

<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Annual Update on Progress with Decarbonisation Commitments July 2022</b>
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Council
<b>Meeting Date</b>	20th July 2022
<b>Classification</b>	Open
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All wards
<b>Group Director</b>	Ian Williams, Group Director Finance and Corporate Resources
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Mete Coban, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

## 1. Introduction by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

1.1 This is our third annual decarbonisation report demonstrating progress with the key goals that were outlined last year for the past 12 months. As part of a new administration we have made a number of wide ranging manifesto commitments that contribute to addressing the climate and ecological crisis; increasing the availability of electric vehicle charging points, stepping up the pace of roll out of cycle hangers, delivering a social housing pilot to frame our future retrofit responses, scaling the local circular economy and harnessing the employment potential, whilst continuing with tree planting, recognising the 5,000 street trees we have already delivered as part of the previous administration.

1.2 In addition to our progress, the Council has won or been shortlisted for a number of awards in respect of our:

- **Energy related activities** - we recently won Council of the year at the London Energy Efficiency Awards in recognition of our work on improving energy efficiency in the Council and across the Borough through our existing energy efficiency programme of work, such as solar panels installations, Hackney's Green Homes Programme, the wider decarbonisation programmes across the Council, as well as our commitments to achieve a net-zero target by 2040. This award

highlights the achievements of our specialist energy team as well as wider environmental and sustainability teams across the organisation, whose work contributes to reducing carbon emissions and driving energy efficiency.

- **Residual waste collection** - further to the introduction of the new residual waste collection arrangements to street properties which has seen residual waste collections move from weekly to fortnightly, whilst recycling and food collections remain weekly, street level recycling rates have increased by 5%. The results of the service change, supported by the actions of the behaviour change team, has seen the Team win Team of the Year in the Keep Britain Tidy Awards and Best Local Authority Recycling Initiative at the LetsRecycle Awards for Excellence.
- **Transport** - in the past 18 months, Hackney Council has implemented one of the most ambitious active travel programmes in the country in our effort to rebuild a greener borough and tackle transport emissions. We have introduced 19 new low traffic areas, known as low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) and have 42 School Streets, which close roads outside schools at opening and closing times. We now have more School Streets and LTNs than any other council nationwide and were recently shortlisted for the Local Government Chronicle awards climate response category and await the outcome due at the end of July.

1.3 Despite our successes and continued action taken against our goals, there are external factors impeding progress, both for the Council and for our communities. Continuing economic volatility that is manifest globally, is impacting our residents at a local scale through the rapid and uncontrolled cost of living increases, reducing take home pay for many essential workers, alongside the rise in costs of basic essentials, be that food or energy. The UK inflation rate hit a 40-year high of 9.1% in May. The Bank of England (BoE) expects it to reach 11% before the end of the year. In October, the energy price cap is forecast to rise 42%, from £1,971 to more than £2,801, another increase on the £700 rise recorded in April; a perfect storm is in train. There are also recent increases in the BoE interest rate and more likely to come. Whilst the Government has created a temporary sticking plaster for more immediate domestic energy costs, the poorest households still spend more of their total budget on gas and electricity, with wider inflation also hitting our poorest households harder. The cheapest energy is that which you don't use, so to reduce bills for consumers, the Government really must look again at how to support reductions in energy consumption for all consumers, especially those in fuel poverty. The recent annual progress report from the Climate Change

Committee this month, highlighted the need to better align the rising costs of living with Net Zero.

- 1.4 Following the demise of the Green Deal scheme in 2015 there has been a continued lacklustre response by the Government to improving the fabric of our historic housing stock, getting it to the right place to be able to install heat pumps and meet the Government's own target of 600,000 per year by 2028, scaling current rates of circa 30,000 per year. Improvements in the energy efficiency of homes can make a significant impact on reducing energy bills, however the Government's recent Energy Security Strategy surprisingly made no new announcements to fund this work with the urgency needed.
- 1.5 However, this year will see the Council publish a holistic and prioritised Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the next three years that will be underpinned by a set of thematic implementation plans which provide the detailed actions, accountabilities and timescales. Annually reviewed implementation plans will build on the independent assessment completed by external consultants (including a review of target areas for activity, implementation levers, net zero modelling amongst others), but also recognise where wider benefits will be a driver for action. Our own plans focus on the range of drivers/changes and relationships needed so as to better enable the Council to scale delivery at pace. Recognition of the key synergies/interdependencies between thematic plans also include the economic benefits - skills and employment to wider society of delivering retrofit at scale, as well as how we transition in a just way those whose current employment is likely to decline over the longer term.
- 1.6 There are also a number of proposals in the annual report in respect of future engagement with residents, businesses and community organisations that build on the earlier Climate Summit, Green Recovery event and project based consultations of the last 18 months. By using the CAP as a focus to secure a wider commitment to longer term climate goals with partners, we will help broaden participation and ensure plans maximise meaningful collaboration.
- 1.7 The next few years remain critical in our ability to address the climate and ecological crisis and will require all our resolve, both as a Council, as well as harnessing the energy and commitment of the wider community to seek the changes needed.

