

ANNUAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH DECARBONISATION COMMITMENTS

COUNCIL 22nd July 2020	CLASSIFICATION: OPEN
WARD(S) AFFECTED All wards	
CABINET MEMBER Councillor Jon Burke Cabinet Member for Energy, Waste, Transport and Public Realm	
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1. CABINET MEMBERS INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In voting to declare a climate emergency at June 2019, Hackney Council committed to do everything within its power to deliver against the stretching higher confidence threshold targets set by the IPCC'S October 2018 1.5°C Report. This meant committing to a 45% reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions against 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040, across the Council's full range of functions. Further, the motion passed by Full Council also committed the local authority to seek opportunities to make a greater contribution than its headline decarbonisation targets wherever possible.
- 1.2 This document represents the first annual update on progress towards our decarbonisation over the last 12 months, noting that this work builds on progress achieved over a number of years and, in particular, since the 2016 Hackney Mayoral Election. It should also be noted that the full range of programmes focused on environmental sustainability and regeneration is broader than our work specifically focused on decarbonisation, encompassing both mitigation and adaptation activity.
- 1.3 To date, there has been a significant focus on delivery, to demonstrate to the borough's residents that urgent action and progress is both necessary and possible. 'Low-hanging fruit' areas, such as the switch to 100% renewable wholesale electricity procurement, have been identified and swiftly executed, but future actions must not only continue at pace but in an increasingly systematic fashion. To this end, we have commissioned a number of studies during the last 12 months, such as the Energy Strategy and Green Infrastructure Plan pledged in the 2018 Manifesto. The former, in particular, will help establish both baselines and decarbonisation pathways that do not rely upon the individual enthusiasm and energy of Cabinet Members and officers, but instead embed, through annual target-setting and performance monitoring, structural commitments against which the success of the Council can be clearly and effectively scrutinised by the public. The various documents that comprise Hackney's decarbonisation plans will fall under the larger umbrella of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, to be formally published in 2021.
- 1.4 Many actions already underway reflect the wider consensus as to what measures need to be undertaken. In particular, the future priorities identified by the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) in their 2020 annual progress report, alongside key advocacy asks being developed by local government that seek to prioritise the following:
 - Investing in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure;
 - Supporting reskilling, retraining and research for a net-zero well-adapted economy;
 - Upgrading our homes to ensure they are fit for the future;
 - Making it easy for people to walk, cycle, and work remotely; and
 - Accelerating tree planting, green spaces and other green infrastructure.
- 1.5 This direction is already being reflected in the borough's decarbonisation programmes, with Hackney Light and Power, the Council's publicly-owned energy

services company, recently launching its Green Homes programme in order to replicate at the local level the CCC's call on the Government to treat thermal efficiency as a infrastructure priority.

- 1.6 Amidst the tragedy of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are signs that the public are valuing cleaner air and time spent in nature, and many people have adapted to working remotely. We have seen that individuals, communities and businesses are willing and able to adapt their behaviour to protect public health from Coronavirus. Polling has consistently demonstrated that there is public appetite for the kind of radical ameliorative measures that were taken in response to the threat of coronavirus in order to address the far greater challenge of global warming, and that a majority of the public want to see climate change prioritised in the economic recovery. Environmental considerations have never been far from the heart of the crisis, from how it started and rapidly spread, the inequalities that are impacting communities through poor air quality and diet, to servicing the needs of excessive global consumption.
- 1.7 As we look to the future, we can see that the Coronavirus has created a 'new normal'. Amongst the many other impacts of the virus, it has been a stark reminder that prevention is better than cure. This must mean a renewed, and meaningful, commitment to rapidly reducing emissions of the greenhouse gases that are driving global warming and contributing both directly and indirectly to the world's multiple ecological crises. The threat to human life and sustainable economic activity from a consistent failure to address this urgent issue cannot be overstated and therefore requires, at both the local and national level, dramatic measures to rapidly eliminate key sectors, such as energy, built environment, housing, waste services and consumption, and land transport and aviation.
- 1.8 The Coronavirus crisis has also demonstrated the unique role of local authorities, who have responded rapidly and effectively, redeploying huge numbers of staff in response to local need, with key service areas, such as Waste Services demonstrating remarkable levels of flexibility and speed. Local Government has also played a critical role in identifying and supporting vulnerable residents who needed shielding, joining up service delivery across agencies to tackle the virus, and keeping central government on top of intelligence, implementing on the ground in a way that makes sense locally.
- 1.9 The current pandemic has meant that the actions taken now to respond to the current health crisis and rebuild our economy will have impacts far into the future, determining whether we succeed in the goal to protect people, places and life itself. By limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C, halting and reversing the decline of nature and eradicating poverty, we can avoid locking in pollution and inequality for generations.
- 1.10 Recent Government announcements to support a green recovery (£3 billion) are woefully inadequate, neither responding to the scale of the task nor acknowledging the rapidly narrowing window of opportunity for our survival. Dwarfed by other settlements that underpin carbon intensive actions and behaviours - £29 billion for

