

REPORT TO	ON
COUNCIL	Thursday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020



TITLE	PORTFOLIO	REPORT OF
Adoption of the Climate Emergency Strategy	Cabinet Member (Environment)	Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1. To review and adopt the Climate Emergency Strategy prepared as a part of the Council’s response to the declaration of a Climate Emergency in July 2019.

**PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. That members adopt the Climate Emergency Strategy.

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

3. In July 2018 the Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the Health and Wellbeing of our residents. To combat this threat the Council set a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030. Following the adoption of and in line with the Climate Emergency Task Group Scoping document a Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed. The strategy has been produced to help clarify the actions proposed by the Council to achieve the stated adopted goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2030.

**CORPORATE OUTCOMES**

4. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (tick all those applicable):

Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability	X
Health, Wellbeing and Safety	X
Place, Homes and Environment	X

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

Our People and Communities	X
----------------------------	---

## BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

5. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report which advised that we must limit global warming to 1.5°C, as opposed to the previous target of 2°C. Their review of over 6,000 sources of evidence found that, with a rise of 1.5°C, there would be risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth. It warned that we have only 12 years left within which to take the serious action required to avert this crisis and avoid the worst impacts.
6. Please note that this document refers to emissions of “carbon” or “carbon dioxide”. This should be considered shorthand for all greenhouse gas emissions, not just carbon dioxide.
7. The UK Climate Change Act 2008 sets a statutory target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 1990 by 2050. In May 2019 the UK Committee on Climate Change recommended that the UK Government increase the statutory target to Net-Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Government has now adopted this target.
8. In parallel, the UK Climate Change Act established the National Adaptation Programme. The corresponding UK Climate Change Risk Assessment identifies 6 priority risk areas: flooding, high temperatures, water supply shortages, natural capital, food production; and pest and diseases.
9. In July 2018 this Council declared that the effect of climate change within the borough poses an immediate danger to the health and well-being of our residents and therefore proclaimed a Climate Emergency with immediate effect.
10. To combat this threat, the Council sets a goal of rendering the borough carbon neutral by the year 2030. For avoidance of doubt, this goal means the borough shall produce no net carbon emissions by this date, taking into account of actions that have the effect of removing carbon from the environment.
11. In order to implement this decision, a Standing Working Group on the Climate Emergency was created. A scoping document has been presented to and agreed by members.

## PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

12. Following the adoption of and in line with the Climate Emergency Task Group Scoping document a Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed. The strategy has been produced to help clarify the actions proposed by the Council to achieve the stated adopted goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2030.
13. The Climate Emergency Strategy attached in Appendix A, sets out the current position regarding the Council’s and the borough’s Carbon Dioxide Emissions,

identifies the 1990 (baseline year) emission figures and projects the level of reduction required to achieve the net zero carbon goal.

- 14.** The strategy identifies and quantifies the contribution to carbon dioxide emissions from several sectors, while highlighting the potential impact climate change will have on the borough.
- 15.** The work undertaken to date will help to enable an informed public consultation to determine measures to be taken by the authority to achieve its climate goals and the development of an Action Plan.
- 16.** Following adoption of the strategy work will begin on a full detailed public consultation to inform and produce an action plan to identify workstream and projects to reduce the Carbon Dioxide emissions and to prepare the Council and borough for the impacts of climate change.
- 17.** Over the next 12-months a substantial public consultation exercise will be undertaken to help with the formation of a robust action plan, identifying the measures to be taken to achieve the Council's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 20-30 across the borough.
- 18.** In addition, some works already underway within the Council will be progressed. These include improvements to lighting within the civic centre to provide low energy lighting, installation and use of photovoltaic cells at the civic centre and depot to provide low cost and low emission energy.

19. It is proposed that the Climate Emergency Strategy be adopted by the members.

## **CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

20. The draft Climate Emergency Strategy has been discussed within the Climate Emergency Task Group which includes public representation. Once adopted a full public consultation exercise will be undertaken to develop a robust action plan to achieve the Council's stated goals in relation to the declared Climate Emergency.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

21. The Strategy has been produced following the declaration of Climate Emergency and adoption of the Climate Emergency task Group scoping document. It details the impacts from Climate Change on the borough and identifies target work areas. No alternative options have been identified.

## **AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

22. The Climate Emergency Strategy and proposed action plan will work hand in hand with the adopted Air Quality Action Plan and actions under the strategy will assist in achieving many of the goals and actions under the Air Quality Action Plan.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

23. The Climate Emergency Strategy details the negative impact of climate change on the borough and sets the Council's goals to achieving a net zero carbon emission by 2030, through the development of an Action Plan. The Action Plan will identify the workstreams to be progressed and individual risk associated with these workstreams. The Strategy highlights that doing nothing presents a significant risk to both the council and the borough as a whole.

## **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

24. Climate Change will affect all wards and residents. The strategy is an overarching document which will impact on all wards. The Action Plan that will be produced following the adoption of the Strategy will determine the work flows to be underpursued and each will consider Equality and Diversity on detail.

## **COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

25. The Climate Emergency Action Plan will inform the Council of any potential additional budgetary implications which will need to be fully assessed and approved in accordance with the Council's constitution.

26. As part of the budget setting process for 2020/21, a Climate Change reserve of £250,000 was created to fund investments that will improve the council's environmental impact. This reserve can be used to fund additional costs that the Action Plan will identify.

## COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

28. There are no legal concerns with what is proposed here. Clearly as a responsible public authority we ought to be doing what we can to tackle the challenge of climate change.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Climate Emergency Declaration  
Climate Emergency Task group approved scoping document.

## APPENDICES

Appendix A – Climate Emergency Strategy

LT Member Jennifer Mullin  
Director of Neighbourhoods and Development

Report Author:	Telephone:	Date:
Neil Martin (Environmental Health Officer)	01772 625336	24/06/20