Councillor Evans:</p> <p>The Council Climate Scorecards were based on our 2020-2022 Strategy and Action Plan. This plan was designed to get us started on our journey to net zero but was only ever an interim plan with the main plan for 2022-2030 to be presented in October.</p> <p>Prior to the Climate Scorecards being published, the Council has had the opportunity as part of the 'right to reply' process to run through the strategy and action plan and benchmarked it against the Action Plan checklist. This identified the areas that will need addressing as part of the 2022 refreshed plan, these areas include Adaptation, education, and inclusion.</p> <p>Officers will be using a wide range of tools to inform the development of the next iteration of the strategy and action plan alongside the checklist. These may include the 'Net Zero Navigator One Planet Tool' created by One Planet and Catapult and ' the Climate Adaptation Tool developed on behalf of the LGA by Local Partnerships; this will help to inform our strategy in addressing the key areas cited above.</p> <p>As part of this review we will be looking to highlight and work on areas of co- benefits, although many of the projects we are involved with already achieve these e.g. addressing fuel poverty .</p> <p>The 2022-2030 Climate Action Plan will be a living document and be regularly updated and refreshed as new technology, policy drivers and opportunities arise that can help our ambition to work towards being net zero by 2030.</p> <p>In addition since the plan was developed in 2019 and subsequently published in 2020 there has been many new programmes and projects that have started to be developed that are not cited in the strategy and action plan – these will be included in the next iteration where appropriate.</p> |
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| | | <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– the development of the £24m Towns Fund Programme and associated projects – in which all projects have to contribute to net zero.-The development of a Green Blue infrastructure strategy to inform the Local Plan <p>We do not accept that mitigation is not included in the current strategy and would refer you to the themes of the existing document which aim to reduce emissions from our energy use for example.</p> |
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