

Question submitted by Honorary Alderman Mr Roger Mace to Councillor Erica Lewis

Some furniture previously stored at St. Leonards House was sold at auction in September 2014. Was the DCMS guidance followed in relation to this disposal as recommended within paragraph g of Recommendation 4 in the Council Assets Task Group report from September 2008?

Supplementary question;

And, do you agree with me that the procedures for the disposal of moveable assets that were approved at Cabinet in 2008 should be reviewed, the report of the Council Assets Task group factually updated and that all the recommendations of minute 62 of the Cabinet meeting on 7th October 2008 should be seen to be implemented?

Question from Ms Wendy Haslam to Councillor Kevin Frea

In a report to COP 23 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stated;

'Education plays a paramount role in raising awareness and promoting behavioural change for climate change mitigation and adaption. It helps increase the climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity of communities by enabling individuals to make informed decisions....education can bring about a fundamental shift in how we think, act, and discharge our responsibilities toward one another and the planet.'

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000260083>

Every respectable scientific body tells us that the present global extreme weather events are nothing compared to what we can expect in the near future. And present observations show that all the predictions of ice melt, sea level rise and rising temperatures are being exceeded.

On the 16th of this month Prof Sir David King, once scientific advisor to the government said he's been scared by the number of extreme events, and he called for the UK to advance its climate targets by 10 years.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-49689018>

So I would like to ask the council, in light of the declared climate emergency and the urgent need for action, does the council think it is time to help the general public prepare for more frequent extreme weather events by educating them on the facts of climate change and helping them make decisions on how to act?

Every person who looks at the facts of climate change finds accepting this global emergency very difficult both emotionally and psychologically, but if our leaders do not accept the scientific facts and do not help the public understand the emergency then there will be chaos and a great loss of life.

Question from Mr Tony Haslam to Councillor Kevin Frea

The UKs Committee on Climate Change summary report for this year, states that (see www.theccc.org.uk for full details):

“Global average temperature has already risen by around 1°C since pre-industrial levels and climate risks are increasingly apparent. Annual average temperature in England has also increased by 1°C and will keep increasing – by only 0.5°C by 2100 if the world acts quickly and decisively to cut emissions, but by 4°C+ if current trends continue. We must therefore plan adaptation strategies for a minimum of 2°C and up to 4°C.”

This report implies that not only do we need to do everything we can to mitigate the effects of climate change i.e. act quickly and decisively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to keep the global temperature rise within a survivable range but we also need to plan adaptation strategies to prepare for the major changes to our living environment already locked in by our not acting sooner.

We are unlikely to be able to stop a rise of at least 2 degrees, therefore, in the UK, we will have to adapt to this, while at the same time taking urgent and extreme measures to mitigate a higher rise to avoid catastrophic damage and loss of life, even in our previously temperate climate.

To bring this into focus - exactly how would 2 degrees to 4 degrees C alter our living environment in Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham?

Since we are surrounded by tidal coastline we need to become aware of possible sea level rises, as well as flood damage from torrential rain coming down from the hills into our rivers.

The potential effects at various levels of global warming can be viewed online at <https://earthtime.org/explore> and by using their Climate Data Library one can zoom in to see the changes to our local coastline at 1.5 degrees, 2 degrees and 4 degrees.

Even at 1.5 degrees, which is the best case scenario, no matter how urgently we act on mitigation, much of the low lying land between Lancaster and Morecambe will be underwater at high tides. At 2 degrees more is lost and at 4 degrees what is left of Morecambe and Heysham has become a thin strip of island while much of Lancaster's river has widened and engulfed the low lying estates.

My question to the council then is simply this – Is it ready to take the extreme actions necessary to save lives, by moving homes and businesses in the area it is responsible for?”