

SOUTHEND ON SEA CITY COUNCIL

Place Scrutiny Committee

29th August 2023

Questions from Members of the Public

Question No. 1 - Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Environment (Cllr Davidson):

Does the Southend-on-Sea Council still believe there is a 'climate emergency' and what steps are they going to put into place to tackle it in the next year?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The Council is working hard to minimise the impact of climate change across the City and the Council through a robust programme of carbon mitigation, climate adaptation and resilience measures, which includes but not exclusively:

- **Achievement of 9 Green Flag awards for Council Parks, the highest number achieved by the Council to date;**
- **Adopting the 2023 – 2027 Air Quality Action Plan which outlines the actions that the Council will take to mitigate poor air quality in the City;**
- **Rolling out a programme of engagement activities to support “Catchment to Coast” project that Southend is leading on;**
- **Development of a draft waste strategy which prioritises minimising consumption and circular economy;**
- **Launch of the Cool Spaces Application which highlights public cooling spots for the hot weather across the City as well as water refill spots;**
- **Being a partner on the nationwide “City to Sea Refill” campaign which supports the reduction of plastic water bottles in coastal towns and cities.**

Officers are continuing to integrate climate positive action across all corporate activity and details of this activity can be found on the corporate website and the Southend Climate Action website.

Question No. 2 - Mr Webb to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Parking (Cllr Buck)

Does the Council still support the roll out of 'Safe Streets' outside our schools and which schools will they be and when?

Response:

The Council continues to be supportive of the implementation of “school streets” across Southend, where there is sufficient local support from residents, the school in question is in favour and there are adequate volunteers to facilitate the daily street management.

We are currently working with a number of schools through the Active Travel Tranche 2 project, to make sure that they are confident that the number of required volunteers can be secured. Comments are taken into account through the statutory traffic regulation order process required for any new school streets project. It is worth adding that access to restricted areas will be maintained for residents, disabled blue badge holders and the emergency services. Baseline surveys will also be carried out at participating schools, the results of which will be used to assess the success of the scheme.