## **2. Summary**

- 2.1 This report and its appendix provide an update to Council on progress with our decarbonisation commitments as follows:
  - key practical achievements from the last 12 months;

- proposed timetable to enable a draft Climate Action Plan to be approved for public consultation and potential pre engagement work associated with its preparation;
- development of the thematic action plans that will form the key components of our draft Climate Action Plan (CAP), including work to assure our plans by external consultants;
- proposals as to how we will undertake the specific community engagement needed to finalise the plan;
- wider proposals to enhance engagement skills and capability across the organisation, to inform and shape future longer term external engagement associated with the climate crisis;
- continuing development of cost estimates associated with delivering the Climate Action Plan over the next three years and outline plans to meet those demands; and
- key tasks for the next 12 months.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Council note the Annual Update on progress with its decarbonisation commitments.**

### **4. Background**

- 4.1 This progress report outlines a more detailed look forward to the key tasks for the next 12 months identifying clear opportunities for community collaboration to influence and shape our future plans, as well as embedding the more systematic approach that is now needed within the organisation to maintain progress. A key output will be the production of our first Climate Action Plan and the development of this document is covered in detail within this annual progress report.

#### **- Organisational context**

- 4.2 The climate and ecological crisis is a complex and cross-cutting issue that will need the organisation to work differently, be more outcome focused, as well as smarter in its approaches where resources are constrained. Our Climate Action Plan (CAP) will assist this by providing the guiding framework for the next three years.
- 4.3 Major capital investment will be needed in the short/medium term, in addition to the investment set out in the Council's budget report in February this year to meet the commitments in our CAP. Government announcements to date to financially support this work are inadequate, neither responding to the scale of

the task nor acknowledging the rapidly narrowing window of opportunity. Our financial requirements are likely to involve more complex and innovative financial models, which will form part of the CAP funding strategy being prepared alongside the CAP.

- 4.4. This will be the Council's first holistic plan to address the climate and ecological crisis, bringing together the various strands into one overall document and as such is a key point in consolidating our journey to net zero.
- 4.5 Significant practical project delivery has happened to date and is ongoing, much of which would have formed part of the first phase of delivering a CAP, and has focused on achieving wider benefits rather than solely carbon reductions. Further detail of our delivery of climate related actions can be found in the previous two annual reports on progress with our decarbonisation commitments, as well as a further update covering the last 12 months as part of Section 5.
- 4.6 We are looking at further enabling the organisation by reviewing our workforce both for specific technical skills and more general resourcing of the climate agenda. Some of this is being achieved by making better use of existing staff resources and reskilling them where possible to meet added requirements and/or reducing lower valued work where possible. There are clear links to be made to future workforce strategy and organisational development needs.
- 4.7 Extending activities by using the role of the Council in leading, shaping and influencing decarbonisation of the Borough will also place added change requirements on the Council.
- 4.8 The Council's ambitions for decarbonisation of solely its corporate functions is requiring substantial mobilisation and leadership across the organisation and involves transformational work across almost all functions, particularly rethinking how we work as well as applying iterative and agile methodologies to the challenges. Initially we are focusing on areas which are likely to gain significant organisational traction and outcomes such as within our procurement and commissioning activities and wider operational service delivery.
- 4.9 In January 2022 the Chief Executive announced changes to the Neighbourhoods and Housing Directorate in order to maximise the synergies of inclusive economic growth, skills, regeneration, housing, climate change, public realm and environmental services. These services have now been brought together under a new Group Director responsible for this area and entitled Climate, Homes and Economy. The new Group Director is scheduled to start in their role in July.

4.10 Addressing the climate and nature crisis is an organisation-wide agenda encompassing economic, environmental and social objectives and needs a diverse range of contributors at all levels. Embedding accountability/responsibility for the climate emergency specifically outside of the usual service areas, enhancing the skills of our staff through broader organisational carbon literacy and robust processes and procedures to achieve this is key to our future success. We are therefore:

- continuing to broaden collaboration for this cross-cutting complex issue by readily working beyond existing service structures and responsibilities, as well as more future engagement with external stakeholders and communities;
- providing transparent joint accountability at senior level across the Council to provide the drive and momentum needed to achieve our net zero targets for what is a significant corporate priority;
- maximising the benefits that come from the creation of the Climate, Homes and Economy Directorate by ensuring effective cross departmental governance and collaboration; and
- using the updated corporate planning process to cement better the golden thread to service plans based on our corporate priorities and thereby underpinning accountability.

4.11 Previous annual reports on our progress with decarbonisation have mapped out some of our approaches to engaging externally in respect of the climate and nature crisis. We have held two major events over the last year engaging community organisations and residents to shape our response. This has been conducted alongside a number of specific high profile consultations on specific activities such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and our Parking Enforcement Plan amongst others.

4.12 On a broader note we are putting in place plans to enhance our engagement skills and capacity for future engagement activities to meet the need for more varied consultation approaches - moving to more intensive co-production and in some specific circumstances co-design.

