



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Enfield Climate Action Plan 2024
Report to	Cabinet
Date of Meeting	12 th June 2024
Cabinet Member	Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet member for the Environment, Culture & Public Spaces
Executive Director/ Director	Perry Scott, Executive Director for Environment and Communities
Report Author	Vera Vajda
Ward(s) affected	ALL
Key Decision Number	KD5735
Classification	Part 1 Public
Reason for exemption	

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an overview of the revised Enfield Climate Action Plan 2024 and seek approval for its adoption.

Recommendations

- (i) Adopt the revised Climate Action Plan 2024
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Environment and Communities in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to implement the Climate Action Plan.
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director of Environment and Communities, following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to update the Action Plan and make amendments, as long as they do not change its core value or have financial implications, so that all implementation, delivery and management requirements continue to be sufficient and effective.

Note that whilst a number of the actions in the Enfield Climate Action Plan are already funded, others will require new funding commitments, mainly from central and regional government, and there will be full consideration of the financial implications as workstreams are progressed.

Background and Options

As highlighted in the recent report by the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), the effects of climate change are unequivocal, widespread, and intensifying, driven primarily by human activity. London, including Enfield is experiencing observable changes such as hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters signalling the urgent need for concerted action.

Enfield faces significant climate risks, including extreme heat, drought and flooding. Our borough's vulnerability to flooding is due to the network of watercourses that flow through the borough as well as incapacity of our aging drainage infrastructure. This is exacerbated by urban development encroachment on our green infrastructure and the increasing intensity of rainfall events.

Addressing these interconnected challenges necessitates concerted efforts at the local, national and global levels. Acknowledging our responsibility as a major employer and influencer, Enfield Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, committing to:

- Make Enfield Council a carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
- Divest the Council from investment in fossil fuel companies.
- Only use environmentally friendly products where we are able to do so.
- Make our supply chain carbon neutral through ethical procurement.
- Work with local partners and communities and positively promote changing behaviours in Enfield to limit activities scientifically linked to climate change.

To expedite the implementation of these crucial initiatives the Climate Action Plan is being finalised having been informed by constructive feedback from local climate change organisations, residents and staff. Continuous engagement with stakeholders will be an ongoing and remain vital to the delivery of these measures.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Preferred Option

In response, the Council has committed to tackling the climate change emergency and to do this requires a clear strategy with supporting actions.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

Our Council Plan 2023-26 sets out our priorities for investing in Enfield to support residents to live happy, healthy and safe lives. Central to this commitment is our priority for Clean and Green places where we enhance biodiversity and protect green spaces to help Enfield's resilience in the face of a changing climate. We also strive for a more efficient use of resources, to reduce waste and increase

recycling, as well as reduce carbon emissions from energy consumption across our buildings and operations.

In line with the Council's priority for More and better homes by making buildings, that are the key emitters, the CAP undertakes measures to enhance the energy efficiency of buildings, including via high quality new homes and the retrofit of existing, as well as connecting them to sources or renewable and low carbon energy such as the Energetik network.

Furthermore, the CAP is also aligned with the Council's overarching Blue and Green Strategy, along with the emerging Local Plan and Transport Strategy. This strategic alignment ensures a cohesive approach towards sustainability and climate resilience across all of Enfield's development and infrastructure planning.

Financial Implications

(Note: Neil Goddard 09/05/24)

Achieving carbon neutrality and tackling emissions across the borough is both hugely ambitious and financially challenging given the budgetary pressures on the Council as reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan and the local government sector as a whole.

A number of the actions in the CAP are already committed and funded e.g., the government grant funded Schools decarbonisation programme of £3.4m which is in the pipeline of the capital programme awaiting approval to spend. However, where there are new areas which need further development, the financial implications of any new schemes will need to be considered in each business case and assessed early on to determine the cost/benefits and affordability before any decision is taken to implement them.