road building, we must work alongside others in the next 12 months to maximise the collective pressure on Government for transformational change, securing the funding that is urgently needed to achieve it. The scale of the funding gap for this year alone is £30 billion, with the Committee on Climate Change estimating that the UK will need to spend £33 billion a year on decarbonisation every year to 2050 in order to reach net zero emissions by that inadequate date. However, lobbying for change cannot be done alone and, as in the case of this administration's opposition to Silvertown Tunnel, Heathrow and City Airport expansion, and in respect of the Government's Tree Strategy, we will seek to work closely with other local authorities, pressure groups, and the wider community to take our strong and urgent messages to the highest levels of Government.

- 1.11 The hosting of COP26 next year by the UK provides the opportunity to demonstrate leadership across the political spectrum that puts resilience at the heart of an economic recovery that prioritises environmental security and human welfare over unsustainable economic growth, increasing the momentum to transition to net zero, restoring nature and supporting the vulnerable by reducing the inequalities that Coronavirus has helped to lay bare. It is our duty to ensure that the benefits of the net-zero transition are distributed fairly with the costs - in both financial and carbon terms - not falling on those least able to pay, nationally and internationally.
- 1.12 At the June 2019 Full Council, I invoked the great Carl Sagan with the demand that we, as a Council, "don't sit this one out"; noting that we are "by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet." This report documents the crucial steps that Hackney Council has taken in the previous 12 months towards a different kind of future for ourselves, in which peace, prosperity, and security, are underpinned not by mortgaging the future of our children but by living within the finite ecological limits of our only home.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report and its appendices provide an update to Full Council on progress with our decarbonisation commitments in the previous 12 months. It includes the update itself (Appendix 1) as well as further details of our key tasks for the next 12 months and information on our future approach to external stakeholder engagement.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 For some time now, there has been strong scientific evidence on climate change caused by human beings and its significant impacts on climate and the consequent destruction of habitats and species. Economists and social scientists anticipate (and already report) harmful impacts on communities in relation to health and well-being, food supply, and infrastructural damage, with potential for high economic costs, food insecurity, mass migration and heightened levels of conflict. These threats require a transformational response, e.g. decarbonisation, that needs to be significant in scale and urgent, as every action to reduce climate change contributes to long-term harm reduction, and reduces the immediate risk of "trigger points", e.g. thawing of

permafrost, and the sharply escalating impacts resulting from each small increase in global temperatures.

- 3.2 These problems are compounded by existing global and local challenges around pollution, e.g. urban air pollution, plastic waste, etc. There is also increasing pressure from local residents for action in response to the environmental impacts felt now (e.g. air pollution, urban heat-island effect) and those that are anticipated in the future.
- 3.3 The local political response is wide ranging; there are commitments in the 2018-2022 Manifesto relating to: reducing plastic, promoting reuse and recycling, green infrastructure, biodiversity and tree planting, green energy, reducing carbon emissions and green transport.
- 3.4 In February 2019, there was a Council Motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this was followed in June 2019 by a [Motion](#) to do 'everything within the Council's power' to deliver net zero emissions across its functions by 2040, ten years earlier than the target set by the Government.

Covid-19

- 3.5 The impact of the current pandemic despite its many negative consequences is providing an opportunity for a fundamental reappraisal of how we live in the future. The lockdown itself enabled positive environmental impacts on the quality of life in Hackney and more widely, with improvements in air quality from reduced vehicle use, reductions in carbon emissions generally and the stimulation of pro-environmental behaviours. Our environment was cleaner, healthier and the quiet streets have shown people what cities might be like if we were to limit car use even more. We need to find ways of locking in these benefits for the future.
- 3.6 Our residents continue to use our local parks and open spaces at higher levels for exercise and the management of mental health; a better appreciation of the need for a positive relationship with nature may be an associated outcome. Some of us are likely to be eating differently, being less reliant on meat and more conscious of how we make best use of what we have, resulting in less waste.
- 3.7 Until there is a vaccine we will need to work from home more even as part of extended social distancing measures - and indeed we may question why we all have to travel so much and how we might proactively encourage this more to give the city a rest.
- 3.8 There are also negative environmental impacts (putting aside for a moment the tragic deaths and wider economic hardship of the virus), including rising rates of fuel poverty, a reluctance to use public transport that may lead to increased private car use and the potential for deregulation by central government to provide stimulus for businesses. Reductions in local government income as a result of the changes to business rates, lower parking revenues, reduced Council Tax payments plus the additional costs of responding to the pandemic are being quantified but are already substantial.