4.13 To date we have developed a better understanding about what needs to be done practically to address the climate crisis based on evidence, and proven solutions already exist. Our future engagement emphasis may need to be less on the what and more on the how to best deliver alongside others for the priorities identified and ensuring this is done with fairness at the heart.

4.14 There is a need to further develop key stakeholder engagement, building on partnerships and relationships that can optimise the role of the Council as an enabler to increase impact. This will help shift the emphasis from being a Hackney Council CAP to a Hackney CAP where a broader range of institutions

commit to the journey to net zero.

#### **- Sustainability Scrutiny Reviews**

- 4.15 In October 2021 the Scrutiny Panel (SP) commenced a review to look at the Council's work programmes to achieve the net zero target, commencing with an overview of the internal governance structures and financial implications. The Living in Hackney and Skills, Economy and Growth Scrutiny Commissions looked in more detail at the following areas in relation to net zero work; retrofitting housing stock and council buildings, the existing energy strategy & wider energy systems, skills for a net zero economy, electric charging infrastructure and transport for a cleaner, greener Hackney economy.
- 4.16 The purpose of this integrated work programme across the scrutiny commissions was to review the Council's work on the climate change and sustainability work programmes to determine whether the Council is on track to meet its net zero carbon targets and is using its statutory powers and soft powers to effect behaviour change. A report pulling all these strands of work together is currently in progress and the SP aims to publish its report findings and recommendations at its meeting in October this year.

#### **- Audit Committee Net Zero Deep Dive**

- 4.17 To support the development of the CAP and provide some scrutiny of the Council's approach, the Audit Committee undertook an extended session in March 22 to provide assurance that:
- internal governance arrangements established to deliver this corporate priority are robust;
  - development and approval of the Climate Action Plan will underpin progress against our Net Zero targets; and
  - future delivery programmes are aligned with the Council's capital programme.
- 4.18 A link to the report with recommendations which was tabled at the April Audit Committee meeting can be found [here](#).

#### **- Covid 19, moving from epidemic to a challenging recovery**

- 4.19 The coronavirus pandemic continues to be the greatest challenge that Hackney Council, our borough, its residents and our local businesses have faced in a generation. Whilst there are stronger signs we seem to be nearing the end of this crisis itself we are now being thwarted by the personal and economic impacts in the longer term. As well as the immense personal loss that Covid-19 has inflicted, the pandemic has brought about, for many residents, significant financial pressures, which are now being compounded by exceptional inflationary increases in key areas such as the cost of energy for

our homes, as well as essential foods amongst others. These latest impacts show no sign of relenting in the near term and demonstrate the fragility and lack of resilience that is already evident in our global supply chains/systems due to the climate crisis, when coupled with major conflicts such as the war in Ukraine. Again, those who are most exposed in our communities both locally and globally, continue to be the poorest in our society and are facing the greatest burden.

- 4.20 The above further underlines the symbiotic relationship between the climate and ecological crisis and our daily lives, where society's dependence on fossil fuels needs to be reduced significantly. By moving to renewables for more of our energy supply, improving the energy efficiency of our homes, as well as sourcing food at a more local level amongst others we have an opportunity to do that. Through our influence we can encourage individual behavioural change which can support reducing the consumption of dairy and meat whose production uses over 85% of the available agricultural land in the UK.

**- New Corporate Plan**

- 4.21 With a new Chief Executive in place and a new administration, a strategic plan is now being developed setting out the focus and priorities for next four years in relation to the long term vision for the borough, with high level commitments, which underpin our equality objectives. The plan will have a focus on implications for how the Council works, the key transformation and workforce priorities, the capital plan that will enable this and the main asks of partners. This will become our corporate plan for the future.
- 4.22 The plan is to be informed by the policy based budgeting process so that it is grounded in the financial context and the understanding of changes needed to deliver a long term balanced budget - by working more preventatively, managing demand failure and introducing efficiencies and organisational transformation. A draft is forecast to be available in November 2022.

**5. Annual Update on Progress with Decarbonisation Commitments**

**Progress on developing our plans, strategies and assessment work:**

**- Borough wide emissions baseline assessment and net zero pathway modelling**

- 5.1 Consultants were appointed in 2021 to undertake an initial assessment of boroughwide emissions (Phase 3) that builds on the earlier Net Zero Energy Strategy for Council emissions (Phase 1 and 2). The Phase 3 report has now



been completed and is informing the development of the CAP and key elements will be summarised in that document. The Phase 3 report:

- provides an overview of Climate Emergency Action Plan strategies and modelling undertaken by other boroughs and local authorities;
- identifies main sources of emissions from Hackney residents and businesses;
- scopes and baselines key emissions types for Hackney to monitor in future years;
- models policy interventions and decarbonisation interventions needed to achieve net zero, considering the suitability of existing policies and targets to align with the existing Council net zero 2040 targets; and
- provides a clear and concise evidence base that can be used to engage with a range of relevant stakeholders on this issue (including community stakeholders, London Boroughs, industry bodies, manufacturers and Government ministries).

