

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023

PUBLIC QUESTION WITH RESPONSE

1. QUESTION FROM ANNA WILKINSON TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EQUALITIES AND FINANCE

Given the climate emergency and Southwark Council's commitment to go carbon neutral by 2030, will the council consider committing to serving fully plant-based fare at any future catered meetings and events? This will be a positive and forward-thinking step, bringing its food policy into line with its other climate-aware policies.

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is doing all it can to become a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and, following our declaration of a Climate Emergency, we have set out an ambitious plan to reach net zero by 2030.

The council is investing considerable amounts of resources and funding towards this plan, and in the last twelve months it has run its Citizens' Jury on Climate Change, implemented landmark carbon-saving projects on estates, libraries and community buildings. The council has also approved transformational plans for the borough's streets with more cycle storage and walking routes, as well as surpassing targets for tree-planting and expanding the number of allotment plots on estates.

The council recognises the importance of providing choice and commits to ensuring there are more plant-based food and drink options at council meetings, civic events and council hosted meetings.

Theme 'R' in the climate action plan covers actions to support more sustainable diets which recognises that this will largely involve moving away from animal products. This includes actions to:

- Expand networks facilitating the donation of edible surplus food in Southwark.
- Deliver public campaigns to encourage people to adopt a more climate friendly diet.
- Deliver a campaign to encourage commercial caterers, including those in workplaces, to provide less meat and dairy catering. More of which will be detailed in a Sustainable Food Strategy.
- Deliver a food waste campaign, including through education in

schools. Recently, Southwark Council recently set-up the Climate Action Schools network to connect schools in the borough who are taking action to tackle the climate emergency.