

## **RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10**

**COUNCIL – 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

#### **QUESTION K**

**Councillor Sandison to ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor Lowe:**

“Energy prices continue to be persistently high and above pre 2019 prices because of the burning of fossil fuels like gas to produce electricity. Renewable energy prices have remained competitive and good value. What progress has the council made at weening itself off fossil fuel generated energy towards renewable energy sources?”

**Councillor Lowe, the Leader of the Council, to reply as follows:**

“Last year the Council commissioned a Carbon Management Plan to map out the steps that need to be taken for the Council to achieve the objectives of reducing carbon emissions and becoming Net Zero Carbon by 2030. The recruitment of a dedicated Decarbonisation Projects Officer to progress this plan has now taken place and this officer is expected take up their post in January.

Currently, the Council's electricity is supplied from 100% renewable green energy sources. The Council's gas supply is not currently supplied via a green tariff due to the current cost implications of doing so. Despite the reduced ongoing cost to suppliers of renewable energy, prices for obtaining renewable energy vs non-renewable sources remain comparable due to how the energy market works within the United Kingdom, and National Grid electric supply infrastructure being so reliant on gas supplies and that associated cost.

Officers have been assessing the Council's energy consumption and are installing smart meters to assist with more accurate monitoring. Communal lighting is being changed to LED, including corporate buildings – recently the Rugby Art Gallery and Museum, John Barford car park, Town Hall Benn Hall, and the Council's street lighting.

Additionally, Officers are currently working with an external partner to assess the viability of transitioning the fleet to more sustainable sources of fuel, together with upgrading electrical incoming infrastructure to accommodate fleet recharging facilities.

More broadly, funding has been obtained to install Air Source Heat Pumps to 5 housing properties, and solar photovoltaic panels in 33 properties. Officers are now exploring the possibility of additional Solar PV sites with possibility of incorporating battery storage particularly in corporate buildings with high energy usage.”