

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

<b>Question 1</b>	<b>David Royle, on behalf of the Sustainable Sawbridgeworth Community Group, to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability</b>
<p>Is this Council aware of the Cornwall Development and Decision Wheel (CDDW) used by Cornwall Council for cabinet decisions since September 2019* and has it considered a similar approach for its own decision making, using the Doughnut Economics model pioneered by Kate Raworth, which aims to ensure that no one misses out on life's essentials (from food and housing to healthcare and political voice), while ensuring that, collectively, we do not overdo the pressure on Earth's life-supporting systems, such as a stable climate, fertile soils, and a protective ozone layer? If not, how does this Council propose to keep this balance?</p> <p>*<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/cornwall-council-doughnut-economics">https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/cornwall-council-doughnut-economics</a></p> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p>I'd like to thank David Royle for bringing Cornwall's approach to my attention. I have to admit that I was not aware of this model but form an initial look, I can see that it aims to locate council decision-making within the wider environmental sustainability context.</p> <p>I am pleased to report, therefore, that while not specifically using Cornwall's Development and Decision Wheel, East Herts Council has already adopted many of the model's key principles. Notably, all reports put before members, whether at a scrutiny committee,</p>	

the Executive or the full Council, include a section on environmental implications. Added to this, as environmental sustainability has been one of the council's corporate priorities for three years now, decision-making across the council's broad remit is increasingly being seen through the lens of climate change, air quality, biodiversity and the like. Examples range from the solar panels, air source heating and other energy efficiency measures at Grange Paddocks and Hartham Leisure Centre to advanced discussions with housing associations about Passivhaus development and new emission standards for licensed taxis set to become among the strictest in Hertfordshire from next April.

I think a great example of the council taking difficult financial decisions with regard to its wider environmental responsibilities is our decision to switch our vehicle fleet to five e-vehicles. While delivering a modest but welcome financial savings of £2,000 over the coming five years, more importantly, this will give an annual saving of at least nine tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent – that's a total saving of at least 45 tonnes over five years – and will also contribute to improving air quality.

Finally, earlier today, I, together with members and officers from a across Hertfordshire, met representatives of the National Farmers Union to discuss biodiversity and soil sustainability as these are obviously important considerations given the rural nature of much of our district.

So, while I and officers will most definitely look into Cornwall's approach in more detail, I hope I have been able to provide assurances that sustainability considerations already play a central role in East Herts Council's decision-making.

There was no supplementary question.

