

## STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

<b>Committee name</b>	Environment, Housing and Regeneration Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	David Haygarth, Climate Action Manager
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A: The Strategic Climate Action Plan - Draft for Consultation – Cabinet Report March 2021
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

The draft Strategic Climate Action Plan is submitted as Appendix A to this report, to allow the Select Committee to review and comment as part of the consultation process.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

#### That the Select Committee:

- 1. Reviews the draft Action Plan and submits comments to be included in the forthcoming report to Cabinet setting out the results of the consultation.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At the Council meeting held in January 2020, the London Borough of Hillingdon declared a global climate emergency, and committed to becoming carbon neutral and to achieving 100% clean energy across Council services by 2030. To achieve this, a draft Climate Strategy (attached as appendix A) was submitted to Cabinet in March 2021, and is now undergoing consultation with key stakeholders.

Additionally, the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee received a presentation on the Council's Zero Carbon Commitment in Housing in February 2021, while the draft action plan was also presented to the Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> April. A presentation detailing the aims of the plan was given, and Members raised questions around procurement, and carbon offsetting. Responses from officers to those questions are being collated and will be released in those minutes in due course.

As the lead Select Committee for Climate Change, the Environment, Housing and Regeneration Select Committee is requested to review and comment on the draft plan prior to its formal submission for adoption by Cabinet in July 2021.

### Implications on related Council policies

The draft plan is corporate in nature and reaches across virtually all service areas. Some

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Environment, Housing and Regeneration Select Committee – 08 June 2021

implications for policy will be relatively minor, affecting existing policy to augment and align it with new carbon reduction objectives. The key thing to consider is how we integrate carbon neutral into our thought processes, policy and ensure a coherent strategic delivery across the organisation.

Much of the carbon neutral target relates to council operations under direct management control. Therefore, the action plan arising from the final report will raise implications for operational policies. Typically, these will be building operations, fleet vehicles, open space and, waste management. The way in which we reduce carbon emissions will also require investment in spend to save initiatives in building refurbishment, capital works and a range of goods and services purchasing.

The draft plan sets out our ambition to lead the community by demonstrating our approach to the climate emergency. In practical terms, this means showing businesses and residents our commitment to carbon reduction and other climate change mitigation. This will mean visible investment in areas such open spaces, such as tree planting and renewable power. It will mean engagement with residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and it means we shall engage more with our businesses in an advisory and regulatory capacity and work with our schools and education providers to reduce carbon emissions.

The climate action plan provides the Council with a major opportunity to reshape areas of service delivery to promote an even more sustainable blend of social, economic, and environmental objectives. Post consultation, senior officers will be guided by those principles as they develop the policy objectives and service delivery to achieve the carbon neutral target. As new policy emerges, it will be presented to relevant Select Committee's for necessary direction, guidance and approval.

### **How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

None at this stage, pending any findings approved by Cabinet.

### **Financial Implications**

It is important that the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers in relation to this review, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

Finance officers reviewed the draft climate action and contributed to the Cabinet report which accompanied the recommendations for Cabinet approval of the draft plan and a public consultation. They commented.

“Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the proposed consultation on the draft Climate Change Action Plan. Following the public consultation and as specific projects are developed to meet the goals set out in the Action Plan, these will be fully costed and integrated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast and financial strategy as appropriate.”

## **Legal Implications**

Legal officers reviewed the draft climate action and contributed to the Cabinet report which accompanied the recommendations for Cabinet approval of the draft plan and, a public consultation. They commented.

“The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report or to agree to the recommendations and to undertake a consultation. More detailed legal advice will be given as necessary once the outcome of the public consultation is reported back for consideration.”

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Presentation to the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021: Zero Carbon Commitment in Housing.

Presentation to the Corporate Services, Commerce and Communities Policy Overview Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> April 202 – the draft Action Plan.