All opportunities for external resources will need to be explored, including grants from Central Government and the GLA. Examples of potential external funding sources include:

- Accessing the renewable heat incentive (RHI).
- Salix funding for specific projects.
- Heat Networks Investment Project funding to further develop Energetik's heat network.
- Office of Low Emission Vehicles funding for electric vehicle infrastructure.

The Business case should also identify where there are opportunities to reduce costs by operating more efficiently, for example by using less energy and water, and to generate revenue through climate change activities.

Legal Implications

The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The 100% target was based on advice from the Climate Change Commission's 2019 report, 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming'.

Local authorities can use their own powers to take actions. The relevant powers are likely to include the wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows local authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.

The Council must have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 when adopting this revised plan. This requires all public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Equalities Implications

An equality impact assessment (EQIA) has been completed for this policy and is appended to this report. The EQIA concludes that there is no differential impact on any protected characteristic as a result of the implementation of this policy; and implementing the policy will have a positive impact on all protected groups, providing fair and equal treatment to all residents.

National and local data analysis shows an over representation of women and an over representation of disabled women as victims of domestic abuse. The majority of victims/survivors are white women and the majority of perpetrators are men. Nearly 60% of those accessing domestic abuse support services have children. The draft policy sets out a consistent person-centred approach to managing all disclosures of domestic abuse ensuring all victims are treated fairly. Due to the over representation of female and disabled female victims and high percentage of cases with children present in the household, the policy is expected to have a particularly positive impact on people who share these protected characteristics by improving how we respond to disclosures of abuse.

The policy includes a commitment to understand intersectionality – victims/survivors will have different experiences and may face barriers related to their identity and protected characteristics such as age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability, pregnancy and maternity, marital status and socio-economic status. We will respect and seek to fully understand individual differences, experiences and needs, enabling tailored services and the right support.

We ran a 10-week consultation on the draft policy which closed with 77 responses. The equalities questions were answered by 55 respondents. This included 42 female, 12 male and 1 respondent who preferred not to say. The analysis showed an over representation of female domestic abuse victims. Of the 55 who answered the question, 22 (40%) reported a disability. The analysis showed a slight over-representation of disabled victims of domestic abuse. We will use the results of the consultation to inform the implementation of our policy and continue to improve the service we offer.

HR and Workforce Implications

The Council's staff have been instrumental in developing the CAP and will be essential to its the successful implementation. The actions set out in the CAP include some which will require changes to the way we work as an organisation, including embedding a climate change in all policies approach, with climate champions supporting this.

While some of these changes might not be popular, initial engagement shows that staff see the overall benefits of reducing carbon emissions and support the Council taking action.

Where changes impact on contractual terms and conditions, staff engagement and consultation will be undertaken in line with statutory requirements and agreed HR policies.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

The Climate Action Plan which accompanies the report sets out how Council operations will be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Climate Action Plan which accompanies the report provides a framework for making the borough carbon neutral by 2040.

These targets go beyond the UK national target date of 2050.

Implementation of the CAP will be overseen by a senior manager with a dedicated resource maintained to support this and regular monitoring of the CAP will ensure that targets are being met and, where not, that remedial actions are put in place.

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- a. There will also be regular monitoring of the CAP to ensure that targets are being met and, where not, that remedial actions are put in place.
- b. Grants will be sought to fund the CAP as opportunities arise. It is envisaged that such opportunities will increase as central and regional government seeks to address their own targets for net zero carbon emissions.
- c. The CAP includes a number of actions which should not have an impact on Council funding; they will simply involve new ways of working.
- d. The CAP also includes actions which, following initial investment costs, will see long term net savings (for example the introduction of LED street lights).
- e. There will be opportunities for revenue generation, for example through energy generation and trading on the Council's expertise in some areas.
- f. Continuing work to influence national and regional policy to make sure that climate change remains a priority and that funding for related activities, such a property retrofit programmes, are funded.

Public Health Implications

The World Health Organisation in its 2003 report 'Global climate change and health: an old story writ large' noted that:

“Populations of all animal species depend on supplies of food and water, freedom from excess infectious disease, and the physical safety and comfort conferred by climatic stability. The world’s climate system is fundamental to this life-support.”