### **- Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy**

- 5.2 London Plan policy on Green Infrastructure recommends that boroughs should prepare green infrastructure strategies. The term green infrastructure describes the network of parks and green spaces, trees and woodlands, rivers and wetlands, and new green features in the urban environment such as green roofs and walls. This network can be planned, designed and managed to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits that support more sustainable, liveable and resilient neighbourhoods. Green Infrastructure Strategies (GIS) are therefore a framework that identifies: what green infrastructure is present or needed; the functions this can perform; the benefits this can provide to address local needs, as well as more strategic objectives; and how these benefits can be secured through a more integrated approach to protecting and enhancing green infrastructure.
- 5.3 We commissioned consultants to develop a GIS. The work has been influenced by external community stakeholder groups and there have been engagement sessions with the Hackney Biodiversity Partnership at key points in its development. The needs assessment and proposed objectives were tabled at a Living in Hackney scrutiny commission in 2021 as part of an inquiry related to the functionality of our own green spaces, as well as pre-engagement with the Resident Liaison Group which represents tenants and leaseholders in our social housing properties.
- 5.4 Views were invited on the strategy with the public consultation launching on 10 February 2022 and running until 23 March 2022 and was carried out online using Citizen Space; seven open text questions were asked. A press release

was published on Hackney Council's website on 10 February 2022 to promote the consultation. Further promotion was done on social media and through related environmental networks such as the Hackney Biodiversity Partnership and Sustainable Hackney amongst others. A total of 65 responses were received.

- 5.5 We also received written responses from key stakeholders such as Transport for London. On the basis of the responses we are updating the Strategy which is scheduled to be formally adopted by the end of 2022.

#### **- Final draft Local Nature Recovery Plan**

- 5.6 There is now a widely-acknowledged biodiversity crisis. The UK State of Nature report indicates that the abundance and distribution of species has, on average, declined over recent decades, and many measures suggest this decline is continuing. Our green infrastructure network in Hackney supports a wide range of wildlife. The majority of species use a range of semi-natural and amenity green spaces and the areas of open water in the borough, but the built environment can provide important wildlife habitat too. The link between the ecological and climate crisis is clear and solutions involve addressing them both in tandem.
- 5.7 To address these needs the Council commissioned London Wildlife Trust to develop a Local Nature Recovery Plan (LNRP). Although not an exhaustive suite of projects and proposals it provides a framework which will improve ecological connectivity across the borough based on a core network of protected and well-managed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. With this framework in place, everyone with influence on the design and management of land (including the built environment) can make a contribution to making Hackney richer in wildlife. It would also not have been as comprehensive and locally rooted without input from those leading and implementing action for nature across the borough and with significant ecological expertise.
- 5.8 The draft Final LNRP was an addendum to the Green Infrastructure Strategy public consultation undertaken this year and can be found [here](#). Specific comments that have been received on the LNRP as part of GIS consultation responses are being assessed to ascertain whether substantive changes are needed to the document. A final version will be made available later this year.

#### **- Parking and Enforcement Plan 2021-2026**

- 5.9 The Parking and Enforcement Plan (PEP) 2021-26 is designed to support the delivery of the Council's existing commitments under existing policy or law,

with a clear emphasis on reducing poor air quality and CO<sub>2</sub>, as well as fulfilling our duties set out in the Department for Transport's (DfT's) guidance to local authorities on parking, and Hackney Council's traffic management duties under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The draft PEP ([here](#)) is built around five key visions, with objectives setting out what we want to achieve, and recommendations detailing how the proposed changes deliver these. It aims to work towards encouraging greener and more sustainable modes of transport through a number of proposals, which were consulted on in 2021 including:

- incentivising going greener with a free electric parking permit for residents, businesses and organisations except all zone and car club permits;
- a free electric roamer parking permit for residents and businesses to move and park freely in permit bays across the borough, during the prescribed hours of 10:00 - 15:00;
- increasing the number of parking permit pricing bands to reward sustainability;
- changing the diesel surcharge each year, making it progressively more expensive to purchase a permit;
- introducing a parking permit surcharge for two or more permits held in one household;
- introducing variable visitor voucher parking zone (PZ) limits and to create zonal rules, allowances and eligibility to buy different voucher types;
- 100% cashless emissions-based charging payment option for short stay parking; and
- introducing a set fee of 50p per hour across the borough for electric vehicles.

The final version of the PEP for formal adoption is scheduled to be approved at Cabinet later this year.

#### **- Transport Strategy 2025-2030**

- 5.10 Preparatory work for the 2025 - 2030 Transport Strategy has started with the intention to have an updated strategy document for adoption by the end of 2024/25. An evaluation of the current strategy is underway confirming what data analysis will be required. Some key topics are being brought forward earlier within a Main Road Strategy that requires action before the 2025 launch date of the updated Transport Strategy. The scope of the Main Roads Strategy will be reviewed by relevant Council Members in the Autumn this year.

#### **- Housing Strategy 2023-2028**

5.11 In 2023 we will be publishing our new five year Housing Strategy which will include a more explicit recognition on how we are working towards achieving our net zero ambitions as a council for our own housing stock and development activities, as well as housing outside our direct control. We will set out the work underway to build better future-proofed homes, improve our own stock and how we can work with other landlords in the borough to improve homes in the private rented sector and those under housing association jurisdiction. The new strategy will take into account all new relevant regulations, policies and legislation and focus on work cross-departmentally and with external stakeholders to achieve our goals throughout the 5 year period and beyond.