- 3.9 The extent of the economic impacts of the pandemic means for our recovery it will be essential to harness the opportunities for a greener one, rethinking our society and developing a new model of prosperity to make us more resilient, more protective and more inclusive. Embracing the transition to a climate-neutral economy, protecting biodiversity and transforming our food systems have the potential to rapidly deliver jobs, growth and improve the way of life of all citizens. We are not starting from scratch as much progress has been made globally in the last ten years to reduce the cost of the transition: renewable energy, zero emission mobility, energy efficiency etc. We must therefore design recovery plans that embed the fight against climate change and reflect the Climate Emergency as the core of the economic strategy - a Green New Deal. Others, including the Council are already coming together to actively influence the economic stimulus that will be needed.

Our response

- 3.10 Alongside a continuing range of practical and wide ranging actions, a new Environmental Sustainability Board was established in January 2019, just before the first of the two Council Motions. The purpose of the new Board was to coordinate the work across the many functions of the Council that were either in train or needed in response to the risks associated with a changing climate, loss of biodiversity, and pollution and waste.
- 3.11 The Board is chaired by Ian Williams (Group Director for Finance and Corporate Resources), and includes in its membership Cabinet members and senior officers representing the breadth of service areas involved in delivery. The first work undertaken by the Board was to map the range of activity already underway across the Council to inform the development of a comprehensive but interim delivery plan. We have now commissioned a number of pieces of evidence based work to define and inform the pathway to our new net zero commitments and provide a robust future reporting framework (Energy Strategy).
- 3.12 We are also seizing the opportunity created by the pandemic to enhance 'active transport' capability as capacity on public transport is significantly reduced due to the ongoing need for social distancing; accelerating a number of transport related public realm schemes that can be constructed quickly to maximise the opportunities provided by recent government announcements and a refocusing of funding by Transport for London to meet more immediate needs. In the short term we have introduced road closures and pavement widening measures at a number of locations across the borough, and we are working on further measures to manage the potential resurgence of private vehicle use, as well as encouraging the shift to active travel, whilst improving road safety for users.

Corporate Plan review

- 3.13 Covid-19 has already impacted on services, businesses and communities in ways that will resonate for many years. Unlike other crises that local government has had

to respond to, there really is no “normal” or “business as usual” that we are returning to and we are therefore talking about a “Next Phase” rather than “Recovery”.

- 3.14 Hackney has recently set a new vision for place, through our Community Strategy adopted in 2018. This was rooted in extensive community engagement and scenario planning also fed into this work, to help us future proof the vision despite what might knock things off course. There wasn't a pandemic scenario but some scenarios considered economic shock and a health and social care crisis. The Housing Strategy, Local Plan LP33, Single Equality Scheme, Inclusive Economy Strategy, VCS Strategy and Culture Strategy are all closely aligned and flow from this same process.
- 3.15 Hackney also adopted a Corporate Plan in 2018 which set out how we will deliver political commitments and work towards our long term vision. So far, responding to community impacts of Covid-19 has required a sharpening and acceleration of what was identified as needed in our Community Strategy and Corporate Plan, rather than a diversion from this vision. The impacts have affirmed that our strategic priorities, focusing on poverty reduction, inclusive economy, housing, climate emergency, serious violence, children and families, community wellbeing and health inequalities are the right ones and that we are also right to consider impacts on different equality groups. Despite this, we need to look at how we respond to the short, medium and long term impacts and hence we may need to review some of our priorities within the Corporate Plan as a consequence. This work is underway and our initial review is due to be taken to Cabinet in July.

Challenges and considerations

- 3.16 The climate emergency declaration has highlighted some challenges that the Council will need to scope more fully to enable them to be addressed. Some of our responses are already in train, further detail can be found in Section 5.

Responding to scale of challenge

- 3.17 The Council's ambitions for decarbonisation of its corporate functions will require substantial mobilisation and leadership across the organisation. Much can be achieved through a number of high impact projects, not least shifting to purchasing electricity that is from renewable sources, but full decarbonisation will involve transformational work across almost all functions as it will require us to rethink how we work.
- 3.18 Looking at wider plans for decarbonisation across our estate, major investment will be needed to retrofit Council buildings, including social housing stock, to improve insulation and energy systems, even if there may be savings to be derived in the long term from reduced waste collections, energy efficiency and energy generation activities. The Energy Strategy should give us an indication of some, though not all of the broad costs involved. Further detailed analysis will be needed for example to understand the cost implications for our housing stock.

