

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 April 2026

### Agenda Item 4

#### Public Questions

The following question has been asked by Jenny Dingsdale

The carbon action plan being discussed suggests the only alternative option is to maintain the current plan. Have you considered the possibility that the council was wrong to declare a climate emergency in 2019 and that net zero targets are a massive scam costing residents and the environment dearly?

#### Response by the Chair of the Committee

*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) makes clear that human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gases, have unequivocally caused global warming. The latest data published by the Met Office show that four of the last five years have been the warmest on record in the UK, which is symptomatic of living in a world that is already approximately 1.3°C warmer than pre-industrial levels. We recognise that our changing climate will have profound implications for our communities and the natural environment here in Teignbridge, including increased flood risk, drought and temperature extremes, among others. We therefore remain committed to working with our communities and partners across the South West, many of whom have declared climate emergencies themselves, to prevent further global warming and to increase local resilience responding to the challenges posed by our changing climate.*