**- Economic Development Plan (timescale to be confirmed)**

5.12 Building on existing area regeneration activity, employment and skills delivery and business support programmes, our economic development plan (scheduled to go to Cabinet early in 2023) will set out our delivery priorities, mechanisms and activities for a green and fair economic recovery in Hackney (likely to cover a period of the next 3/4 years) that addresses the:

- strategic priorities and principles to ensure inclusive growth as set out in our Inclusive Economy Strategy;
- impact of wider economic shocks from the pandemic, Brexit and the Russian invasion of Ukraine; and
- need for a just transition to green economic activity and a business shift to net zero.

5.13 The plan will set out the economic opportunities and challenges for the borough and where we can realistically have an impact through the economic development levers available to us. Primarily this will include how we leverage our purchasing power, capital assets, regulatory functions, service delivery, status as a large employer, convening power and ability to assemble funding. All with a focus on supporting residents and local businesses to benefit from these opportunities.

**- Sustainable Procurement Strategy**

5.14 Work is currently underway to refresh the Sustainable Procurement Strategy (SPS), with a draft document planned for before the summer, and Cabinet endorsement scheduled for December 2022. The new strategy, which is not intended to be time bound due to the uncertainty of national and international political and environmental landscapes, will provide procurement staff, colleagues and partners a framework of strategic priorities, commitments and targets. The Strategy will align with the requirements of the National

Procurement Policy Statement (NPPS), whilst ensuring systems, capability and capacity of procurement teams to support the borough's Climate Action Plan are addressed.

### **Headline progress on actions outlined in annual update 2021**

5.15 The details below provide a brief update on some of our key practical actions identified in last year's annual update. The list is not exhaustive but draws attention to some of the key successes. They are arranged in accordance with the priorities established in the first annual update; these priorities will be reviewed and updated as part of our programme for developing a Hackney Climate Action Plan.

#### **- Reduce the borough's carbon emissions - including the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040 for the Council's own functions**

- Phase 1 and 2 of the Green Homes Programme has been completed, helping almost 100 private sector households to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, with total measures worth £400k. We are planning to continue with the programme in further phases with an additional 400k funding approved from our own Carbon Offset Fund.
- In the existing Tier 1 corporate solar programme, we have completed 4 installations: Kingshold Community Hall (40kWp), Haggerston Depot (33kWp), Lee View Community Hall (19kWp) and Wren Park Community Hall (33kWp). By the end of the calendar year we plan to install solar panels at: Concorde Centre, Hackney Marshes Centre, Queensbridge Sports and Community Centre, Gascoyne 2 Community Hall, Rose Lipman Community Hall, Webb Estate Community Hall, with a total solar generation of 712kWp. We continue working on identifying more suitable sites to reach the 1MW target. We are exploring the options to install solar PV on residential estates with the plans to link the solar generation with Electric Vehicle Charging Points (where technically feasible) or pilot a microgrid solution (on technically-suitable blocks).
- A number of strategic district heat network (DHN) opportunities identified in our earlier Energy masterplan are being explored. In particular, a low carbon district heat network feasibility for Shoreditch has been completed which may be possible to deliver if grant funding can be secured. The heat network for the Colville development is being progressed with a view that it should operate as a wholly Council owned scheme with delivery through a Design, Build, Operate,

Maintain (DBOM) contractor - the detailed financial model required to completely plan this and assure through Governance has been commissioned. The synergies of linking these heat networks are also under investigation. A third low carbon heat network will be developed at Woodberry Down by Berkeley Homes, however the Council is investigating the benefits for the development and wider decarbonisation opportunities of connecting to the Energetik Heat Network using heat from the North London Waste to Energy plant.

- Engaged with the ReFit Framework in London to appoint a specialist partner to survey and deliver energy efficiency works in the non-domestic buildings and schools. Initial work is focussed on decarbonisation of heating for which grants are available and a portfolio of 2 schools, 3 leisure centres and Shoreditch Town Hall is being progressed with the intention to bid for grants to partially subsidise the costs of implementation in 2023/4. A larger portfolio of opportunities is being planned for a grant bid in 2023 to support implementation in 2024/5.
- Three officers in the housing services team qualified as Retrofit Co-ordinators, and a further two will complete their qualifications shortly. This will allow delivery of retrofit works in accordance with PAS 2035 standard.
- To accelerate our plans for the roll out of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (one of the principal barriers to transitioning to electric vehicles) we have completed the procurement for a long term concessionaire partnership arrangement for approximately 3,000 residential charge points by 2030. We aim to publish the outcome of the procurement by the end of July 2022. The next step will be to work on the Network Plan identifying suitable locations for charging points in the borough.
- As of the end of March 2022, 89% (10,083 street lights out of 11,207) of the Public highway lighting stock has been upgraded to LED. The replacement programme will continue to upgrade the remaining 11% due for completion by March 2023. Exterior lighting on housing estates is also being upgraded as part of a rolling programme: 36% (711 out of 2,259) lamp columns have been either completely replaced or modified with new LED lanterns, and 15% (315 out of 2,047) estate wall lights having also been renewed to date.