- 3.19 We need to strike the right balance between the existing commitment to a managed decarbonisation of the Council and its functions (representing a smaller element of the Borough's overall emissions) and the role of the Council in leading, shaping and influencing decarbonisation of the Borough.

Proactive collaboration and engagement with stakeholders and residents

- 3.20 The escalating urgency of this agenda has opened up more opportunities to work more collaboratively on shared issues. Already this is being recognised by the LGA, London Councils, and the GLA, and regional and sub-regional networks are increasingly active on this agenda. To harness the benefits of collaboration we need to develop a more strategic and proactive approach to collaboration and partnership working.
- 3.21 There is a well established community of interest, whose interest has only increased. We need to provide a constructive and structured interface with the community and create an appropriate mechanism for accountability, through community engagement activity and an annual reporting mechanism. Our proposals in this regard can be found in Section 5: Direction of Travel.
- 3.22 Our internal communications on the climate crisis needs to be built into wider staff engagement plans and integrated into the roles of those supporting this work. Our key messages externally as to how our residents, voluntary sector, business, faith groups and more can play their part in responding to the climate crisis need to be clear and easy to understand whilst encouraging action.
- 3.23 We have learnt a lot about how to connect grassroots groups with formal ones during the period of the pandemic and will need to think how we take this into account as part of our planning around future community engagement.

Supporting an inclusive and socially just transition

- 3.24 We need to develop an appropriate community engagement methodology. For this agenda it is critical to get this right because we will have to engage with the whole community to effect change at the scale needed, not just those who are already supportive and engaged. Our approach to communication and engagement needs therefore to carefully consider this, looking at what has worked elsewhere. Our initial proposals in this regard can be found in Section 5: Direction of Travel.
- 3.25 We need to scale up what we do to incentivise and necessitate environmentally sustainable behaviours, but these need to be designed with a clear emphasis on a socially just transition that does not create greater inequalities or disproportionately impact those that are already more disadvantaged. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to link Sustainability more explicitly to Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Economy work to ensure positive impacts. It is worth noting that a Just Transition is a likely focus for a review by the Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commission.

Legislation

- 3.26 The new government is introducing an Environment Bill which will have a significant impact on the role of local government. It will enable some actions to move forward more readily, but the legislation is also likely to leave some potentially important routes to decarbonisation lacking both the legislative and resourcing capabilities that they need. It is probable, particularly with COP26 (the next intergovernmental conference on climate) being held in Glasgow next year, that the UK government, as host, will be both challenged to do more in terms of legislation and funding, and perhaps more persuadable, making public affairs work an immediate priority.

4. ANNUAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH DECARBONISATION COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 The annual update attached as **Appendix 1** summarises the practical steps that the Council has taken over the previous 12 months to deliver on our commitment of a 45% reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions against 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040 across the local authority's full range of functions. In addition it includes an update on how we are progressing a wider range of contributing actions that were outlined in the Climate Emergency Motion in June 2019, as well as the key practical actions we will be taking over the next 12 months to ensure we maintain momentum with our plans and objectives.
- 4.2 The update is not the complete picture of our activities to address the climate crisis but concentrates on key headlines which are likely to make a significant contribution to our ambitions or respond to existing Manifesto Commitments.
- 4.3 Our approach is driven by science, evidence-based and purposefully ambitious. It seeks to balance the need to undertake actions at pace whilst building a robust local evidence base to inform future key decisions ensuring we deliver activities that maximise impact. Our actions respond to the urgent need for both mitigation and adaptation to be undertaken in order to address the climate crisis.
- 4.4 Our work programme contains the following priorities, the annual update is organised along these lines noting that each priority section of this annual update includes a short summary and headlines at its beginning.
- Reduce the borough's carbon emissions - including the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 for the Council's own functions;
 - Improve local resilience to impacts of climate emergency;
 - Promote active travel and public transport;
 - Reduce waste and promote the circular economy; and
 - Reduce and remove pollution.
- 4.5 We are committed to the development of a Climate Emergency Action Plan for public consultation in 2021. Future annual updates on our decarbonisation commitments will align with this.

5. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Next steps

- 5.1 Many of the major changes that are needed to avert the climate crisis continue to require major structural changes to be achieved. The rescheduling of COP26 to the end of next calendar year has meant that agreeing national revised targets since the earlier Paris agreement has not happened. As a result major central government financial stimulus packages to meet agreed obligations have not yet been clearly identified or confirmed.
- 5.2 The immediate opportunity provided by the pandemic to enable a greener recovery must not be lost and hence there will be an increased need for lobbying with others across the political spectrum, as well as making best use of existing member organisations such as the LGA and London Councils alongside local stakeholders.

Developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan

- 5.3 To date there has been a significant focus on delivery which has helped us gain momentum and mobilise better. We now need to draw on the evidence that has been commissioned creating an overarching published Climate Emergency Action Plan which provides the strategic framework to enable the Council to work through the following:

Balance of priorities and impact

- The balance between having an impact corporately and on the whole borough with a clearer focus on responding to the climate emergency
- The balance between a focus on reducing our impact on climate change and to improving local resilience to its effects e.g. through tree planting which provides a climate store and has a cooling effect
- How we future proof our responses so we scenario plan what the borough of the future will be like, taking account of technological change
- Brings together the evidence base which we are building - to ensure we are taking actions which have the greatest impact
- Builds on our evidence base making use of research and independent challenge to refine our plans
- Seizes the opportunities provided as a result of the pandemic to accelerate transformation in key areas (transport, nature recovery, pro environmental behaviours)
- Develops an impact framework to ensure that policies and individual actions are impactful and to track any unintended negative impacts

Resources

- Consider commitments and resourcing implications across all our services - short and long term

Transformation and embedding

- Scopes out the transformation that is needed organisationally and the culture change, the technical and generic skills needed as well as the role for leadership
- Helps us build responding to the climate emergency into wider strategy and reset these strategies as needed (e.g. Planning and Transport) as well as ensuring that we embed actions needed into decision making in a meaningful, impactful way

Stakeholder engagement and communication

- Provides a framework for constructive and proactive stakeholder analysis, prioritisation and internal and external communication and engagement; this should be based on a clear and consciously considered methodology for engagement and co-production that has a positive impact on delivery
- Transparently articulates what we are doing and why and creates a framework for public accountability

Our stakeholder engagement and communication framework for environmental sustainability

- 5.4 To inform our engagement approach we have developed a framework for stakeholder engagement and communication which is set out below. We have also set out our response to delivering the commitment for a Citizens' Assembly this year.
- 5.5 The work the Council is doing on sustainability is wide-ranging. For many elements of this agenda, engagement with our communities and consultation of plans are part and parcel of the work. For example, changes to our residual waste collection, major improvements to the public realm in parks, our Transport Strategy, planning documents such as our draft Local Plan and the soon to be updated Sustainable Design and the Built Environment SPD. Our framework sets out an overarching approach and provides principles for adding to our existing engagement.
- 5.6 A motion was adopted by Council in June 2019. It included the following commitments around engaging stakeholders:
- Involve, support and enable residents, businesses and community groups to accelerate the shift to a zero carbon world, working closely with them to establish and implement successful policies, approaches and technologies that reduce emissions across our economy while also improving the health and wellbeing of our citizens.
 - Produce an annual update to Full Council on the progress made against the Council's decarbonisation commitments, and conduct an annual Citizens Assembly comprised of a representative group of local residents to allow for effective public scrutiny the Council's progress and to explore solutions to the challenges posed by global warming.

- 5.7 We have assessed the Committee on Climate Change commissioned research by Imperial College London to help understand the potential for people to make choices that contribute to reducing emissions. One important conclusion is that ‘lower-carbon choices need to be seen not only as important and urgent, but also normal, easy and in alignment with other day-to-day concerns (eg., household budgets and social relations)’¹. This approach will be particularly important to be able to provide a socially just transition to environmental sustainability that does not create greater inequalities or disproportionately impact those that are already more disadvantaged.
- 5.8 Our approach will therefore be one of collaboration with our stakeholders: *To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.*
- 5.9 We will use the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum to guide our engagement. The IAP2² is an international model that provides a framework on how government can effectively engage the community in decision-making processes.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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¹ Behaviour change, public engagement and Net Zero
<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/behaviour-change-public-engagement-and-net-zero-imperial-college-london/>

² https://www.iap2.org.au/Tenant/C0000004/00000001/files/IAP2_Public_Participation_Spectrum.pdf

Our stakeholder engagement principles

We have developed a set of principles to guide our engagement activities:

5.10 *We will be clear about the process and aims of engagement*

- We need to be clear about what the aims of the engagement is
- We need to provide clarity about the opportunities to engage
- We need to be honest about what can and cannot be achieved or influenced from the beginning
- Our aim is to provide clarity for participants on what they are taking part in and how their views will be used

