

Madam Chair, members of the Cabinet,

I'll be quite short, partly because I think my views on this subject are already known to you, and partly because there are members of the public wanting to give their views.

My opinion, briefly stated is this. The Carbon Management Plan (CMP) is a good thing for the Council and for B&NES. I'm proud to sit on the Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) with Cllr Gerrish and Cllr John Bull. I'm proud to work alongside the officers who have put the CMP together, mentioning in particular Jane Wildblood and Micaela Basford. It is a good piece of work and contains many interesting projects. I'm proud too of the fact that the Council has voted nearly £0.5M to support implementation of these projects.

So why have I bothered to come along and say this? It is simply that I don't think the Council is going far enough. The Council's view, consistent and reasonable as it may be, in determining to put its own house in order, doesn't begin to address the fact that its energy consumption and CO2 output are only a tiny fraction of what goes on in B&NES. We need to be tackling the energy consumption and CO2 output across all human activities. In short we need to be adopting the National Indicator (NI) 186 referring to per capita CO2 reduction across the region, rather than just NI 185, which covers just the Council's own operations. I think I may have read that B&NES is the only authority in the West of England (WoE) that has opted for the modest NI 185 rather than NI 186 (I'm still trying to check this fact).

If true then it tends to confirm what I think - that when it comes to saving the planet this council is showing a rather shameful lack of ambition. The council claims in the pre-amble to the CMP report that it has a "responsibility to provide leadership in tackling climate change." My view is that by keeping to the easier NI it is failing to provide that leadership, and I hope I can look forward to an upward adjustment of our goals at the earliest opportunity.