

From: Freedom of Information Requests
Sent: 02 October 2025 09:04
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information response -

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 6 September 2025 for information about net zero. Please find below City of Doncaster Council's responses to the questions you have raised.

1. Members of the new Reform Council have expressed a desire to abandon Net Zero; can you confirm if the council has abandoned its Net Zero pledges, and if not when it intends to do so? If it is, can you provide any legal advice you have taken on the legality of this?

Response: City of Doncaster Council has not abandoned its Net Zero (NZ) pledges for 2030 and 2040.

2. Can you please provide any data you hold on how much you expected the switch to Net Zero to cost in the time frame in which you previously intended to achieve it?

Response: Work undertaken by 3Ci (Cities Commission for Climate Investment) estimated a cost to the UK, which was used to provide a per capita cost for Doncaster. The outcome was an estimate of £2bn to meet NZ by 2050 for the whole borough.

- Specifically for the Council's housing stock, in 2021 an exercise was conducted by Savills to estimate the likely additional costs to achieve Net Zero Carbon over and above the existing projected planned investment to maintain the decent homes standard. At that time, it was estimated that these costs would be in the region of an additional £450.8m to achieve NZC by 2040 or an additional £313.9m to achieve NZC by 2050.
- These estimated costs have not been revised since this exercise in 2021, but with inflationary pressures are expected to have increased for both the maintenance of decent homes and NZ.
- The government has recently published a consultation regarding the introduction of a Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) for social housing, potentially as soon as 2030, as well as announcing their intention to change the way in which the energy efficiency of properties is assessed, the latter having the potential to lower the existing energy performance of some properties. The proposed changes are likely to increase the range of investment needed for properties to meet MEES, and in turn this will impact on costs of achieving energy efficient homes and NZ. Until government provide further detail regarding MEES and changes to energy performance ratings, it is difficult to try and calculate the likely cost of meeting these requirements alongside the journey to NZ. As the detail is clarified, it is SLHD's intention to revisit costs of achieving MEES and NZ sometime towards the end of 2026.
- The Office of Budget Responsibility recently updated its forecast for the net cost to achieve net zero, which is estimated to be £108bn by 2050. This equates to £1,560 per person or £3,395 per household in Doncaster.

3. Could you show how much you estimated it would cost to not switch to Net Zero (i.e. how much would it cost to carry on using petrol cars, fossil fuels, etc)?

Response: This was undertaken for housing, as described above. The change to electric vehicles for Council fleet started in 2019-20, as per the attached cabinet report, and has continued to be evaluated throughout each phase of the Council's fleet replacement programme. The Council continues to purchase EV's (currently at 64, with a further 70 expected in January, and a further order of 100+ to be made in 2026). The cost of vehicles has now reached parity with (internal combustion engine) ICE vehicles (for those in scope of replacement ie. Small to medium size vans and cars). Refuelling costs are now lower for EV (C. 9p per mile compared to 13p per mile for ICE).

4. If possible, it would be ideal to see how much you estimated these things would cost both the Council and local tax payers (i.e. please show if Net Zero would represent a cost to the council but would ultimately save local people money).

Response: The costs have not been attributed to a limited number of sources. Much of the funding we have used to date has come from government and there are increasing opportunities to seek private investment. The actions associated with achieving NZ also deliver a number of co-benefits. The action taken by the Council, businesses, and residents is done so considering a range of factors. The efficiency of homes and buildings is improved to reduce operational costs; the transition to electric vehicles is improving air quality and low cost travel; these are two of the most impactful and scalable changes we're seeing and, while the overarching benefit is reduced carbon emissions, they are being driven as much by economic and health objectives as they are environmental.

5. Additionally, can you state if the Council determined that switching to Net Zero would cost more or less than not switching to Net Zero, along with any timelines you have.

Response: As per the Savills report for the Council's housing stock, an accelerated move to reach NZ forecast an increase in costs, as did some of the first EV purchases. However, we are already seeing within 5 years increasing examples of cost parity with the alternative for transport. The increasing specification for housing energy efficiency is also bridging the gap between the old decent homes standard and NZ standards. This combined with electricity grid decarbonisation by 2035 is likely to reduce the level of investment required.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

The City of Doncaster Council estimates that it has cost £150 to respond to this request for information.

Reviewing any decisions made:

If you are not happy with this reply you can ask us to review our response. To do this write to us within 40 working days of receiving your response at the address below or email FOIAppeals@doncaster.gov.uk

If you do not agree with the review decision you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision about our compliance or otherwise with the Freedom of Information legislation. Contact details for the ICO are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. www.ico.org.uk Telephone 0303 123 1113.

Yours faithfully,

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