

To: Council

Date: 28 November 2022

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision – as submitted by the speakers and with written responses from Cabinet Members

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council
3. This report will be republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This will list the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.

Addresses and questions to be taken in Part 2 of the agenda

1. Question from Linda Newbery – Plant Based Food and Sustainable Farming

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1. Question from Linda Newbery – Plant Based Food and Sustainable Farming

I support Councillor Dunne's motion on Plant Based Food and Sustainable Farming and am disappointed that it won't be heard today.

Councillor Dunne quotes ample scientific evidence that the massive emissions from animal agriculture must be reduced if climate targets are to be met. A behavioural shift is urgently needed. Just as the public is urged to switch to electric vehicles and to use renewable energy, and given opportunities to do so, encouragement must be given to move away from meat and dairy in our diets.

It's a hard message to get across to the public – which makes it crucial that councils and other organisations lead by example. That's not taking away choice, but rather using every opportunity to show that plant-based food can be nourishing, appealing

and affordable. Serving plant-based food at Council events will 'normalise' meat-free eating, helping people to shift from seeing meat as a dietary staple. This is excellent climate leadership.

The motion presents the Council with a straightforward, immediately effective way of showing commitment to its environmental aims, joining forward-thinking councils such as Oxfordshire County Council and Haywards Heath.

Can it please be debated without delay, and will it receive full support from Councillors?

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships, Cllr Brown will provide a verbal response at the meeting.