

Minute Items 69, 70 and 75

Questions and Responses - Opposition Leader Councillor D. Moore

Item 6 - Progress update from Exeter City Futures and City of Exeter Greenhouse Gas inventory

This is a question of process in relation to recommendation 2.4. Please can the Executive clarify if:-

- a) the 'one specific intervention such as the goal of connecting homes and non-residential buildings to a district heat network' is to be the priority for that immediate and concerted effort, or
- b) if the connection to a district heat network is not to be the focus of the immediate and concerted effort, please can the Executive describe when that decision will be made and by which body, and which goals will be considered?

Response

The purpose of the recommendation is to test whether there is an appetite to look at one of the many areas of the net zero plan, and to explore whether there is a mechanism for delivery that can be progressed in spite of the obvious resource constraints of the City Council.

This would be both as a learning exercise to understand the technical and resourcing issues but also to understand the appetite for embarking on a significant body of work. District heating is one of the specific measures identified in the greenhouse gas emissions report and therefore an appropriate subject for consideration. Given the City Council has no powers over the delivery it requires a collaborative approach and therefore indicative of the whole city co-ordination required to achieve the goal of a net zero city. If Members are so minded to explore a potential delivery plan for heat networks, the proposed approach would be presented to Executive as soon as practically possible.

On page 21 (point 8.7) the report says the Exeter City Futures now includes Oxygen House. Please can the Leader confirm on what basis Oxygen House is now involved and are they on the Board of Exeter City Futures?

Response

Oxygen House is a partner of Exeter City Futures and provides one of the Directors of the company.

Item 13 - Local Validation List

The response from the Chief Planning Officer in Devon County Council says Public Health colleagues welcome the inclusion of requirements for air quality assessments. Will the Executive please require an air quality assessment for all developments on sites within 20 metres of the air quality management area. (Page 212).

Response

The Local List requires Air Quality Assessments for all development on sites within 20 metres of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), unless Environmental Health has already agreed it is not needed. The purpose is to ensure that proposals for new housing, offices, etc. in close proximity to the AQMA will provide healthy living environments for the occupiers. However, this requirement may not be needed in all circumstances, which can be confirmed by Environmental Health during the pre-application discussions stage.

Item 15 - Implications of the Elections Act 2022

What provisions will be made to ensure that young people just turning 18 at the time of the election and people in temporary accommodation/homeless aren't excluded from voting because of the requirement to present identification?

Response

There are no specific details as yet, but a national communications campaign for voter identification will be the responsibility of the Electoral Commission (EC), including coordination of campaigns and supporting outreach and roll-out via partners. The EC and the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities will work to ensure plans and timelines for communications and guidance can be aligned.

The EC will run both national campaigns aimed at all electors and targeted campaigns for specific groups. (This will be supplemented by information on the ECC website and social media platforms).