

BRIEFING NOTE

FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 11 August at 6:00 pm

Officer Contact Details:

Name & Division: Dominic Millen, Place

Telephone: 020 8132 0987

E-mail: dominic.millen@enfield.gov.uk

Subject / Title:

Climate Action Plan Cabinet Report – Response to Call In Reasons

Date: 03/08/2020

Background

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is the Council's response to the commitments set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration in July 2019, which in itself was a response to a global climate emergency – see points 11. to 14. in the Cabinet Report.

It has been developed following a comprehensive baselining exercise – points 15. to 20. in the Cabinet Report.

The actions it contains will mean the Council's operations are carbon neutral by 2030 and there is the framework for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2040; this is ambitious given that nationally the target year for carbon neutral is 2050.

Responses to Call In Reasons

- 1. The climate change plan has been adopted without public consultation. Covid-19 or not this has not been publicly consulted upon whereas other plans and strategies have been.*

The draft Climate Action Plan was published on Council's website from Friday 13th March 2020 to Friday 24th April 2020 (6 weeks). Comments from the public were invited during this period.

A public event was organised for 6pm to 8pm on Thursday 19th March at The Dugdale Centre. However, due to the rapid escalation of the Covid-19 crisis, after considering Government advice, as a precautionary measure, this event was cancelled with a view to rearranging by Friday 24th April.

As the Covid-19 crisis worsened both officer resources and information technology capabilities were severely stretched. This meant there was not the opportunity to arrange a new event before the 1st May deadline for submitting the draft CAP in order to meet Cabinet report timescales.

Author	D Millen	Classification	Members	Date of First Issue	30/07/20
Owner	Environment	Issue Status	FINAL	Date of Latest Re-Issue	03/08/20
Version	3.0	Page	1		

However, as set out below there has been ongoing engagement which has informed the development of the CAP.

2. *The document does not say why it has not found other avenues to consult or provide any explanation as to why the Cabinet discounted delaying adoption until a consultation could take place.*

There has been ongoing engagement which has informed the development of the CAP:

- Councillors – Briefings were offered with one provided to the Labour Group on 10th March and no response received from the Conservative Group. In addition, the draft CAP was highlighted in a Members Newsletter on 23rd March with comments invited.
- Climate change organisations – Representatives were engaged with via face to face meetings and calls, which helped with understanding of their wider priorities. Climate change and other organisations also responded to the draft CAP and their comments informed the final document.
- Public – The publication of the draft CAP was highlighted via the Council’s website and social media, with the Deputy Leader during media interviews also asking residents for their feedback.
- Staff – There were workshops and the draft CAP was publicised using internal communications.

This is clearly and concisely set out under point 24. of the Cabinet Report. Therefore, within the constraints imposed by another global crisis, there was a comprehensive engagement approach and a number of responses were received, which informed the development of the CAP.

Appendix 2 of the report sets out the key themes raised in the responses received during the 6-week public engagement period and also indicates how the Council responded to them when drafting the version of the CAP which was adopted by Cabinet.

For the theme of “Engagement and public meeting” Appendix 2 of the Cabinet Report includes explanatory text:

The Council is committed to engaging on the CAP but, due to external factors beyond our control, the planned public event could not take place.

Rather than delay indefinitely, the Council wants to keep moving forward in line with our declaration of a climate emergency so is progressing with adopting a CAP which takes into account feedback received including from various climate change organisations, Councillors, the public and staff.

It should be noted that this is a first iteration and future versions, along with specific areas of work, will be supported by engagement with stakeholders.

Author	D Millen	Classification	Members	Date of First Issue	30/07/20
Owner	Environment	Issue Status	FINAL	Date of Latest Re-Issue	03/08/20
Version	3.0	Page	2		

A delivery workstream will focus on communication and engagement, with an early outcome being an engagement plan, which will consider what, when and how engagement will take place.

This explanatory text indicates that further delay was considered but not pursued because:

- The Council needs to move forward with delivering its response to a global emergency.
- The development of the CAP took into account feedback received including from various climate change organisations, Councillors, the public and staff.
- There will be ongoing engagement with stakeholders and the CAP will be subject to regular review.

The Cabinet Report also refers to these:

- The Council needs to move forward with delivering its response to a global emergency – point 14.
- The development of the CAP took into account feedback received including from various climate change organisations, Councillors, the public and staff – points 14. and 24.
- There will be ongoing engagement with stakeholders and the CAP will be subject to regular review – points 18., 25. and 60.

3. *The strategy states “The Greenbelt will play an enhanced role in biodiversity, carbon-off-setting and in helping to facilitate low-carbon living.” However, it does not explain how this fits with the Local Plan Policy as the draft document states that the council might look at potentially releasing parts of the Green Belt for development.*

The CAP is a strategic document which, as per the example provided, sets out the Council’s vision in respect of the various themes. However, as noted in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet Report, “Green belt and Metropolitan Open Land” “...will be considered in the Enfield Local Plan.”

This is an entirely appropriate approach given that the new Enfield Local Plan is part way through an iterative process of development. Therefore, the vision set out in the CAP can inform this process including the collection of the supporting evidence which will underpin the new Enfield Local Plan.

4. *The strategy has a section on key asks of government yet fails to have a section on key asks of the Mayor of London who is in charge of services that have a significant impact on the council’s ability to become carbon neutral.*

The “Influencing others” theme of the CAP (page 35 of Appendix 1 of the Cabinet Report) includes a column which is titled “A regional and national agenda: Our key asks of Government”. This column then lists seven key regional and national asks, including: “Work with Transport for London, train

Author	D Millen	Classification	Members	Date of First Issue	30/07/20
Owner	Environment	Issue Status	FINAL	Date of Latest Re-Issue	03/08/20
Version	3.0	Page	3		

operating companies and Network Rail to continue to increase and improve low carbon public transport in Enfield.”.

Given that the Mayor of London is responsible for regional government in London and that Transport for London is a functional body of regional government in London, it would seem that the document does have a section with the key asks of the Mayor of London.

It is acknowledged that the use of a capital “G” when referring to regional government could be confusing so this will be altered in the final CAP.

Author	D Millen	Classification	Members	Date of First Issue	30/07/20
Owner	Environment	Issue Status	FINAL	Date of Latest Re-Issue	03/08/20
Version	3.0	Page	4		