5.11 *We will communicate the results of engagement activities*

- We need to ensure that communities are aware of the impact of their input by making sure participants receive feedback as soon as possible, and that they are told when this will be
- We need to give participants the opportunity to feed back to ourselves and partners on the engagement process

5.12 *We will take a topic based approach to engagement*

- Environmental sustainability is a broad theme, so we will engage with stakeholders on specific topics that fall under that umbrella. Examples include access to green spaces, waste, public transport and active travel, fuel poverty, and food surpluses & waste.
- We will prioritise those topics that are likely to have the most impact on the climate emergency
- Our methods for engagement will vary depending on the topic as well as being shaped by the needs, using the existing structures of specific stakeholder groups where required

5.13 *We will take account of the technical nature of many of the topic areas*

- We will make an assessment of the technical expertise required to meaningfully participate in discussions about each topic
- We will make an assessment of the impact of our plans on people's daily lives, and prioritise engagement for these topics
- The greater the impact a proposal is likely to have on our residents, businesses and partners, the more wide ranging and extensive our methods for engagement will be
- We will open ourselves up to scrutiny of the evidence base for our approaches, including those that will have an impact on the Council's sustainability but less of a direct impact on our wider communities
- We will build on existing work by scientists, charities, campaign groups and government agencies to make the topics of sustainability and the climate emergency as accessible as possible

5.14 *Our engagement will be focused on topics that matter to people*

- We want to learn from people's lived experiences
- We aim to work with people to improve the Council's approach
- We want to work with people to design environmentally sustainable changes that are impactful but also normal, easy and in alignment with other day-to-day concerns

5.15 *We will strive to be inclusive and to engage with all communities*

- We need to ensure that individuals have the opportunity to express their views and know that these views will be listened to and respected.
- We need to take into account the particular needs of individuals or groups and aim to overcome any difficulties people may have in engaging
- We need to consider ways of increasing involvement with communities who are not in touch with our stakeholder organisations, or not already interested in sustainability and the climate emergency
- We need to ensure that a diverse range of individuals from all walks of life are represented in our engagement
- No one group or person is more important than any other group or person
- We need to make accessible the often technical language used to describe environmental topics
- We need to ensure that we are going out to meet participants, not the other way around

5.16 *We will work in partnership with other stakeholders to respond to the climate emergency*

- We need to work together with other stakeholders and organisations to coordinate activity on the climate emergency and becoming environmentally sustainable
- We aim to provide a leadership role by showing our partners how the Council itself is responding to the climate emergency
- We will encourage partners to develop their own responses to the climate emergency, recognising they are best placed to do so
- We aim to learn from our partners about their experiences in implementing sustainable policies

Stakeholder analysis

5.17 Our stakeholders include any individuals or organisations who are invested in an Environmentally Sustainable Hackney, those who are affected by this programme in some way, and also those whose input has a direct impact on the programme's outcomes. These can broadly be organised into the following groupings:

- Residents and tenants including local representation structures, key age groupings (younger and older people etc), and equalities groups

- Anchor institutions: Clinical Commissioning Group, Homerton Hospital, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, JCP, New City College, Hackney CVS, Hackney Volunteer Centre
- Landlords: registered providers and private landlords
- Businesses
- Public sector organisations: other London Boroughs, TfL, GLA, Network Rail, government departments
- Council services, and Council staff
- Community interest groups: eg. Extinction Rebellion, Sustainable Hackney, Living Streets.
- Voluntary and community sector partners

Potential methods for future engagement

5.18 A range of engagement approaches should be considered and these should be varied according to the topic, as indicated by the principles of topic and stakeholder based engagement approaches above.

Examples of consultation:	Examples of involvement:	Examples of collaboration:	Examples of empowerment:
Workshops, Forums, Focus groups, Public meetings, Discussion groups, Citizen's panels	Reference groups	Partnership groups, Advisory committee, Taskforce, Consultative committee	Citizen juries and assemblies
Online or paper surveys	Advisory group	Community visioning	Social procurement
Invitation for submissions		Peer to peer consultation, Volunteer researchers	Community run facilitation session and workshops
Public comment/displays, Ideas boards	Peer to peer research	Consensus-building, Participatory decision-making	Delegated decisions
Interviews	Workshop series	Policy round table	
Listening posts		Joint planning days	
Road shows, Open day			
Market research			

