

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 24 MAY 2023

a) Question from Sue Owen to Councillor S Spencer, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Budget

“The government is intending to bring in legislation that would force Local Councils and Local Authority Pension Funds to make decisions about investments and procurement that must be in line with central government foreign policies. This means that Local Authority Pension Fund Committees would no longer be able to make their own ethical and responsible investment decisions.

This seems to totally undermine local democracy and the power of local authorities to make their own decisions on behalf of their local populations. Does Derbyshire County Council support this policy and if not, what actions are you taking to defend local democracy and the democratic rights of local people?”

b) Question from Wendy Bullar to Councillor B Lewis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change

“In response to a previous public question, the Leader talked about the impacts of lithium and cobalt extraction, stating these may be as bad as the impacts caused by fossil fuels. I assume he was referring to batteries for electric cars. While experts agree there are impacts, these are nowhere near as catastrophic for climate and biodiversity as those caused by fossil fuels. The solution is to reduce car use, through car or lift sharing, more public transport and active travel and more tele-working.

We must however reduce energy demand – full stop. We must also generate more renewable energy across the UK and Derbyshire. Does the Leader accept the need to reduce demand for fossil fuels for transportation, residential and commercial energy use and what is the council doing to support this?”