- During 2021/22, 13.75% of the Council's road registered fleet (72 vehicles) were fully electric. Based on total fuel consumed, of the remaining 86.25% of the fleet, 36.50% no longer run on fossil fuels (SEN buses now refuel on a renewable biofuel). This figure will increase shortly to 39% once the adult social care buses transfer.
- Restoration of Abney Park Cemetery includes the installation of a ground source heat pump which will heat the new cafe and community room. Works are scheduled for completion by the end of the year.
- Using £263,000 secured from BEIS through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, heat pumps are being installed at the West Reservoir Centre. Ground works have been completed and the heat collectors fitted under the site's pontoon. The project is due to be completed in July this year.
- A £300,000 Community Energy Fund for community organisations to work with the Council to implement energy efficiency schemes including solar panels, heat pumps and insulation was approved in June 2022. It will work with the community energy movement, schools, faith organisations, cooperatives, activists, nurseries and encourage other community groups to bid for projects that help reduce organisations' impact on the environment and support them with rising energy costs.

#### **- Improve local resilience to impacts of climate emergency**

- Over 5,000 new street trees have been planted as part of a previous manifesto commitment, with 2,547 having been planted this season. This increases the overall street canopy from 20% to 30%. Further, 13,037 trees have been planted in our parks and green spaces to date.
- Three SuDs schemes (New North Road, Windus Road and Eastway) have been implemented with more than 100m<sup>2</sup> of highway depaved, benefiting the public realm, improving biodiversity as well as reducing flood risk and improving water quality.
- As part of a wider project, the Council secured £700,000 in funding to deliver a project to create a more accessible, active and biodiverse West Reservoir. Subject to engagement with local organisations and residents the project aims to: better connect West Reservoir with the

local community and other green spaces, including the nearby Wetlands; increase biodiversity; and, improve facilities at West Reservoir.

- A number of Hackney schools are part of the Mayor of London's Climate Resilient Schools programme, a partnership between the Department for Education and Thames Water to make up to 100 London schools more resilient to the impacts of climate change has been formed. Measures will include improving water efficiency, reducing surface water flood risk, helping schools create climate adaptation plans and teaching children the importance of climate adaptation. It is targeting those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, prioritising the top 10 per cent of schools with highest surface water flood risk and that fall within the worst bands of the [Climate Risk Map](#). Sixteen schools in Hackney are currently involved.

#### **- Promote active travel and public transport**

- Since March 2022 Hackney has retained 30 trial school streets, bringing the total to 42 permanent school streets across the Borough. Hackney now has one of the country's largest school street programmes - with 84% of the borough's primary schools and 15% of secondary schools covered by a School Street.
- Our Zero Emissions Network service continues and has seen great success in supporting businesses to access cargo bikes during the lockdown periods as many businesses took up deliveries for the first time. The expansion of the initiative continues into N16 through the LEN16 project that will complement the wider changes on the Stoke Newington Church St scheme using funding from the DfT emergency active travel fund, reducing traffic levels across this important shopping street.
- Our Electric Cargo Bike rental scheme was launched in September 2021, an on-street, on-demand, cargo bike hire service. The bikes are publically available so business, residents, and other members of the public can hire them in order to make deliveries, collect shopping, or conduct other errands. There are currently four docking stations in the south of the borough with two electric cargo bikes each.
- First tranche of permanent parking solutions for dockless bikes is underway with 74 locations having dockless corrals installed. Additional locations will be under rolling review as the scheme progresses through 2022/23. Lime has been awarded an exclusive



operating contract to provide the electric dockless bike service from June 2022.

- We have installed 200 EV charge points at the end of 2021/22 reaching 308 in total. We have exceeded the target for 80% of residents within 500m of a charging installation, delivered earlier than the original commitment (by 2022).
- 19 new Low Traffic Neighbourhoods were introduced, creating a wider network of low traffic roads that serve as cycle quietways. About 17% of Hackney's residents now live in new low traffic neighbourhoods. Consultation has been open on these schemes since they were introduced via Experimental Traffic Orders. The majority of the LTN schemes have now been made permanent.
- Final works on the east bound Lea Bridge Road segregated cycleway started in May 2022 and are planned for completion in Autumn 2022.
- The second entrance to Hackney Central station on Graham Road opened in July this year. It features landscaping, a green roof, coffee kiosk as well as the Council's first cycle hub. In addition a new signalised crossing has been commissioned outside the station.
- Last year, we consulted on proposals setting out the future of parking in Hackney, in our new Parking and Enforcement Plan (PEP) 2021-26. Following the consultation, and having reviewed the feedback provided, we are in the process of gathering feedback on revised parking permit prices and expect to present the PEP to Cabinet for approval later this year.
- ULEZ was also introduced in October last year by the Mayor of London, with proposals for further expansion in the capital from August 2023 currently being consulted on.

