

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council
27 June 2019**

1.	<p>Councillor P M Black</p> <p>In relation to Councillors' Questions – Question 4.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member give an assurance that there would be a transparent line in the budget setting out the maintenance amount for all to see.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure Management</p> <p>Having conferred with the S151 Officer, that at a minimum a separate cost centre can be established in the operational budget book to show any annual sums allocated and consequently expended by officers day to day.</p> <p>It is also highly likely that there will be a sinking fund needed to provide for spend that maintains assets and straddles many years. A separately maintained earmarked reserve could also easily be established for this purpose.</p> <p>The final decision on the best way to proceed will be made in due course.</p>
2.	<p>Councillor W G Thomas</p> <p>In relation to Notice of Motion - Climate Emergency.</p> <p>I note the excellent work carried out by the Council in relation to building energy efficient homes and its impact on reducing carbon. What can we do to improve those aspects in Council premises and Offices.</p> <p>Response of the Cabinet Member for Homes & Energy</p> <p>The Council is already carrying out a range of measures on its public buildings, schools and offices as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · It has already installed photovoltaics on a range of council buildings including the Guildhall and several schools and has supported the establishment of the Swansea Community Energy & Enterprise Scheme (SCEES) channeling the benefits from the PV installations into community projects. · Using innovation in construction for flagship projects such as Pentrehafod School, showcasing waste minimization and sustainability. · Building on the 42% reduction in carbon emissions as part of the aspiration to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. · Continuing to roll out the Council's agile working strategy helping reduce costs, emissions and consequential travel.

- Delivering on its ReFit programme to implement significant energy efficiency measures to Council owned public buildings via interest free loans paid back out of the energy savings.

In addition to the existing measures in place the Council is also exploring several new opportunities as follows:-

- The potential for larger scale PV projects aimed at increasing the amount of renewable energy generated by the council.
- The inclusion of additional “greening” and renewable energy on any future Council built developments including the forthcoming City Centre Phase 2 developments, further building on its Homes As Power Stations (HAPS) concept.
- Developing all new build schools as part of our band B programme to BREAM excellent standard.
- Embedding the relevant aspects of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Council’s new Biodiversity corporate priority in future build and improvements works via its green infrastructure strategy.
- Encouraging further buy-in via a Council Carbon Commitment Charter to seek sign up from a wide range of public and private sector partners based in Swansea.

I trust this demonstrates the Council’s firm commitment and continuing strategy to minimise its carbon emissions through all of its activities as part of the declaration of a Climate Emergency through the approved Notice of Motion passed at the previous Council meeting in June.