- 5.19 Our Climate Emergency Motion currently identifies the need to conduct an annual Citizens' Assembly comprised of a representative group of local residents to:
- allow for effective public scrutiny of the Council's progress; and
 - explore solutions to the challenges posed by global warming.
- 5.20 Earlier external events to initiate this process (November 2019 and February 2020) have had to be rescheduled, although it has provided time to reflect more fully on our pledges regarding wider stakeholder and resident engagement and how this might best be delivered so as to maximise involvement and impact and acknowledge equalities priorities.
- 5.21 We have now assessed in more detail the use of Citizens' Assemblies in delivering participatory activities to deliberate on the climate crisis. Although there are no internationally recognised standards for Citizens' Assemblies, there are some generally accepted principles, including:
- a three step process - learning, deliberation and decision making – each given sufficient time
 - independent facilitation
 - oversight by an independent advisory group
 - presentation by experts covering the range of views and evidence on the topic(s) discussed
 - demographically representative participants drawn from the wider population the assembly relates to
 - reimbursement of participants in recognition of their time and contribution
- 5.22 The use of a Citizens' Assembly as a deliberative mechanism has become more established over the last few years in the UK and its deployment to consider the climate crisis has been undertaken both at local level - LB Camden, Oxford County Council and nationally - Climate Assembly UK. In total about 10 recent assemblies have focused on Climate Change.
- 5.23 In respect of the national Climate Assembly UK the outcomes of the discussions, which were held over six weekends from January and May 2020, will be presented to the six parliamentary select committees who commissioned the work. The committees will use them as a basis for detailed work on implementing the assembly's recommendations, which will also be debated in the House of Commons. The six House of Commons Select Committees who commissioned Climate Assembly UK are Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Environmental Audit; Treasury; Housing, Communities and Local Government; Science & Technology; and Transport.
- 5.24 To respond to our CE commitment, deliberative processes that include Citizens' Assemblies would appear to be most applicable to the objective of exploring solutions to the challenges posed by global warming rather than scrutinising Council progress on its own commitments.

Climate Emergency Commitment: Scrutinising Council progress with decarbonisation

- 5.25 This paper includes an annual update on progress with its decarbonisation commitments as Appendix 1. Further work is required though to develop the public scrutiny process fully to meet this Climate Emergency commitment prior to the next annual update on our decarbonisation commitments in July 2021. In particular identifying more detailed performance targets to support public scrutiny and track progress meaningfully.
- 5.26 Notwithstanding, there are a number of strategies and plans that relate to our commitments which will be consulted on publicly in the near term, some of which are key to detailing our decarbonisation pathway and confirming annual performance targets developed using robust research and independent challenge. These will provide significant opportunities for our community of interest to comment and influence our future actions which impact on the Climate Emergency. They include amongst others:
- Green Infrastructure Strategy;
 - Parks and Green Spaces Strategy;
 - Air Quality Action Plan;
 - Sustainable Design and the Built Environment SPD
 - Local Nature Recovery Plan (to replace our extant Biodiversity Action Plan); and
 - Scrutiny committee work related to a 'just transition'.
- 5.27 Our conclusion is that we intend to vary the methods of engagement according to the topic and range of stakeholders involved, alongside an assessment of the technical expertise required to meaningfully participate. The overall approach to engagement will therefore be broader and more flexible than the original Citizens' Assembly idea outlined in the Climate Emergency declaration. In terms of representation, engagement with vulnerable groups will consider how it can be meaningfully delivered through other wider strategy and engagement work by addressing aspects relevant to the climate crisis as part of that engagement - such as our Poverty Reduction Strategy, Older Peoples Strategy, Food Strategy, Young Futures Commission etc, as well as neighbourhood conversations the Council is leading on.
- 5.28 We feel that effective deliberation coupled with building public trust and cooperation are the key outcomes needed, and can be delivered in a number of different ways to achieve many of the outcomes identified whilst still being broadly in line with the Citizens' Assembly process. We are also mindful of the resource commitments of running Citizens' Assemblies which would be significant particularly if recurrent and held over a number of days as is usual.
- 5.29 In designing the event for this year, we are committed to using some of the key elements of the Citizen Assembly process but to ensure we maximise inclusiveness we feel that it would be better to go further by building in more specific engagement with some of our vulnerable stakeholder groups where needed, engaging them on their terms so as to ensure a meaningful and responsive interaction that helps their voices to be heard clearly. Some of this would be through activity within our existing

strategy work etc or structures outlined earlier. We believe that this approach would resolve some of the limitations of the Citizens' Assemblies (CA) process identified in independent evaluations, where although CAs seek demographic representivity through a wide ranging and objective recruitment process, it does not guarantee meaningful participation, particularly for topics where higher levels of technical understanding are needed. We also feel that since the wider use of CAs as a deliberation mechanism for the very broad topic of the climate crisis, we are probably now at a different stage in the debate needing to look more at the specifics as the future objective. Our 2020 event proposal reflects these considerations.