#### **- Reduce waste and promote the circular economy**

- Introduced fortnightly collections of residual waste to street level properties in March 2021. One year after the implementation, street level recycling rates have increased by circa 5%.
- Established a Behaviour Change Team to provide education and enforcement in support of the change to fortnightly waste collections. The team has proved to be a very useful and productive resource for increasing resident understanding of recycling, dealing with

complaints, delivering receptacles and working collaboratively with the crews in addressing non-compliance. Funding for the team was extended until December 2022.

- A new Library of Things (LoT) was opened in Dalston Library in December 2021 and launched to the public in January with 49 high-quality items on a wall for residents to borrow. There are currently 20 borrows and 30 visits a week on average, and Library of Things sees the Dalston LoT as one of their flagship stores.
- The #ZeroWasteHackney 'Go Beyond Recycling' is Hackney's circular economy campaign to help residents waste less, rethink resources, and save money. The work is award winning, having won a LetsRecycle Zero Waste Award in 2021. It is designed to reach residents with a particular focus on supporting vulnerable residents and households on a low income. A year with the support of residents and 15 local partners has achieved c2,000,000 items of household items being kept in the local circular economy and the campaign has engaged face to face with over 5,000 residents.
- Estate Recycling Programme: Implementation of waste facility upgrades on our estates has continued throughout the lockdown with the team completing the Phase 4 works. Results from the Phase 4 works have seen the average recycling rate across the 7 estates increasing recycling rate performance by 41%. The preliminary works for Phase 5 (8 estates) has begun.
- As part of the pan-London One World Living Programme (a part of the London Councils Climate Programme), Hackney is leading the reducing food consumption emissions working group on behalf of London Boroughs. A circular food procurement working group has been set up with 14 boroughs joining to introduce climate friendly menus in schools and care services. As part of this programme, a pan London (20 boroughs) Food Waste and Sustainable Diet crowdfunding campaign has begun with research and planning having started in June 2022, and the campaign launching London-wide in January 2023.
- Delivered estate based interventions that involved the delivery of targeted communications to 5,000 properties across one collection round and the introduction of 180 new design bins. The project aimed to increase the ease of use of the service, improve the user experience, reduce contamination and increase recycling. The project was successful and resulted in a 4% reduction in contamination and a

17% increase in recycling.

- Participated in the annual campaign to promote the national Refill app to reduce single-use plastics via signposting residents to businesses where they accept reusable containers and refill water stations.
- Zero Waste Hackney Campaign: Launch of Zero Waste Challenge for International Zero Waste Week last Autumn, (the Council's Sustainability Manager is the ambassador for this international campaign), whereby 140 residents signed up to the challenge.
- Promotion of Hackney shops that offer refills and food without packaging with the Hackney Zero Waste map, generating 20,000 views.
- Zero Waste Hubs: Running four events per year, the Hubs deliver reuse and repair pop-ups where residents can donate items they don't need, take things they do, and repair their electrical items, textiles and bicycles for free. The last financial year saw approximately 200 items including bikes, electricals and clothes repaired (or advice on repair were provided) avoiding nearly 2 tonnes from direct disposal and 2,300 kg of CO2 to enter the atmosphere.
- Clothes Swaps: Ran four clothes swaps and repair sessions per year to help residents exchange and repair their pre-loved clothes. In 2021/22, 570 people attended the swaps and exchanged nearly 3,000 pieces of clothing (£62k in savings).
- Furniture reuse scheme: The scheme keeps goods in use for longer, a critical part of delivering a circular economy and reducing pressures on raw materials. In 2021/22, the scheme collected 1,300 pieces of furniture and household items, which equates to 34 tonnes of material diverted from direct disposal.
- Reusable nappy campaign: Working with Real Nappy for London to help parents reduce disposable nappy waste by providing them with a voucher to get started with washable alternatives. In 2021/22, 245 tonnes of nappy waste were avoided.
- Hosted events and a social media campaign during Circular Economy week, CEWeek2022.
- Toy Gift Appeal: The scheme reaches vulnerable families, including families affected by domestic violence and poverty, refugees, children

in hospitals, and children affected by brain injuries. Every year we reuse on average 1,500 toys (1.2 tonnes).

- Circular clothes collection: There are 90 public reuse clothes banks across the borough. Clothes and textiles in good condition will be sold for re-use in charity shops. An average of 600 tonnes of clothes are collected via this network every year.
- Cooking and sustainable food shopping workshops: Hackney School of Food contracted to run three cooking and sustainable food shopping workshops to promote plant-based foods, food waste reduction, healthy eating and provide information about avoidable and unavoidable food waste.
- Food waste campaigns: Support campaigns focusing on food waste prevention, recycling, and healthy eating habits.
- Plastic-free workshops: Run ten sessions per year which help residents ditch single-use plastic by showing them how to make their own low-cost and plastic-free products e.g. reusable sanitary products and wipes, cleaning and toiletries products, as well as providing information about sustainable alternatives to single use items (plastic and non).
- Home composting scheme: Supported the GetComposting campaign to provide our residents with great value environmental products such as home compost bins.
- Launched the EcoSchools Programme, with a target to get 10 Eco Schools in two years by 2022. As of June 2022 we have a total of 42 schools who have signed up to the Programme, with eight schools achieving their green flag EcoSchool status and seven more finalising their status. Across the Eco Schools 400 classroom recycling bins have been installed and 25 waste audits have been delivered. Ten schools have planted 500 trees donated by Woodland Trust. A further two schools are supporting a UCL 'climate friendly' canteen menu by quantifying the carbon and the nutritional levels in order to propose a lower carbon menu from September 2022.
- Introduced new terms and conditions that restrict the use of single use plastics from being used in our markets and have provided traders and business operators a 24 month window to find and begin using alternate suppliers and products. Working with circular economy businesses to operate reusable packaging models, it has been

