

SCRUTINY PANEL

Proposed new work item pursuant to Agenda 9(a) request by members of the Panel for an item relevant to the Panel's functions:

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

In July 2019 the Council approved unanimously the declaration of a climate emergency.

Since then, much useful work has been done. An advisory Environmental Panel has been established. The Council's carbon emissions have been reduced, and the Annual Plans have included a range of environmentally-friendly initiatives, some resulting in national awards.

However, almost all of this activity has been "Climate business as usual" not "Climate Emergency".

The Council seems reluctant to engage in climate-preserving projects which have an increased cost to the Council, and most climate initiatives undertaken have been either financial-neutral or financially-positive for the Council.

There are indications of avoidance of any serious climate-preserving projects which would have had a significant net cost, or caused significant impact on the way the Council works.

I therefore propose that the Scrutiny Panel undertakes a work-item to study and report to Cabinet what has been achieved, what could have been achieved if the Climate Emergency had been treated as a real emergency, and what order of costs would be involved in accelerating the climate-preserving work to the status of a climate emergency.

Dennis Willetts