The climate change emergency that we currently face is having a direct impact on the world’s life support, which in turn has a range of health impacts. Some of these could be positive, for example more temperate winters leading to a reduction in the seasonal peak in deaths.

However, as recent events have shown, overwhelmingly these impacts will be negative including the direct impacts on health arising from adverse weather events, such as peaks in deaths attributable to respiratory illnesses in periods of high temperatures.

Therefore, the CAP, seeks to drastically reduce the Council’s own carbon emissions and lead by example to encourage others to do likewise. This will have a positive impact on resident’s health.

The CAP has significant synergy with the emerging Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) which encompasses work on reducing smoking, increasing physical activity and improving access to healthy foods. As well as addressing the overall negative impacts of climate change, many of the actions in the CAP will have more direct health benefits addressing priorities within the HWBS such as:

- Increasing the use of low carbon and zero carbon forms of transport and active travel reduces air pollution and, given our ambition for more people to walk and cycle, should also reduce the health damaging effects of motorised transport e.g., road traffic injuries, community segregation and noise and physical inactivity.
- By encouraging a sustainable food offer within the borough, we will contribute to better nutrition among residents as well as reduced carbon emissions.
- Similarly, by reducing smoking among residents we will contribute to reducing the negative impact that tobacco production has on the environment as well as also achieve improved health outcomes.

Other positive health benefits to the CAP include:

Improving the quality of housing stock, including providing better insulation, has a positive impact on mental health and could reduce incidents of conditions such as hypothermia and excess winter deaths.

In addition, consideration of reducing the impact of climate change amongst the most socially and economically vulnerable residents will also positively impact on health inequalities.

Given this, overall the actions proposed in the CAP will support Public Health’s efforts to embed Health in all Policies across the Council.

Property Implications

Buildings and assets make up 89% of the Council's scope 1 and 2 emissions. Therefore, the CAP sets out measures to achieve significant reductions in these emissions through an energy efficiency investment programme:

- Review building management practices to maximise the non-cost measures through efficient building management.
- Comprehensively meter water usage across the largest buildings across the council's portfolio and install water saving devices in all council buildings
- Where appropriate the council will install metering and sub-metering for all council buildings in the areas of energy and water by 2023
- Further consolidate our council property estate, while continuing to provide good public services in appropriate locations.

This programme will see buildings and assets improved so the overall implications are expected to be positive.

At this time the detailed financial and funding implications of delivering the CAP are still to be determined and will be identified as separate actions are brought forward.

Council-owned land may be requested and change contract and use, for example changing contracts to enable food production to benefit the local community.

Safeguarding Implications (draft for review)

None identified as arising directly from reducing carbon emissions.

Crime and Disorder Implications

None identified as arising directly from reducing carbon emissions.

Other Implications

There are additional key performance and data implications:

Annual baseline refresh - Staff resources required to collect and collate updated baseline data.

Dedicated resource maintained to oversee delivery of the CAP including baseline updates. The majority of the inputs into the baseline should be available publicly or locally because they are already regularly collected. A tool has been developed which should streamline the collation of the data inputs.

Performance monitoring - Staff resources required to collect and collate performance data.

Dedicated resource maintained to oversee delivery of the CAP including performance monitoring. The majority of the performance targets are already reported either publicly or locally. Any new targets will be monitored by the relevant service as part of their day-to-day activities.

Reporting – Regular performance reports and annual summary will require staff resources.

Where not already part of the Council’s performance monitoring framework, the reporting of progress against CAP targets should become part of the existing monitoring regime to ensure appropriate oversight. Dedicated resource maintained to oversee delivery of the CAP including performance monitoring and annual reporting.

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Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Enfield’s Climate Action Plan 2024

Background Papers

Enfield’s Climate Action Plan 2020
Enfield Local Area Energy Plan 2023
Delivering Net Zero study 2023