2020 stakeholder engagement event

5.30 Proposals for this year's event are outlined below. The event including the planning and preparation, and feedback afterwards is likely to contain the following elements:

- Learning about the topic, discussion and deliberation among participants and decision making about priorities
- Overall, independent facilitation of the event alongside a more blended approach using Council staff where it brings added value
- Presentation by experts covering differing viewpoints and evidence

5.31 The current intention is to hold an event around the same time as the fourth annual Hackney Sustainability Day in November 2020 aiming for it to be an up to a one day event. **Green Recovery** is the suggested topic for this event.

5.32 Discussions have started about the need to make sure societal and economic recovery from Covid-19 lays the foundation for sound, sustainable and inclusive growth. The event will be a good opportunity to discuss what this means for Hackney and how the transition required could best be delivered. An external attendee list hasn't been developed but we would see our Community of Interest playing a significant role alongside some of our anchor institutions, local businesses and voluntary and community sector groups amongst others.

The content could include the following:

- What are considered to be the key elements of a green recovery?
- What is the current status regarding the low carbon economy nationally and locally? (learning)
- How does a green recovery support the objective of creating a more inclusive economy that is socially just as well as competitive, sustainable and smart - more digitised? (learning)
- What do we think are the key opportunities for a green recovery in Hackney? (deliberating)
- Should there be opportunities we should prioritise above others? (decision making)
- How could we collaborate together to deliver these priorities? (deliberating and decision making)

- 5.33 The topic may need to be narrowed further based on further planning, to make the deliberation as productive as possible for a one day event.
- 5.34 Our desire is to run this as a face to face event, as it allows for easier discussions in groups, better sharing of suggestions (eg. post-it notes) and prioritisation of options. The event would also be more accessible as it avoids a digital divide some people face. Finally, energy levels are more likely to be sustained for a full day. Circumstances may restrict us to an online event. In that case we may have to consider how best to use the online approach to deliver the outcomes sought. We would seek to engage with our external stakeholders to agree the way forward if this is the situation.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That Full Council notes the Annual Update on progress with our decarbonisation commitments as attached at Appendix 1.

7. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR FINANCE & CORPORATE RESOURCES

- 7.1 The role that the Council plays in shaping the Green agenda within Hackney cannot be overstated. However the impact of Covid-19, where we are currently estimating a net impact of £53m for 2020/21 alone, could slow the rate of progress of delivery. The financial outlook for the economy in general, both public and private sector, is uncertain for future years, and hence the resources and opportunities available for, and scope of, the response to the Climate Emergency will be impacted accordingly.
- 7.2 The Council recognises the importance of the green agenda in shaping our response to the declared Climate Emergency, as such Council has allocated £25.9m in capital funding during the period 2019/20 - 2022/23 to support green initiatives and decarbonisation works:

Budgeted Green Initiatives:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
CO2 Reduction	3,372,703	5,260,941	0	0	8,633,644
Electric Vehicles	144,218	40,122	0	0	184,340
Energy Efficiency	2,097,315	3,215,894	2,090,648	2,107,461	9,511,318
Recycling	224,316	954,977	583,784	595,459	2,358,536
Other	592,053	2,183,309	2,303,685	129,866	5,208,913
Total	6,430,605	11,655,143	4,978,117	2,832,786	25,896,751

- 7.3 The green initiatives shown above are all contained and budgeted for within current resources available to Council.
- 7.4 Plans to expand the current solar PV pilots are being drafted, with a view to these forming part of a wider power network within the borough, to increase renewable fuel independence. The delivery structure for this network is yet to be agreed, however work is ongoing to finalise the structure.
- 7.5 The Council is also exploring other green initiatives and options to bring about a net zero carbon position and schemes to promote step changes in environmental behaviour. These schemes will be robustly reviewed to ensure viability, sustainability and value.
- 7.6 Work to develop the Council's Energy Strategy, to fully identify the Council's carbon gap is underway, which in turn will lead to the Council working up fully costed plans to eliminate our CO₂ emissions. These plans will then be embedded into future years revenue and capital budget setting exercises.

8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL

- 8.1 In line with Article 4.2 of the Councils Constitution, Full Council meetings are held to determine the Councils policy framework and to agree the strategic direction for the Council. This report recommends that Full Council note the annual update on the progress of the Councils decarbonisation commitments. The Council commits to a decarbonisation program in line with its obligations to comply and contribute to the UK reduction in CO₂ emissions by 2050 in accordance with the Climate Change Act 2008.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 APPENDIX 1: Annual Update of progress with our decarbonisation commitments
- 9.2 APPENDIX 2: Transport Strategy Annual Monitoring Report 2019

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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