

STRATEGIC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ian Thynne
Papers with report	Strategic Climate Action Plan – Review
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Council declared a climate emergency in 2020 and followed this with its Strategic Climate Action Plan which was adopted in 2021. The plan set out a series of objectives across 9 key themes. These were wide ranging and ambitious. As part of the adoption of that Strategy, there was a commitment to keep the plan under review to ensure action is aligned with emerging demands and priorities.

The draft Review (the 'Review') reflects on the previous Strategy, sets out progress against the objectives, details where further works are required and what the priorities are for the next three years.

The review sets out a reduced but more focused series of actions with the intention of focussing resources on the most meaningful outcomes.

The review is currently being consulted upon (commenced 11 November) with a deadline of 12 January 2025. It is then due to return to Cabinet on 13 March 2025 for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the content of the Review and the progress set out and agrees any comments to submit to Cabinet.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Strategic Climate Action Plan sets out how the Council will respond to the climate emergency. Since publication of the original Strategy, the UK has experienced extreme weather conditions, with extensive periods of heat and rain. More recently, areas in Ruislip and Ickenham have experienced widespread flooding following exceptional rainfall. The Review re-emphasises the need for action and reaffirms the commitments made in the 2020 declaration of the climate emergency.

The Review also promotes the progress in relation to a core part of the Strategy. The Council has achieved significant reduction in carbon emissions associated with its own carbon footprint which is important to present and be proud of. Alongside this, the Review captures work across

the Council that responds to the objectives and again, presents a positive direction of travel.

It is noted though, that the Council is 3 years into the cycle of targeted action set out in the original Strategy. The original series of objectives were ambitious and wide ranging and reflected the need for changing operations to align with the climate emergency.

Throughout this time, there have been unprecedented challenges facing Local Authorities which have informed this latest iteration of the Strategy and driven some amendments. The Review therefore promotes fewer objectives but with a more targeted scope with the intention to secure meaningful and more measurable outcomes.

The review also recognises that there are areas around the leadership role that require further development, particularly related to engagement with young people. It has therefore been proposed that this will be a priority for the forthcoming 3 year cycle.

The Review is currently subject to an extended consultation period finishing on 12 January 2025. On completion of the consultation, officers will review the feedback and present the final Strategy to Cabinet for sign off and adoption.

PERFORMANCE DATA

The Strategy is subject to scrutiny by the Corporate Management Team, the Residents' Services Select Committee and Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Review sets out how the Council will tackle climate change, reduce carbon, reduce revenue spend and help to build resilient communities.

The Review is intended to put residents first and to support the ambition to become London's greenest Borough.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a financial cost in developing the Strategy but beyond that the implementation has a range of potential implications.

Capital projects will be directed through the normal Governance processes with Section 106 (carbon) funded available to support. External grant funding, for example the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, will be pursued where applicable.

Further work has been commissioned to consider the trajectory of achieving carbon neutrality which will be supplemented by a high level cost appraisal.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production of the Review is not a statutory requirement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDICES

Strategic Climate Action Plan Review