successfully trialled in Clifton Street Food Market, which has included supporting local businesses to provide space for the used cutlery/ packaging return bins. The following market locations in Hackney are currently in the process of trialling and benefiting from having [Junee](#) reusable packaging: Broadway Market, Chatsworth Road Market and Hoxton Street Market.

#### **- Reduce and remove pollution**

- Hackney's Air Quality Action Plan 2021 - 2025 was published in August 2021 and sets out Hackney's 10 key priorities and 47 actions to reduce and improve air pollution. As air pollution cuts across many areas of work, various teams within the Council contribute to the delivery of the action plan. Some of the work to meet the actions and priorities in the Air Quality Action Plan is, therefore, covered earlier in this section.
- Hackney has committed to meet the 2005 WHO recommended guidelines for nitrogen dioxide, PM10 and PM2.5 by 2030. These are more ambitious targets than those set out in the National Air Quality Strategy. WHO have since tightened their targets further.
- Expanded the network of automatic monitoring stations within the borough which provide real-time data on air quality. This enables us to monitor trends and better assess the impacts of the measures we are introducing as well as providing the public with more, readily accessible information.
- Worked with external partners to increase the amount and availability of monitoring data. In conjunction with Imperial College who operate the Breathe London network, several air pollution monitoring nodes have been installed in the borough and the data is available on their website.
- Carried out detailed analysis of the impacts on air quality from the introduction of several Low Traffic Neighbourhoods using an air pollution dispersion model. The results were used to inform the decisions on whether to retain the scheme and/or whether further mitigation measures were necessary.
- Campaigned to raise awareness about the impacts of engine idling on air pollution so as to encourage behaviour change. This has included running events at 7 different schools, hosting a workshop to provide

advice to fleet drivers and installing 51 advisory signs around the borough.

- Used social media and the website to provide advice to residents about solid fuel burning and to raise awareness about the impacts of this on air pollution. Letters were sent to all suppliers of solid fuel to advise about changes in legislation which restricts the type of fuel that can be sold. The letters were followed up by a visit from an officer to check compliance and to discuss the new requirements with businesses.
- Reviewed over 120 assessments of air quality submitted through the planning process and provided comments to planning officers including recommending conditions to mitigate the pollution impacts of the proposed development.

**- Other**

- Adapt Your Business business support programme launched - delivered by the Council in partnership with experienced small business advice provider and investment network Newable - is set to support 48 businesses with a share of a £570k funding pot. Funding will allow businesses to either make an adaptation needed as a result of the pandemic, or make improvements to become a greener and more sustainable business.
- Hackney Allia business support programmes launched, includes a green business strand for small and micro businesses that enables access to 16 plus hours of workshops designed to improve their ability to operate green and improve their credentials. Businesses receive assistance to develop a custom green action plan and 1 to 1 support towards the completion of a recognised green industry certification.
- Launched Hackney Central Circular Economy Survey to understand how best to support and enable local businesses to accelerate the shift to a net zero carbon world with a focus on becoming more involved in the circular economy.
- The Council's pension fund has pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040, with interim targets set, as part of its new greener ambitions. The fund has already reduced its investments in fossil fuel reserves by nearly 97% as part of its commitment, made six years ago, to move away from investments in carbon-related firms. Near 100% decarbonisation of investments is a significant outperformance of our commitments to reduce exposure by 50% between 2016 and 2021 -

the first council in the country to make such a commitment. One of the ways the fund has done this is by moving away from carbon-intense stocks - heavily reliant on oil, gas and mining investments - and instead investing more in greener, global funds. The fund has also agreed to expand its [responsible investment strategy](#) which aims to see it carbon neutral within 20 years, and to align with global ambitions to limit worldwide warming. To achieve its goal, the fund will work with its investment managers and investee companies to demonstrate plans or commitments to decarbonise. It will also look to place new investments into companies and businesses that have a greener agenda and can drive the move to net zero.

## **6. Direction of Travel**

### **Developing a Hackney Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

- 6.1 Whilst a formal plan is yet to be in place, significant practical project delivery has happened to date and is ongoing, much of which would have formed part of the initial phase of delivering the climate response outlined in a CAP.
- 6.2 Hackney is currently developing seven thematic CAPs<sup>1</sup> which reflect the themes of the London Councils London wide CAPs. These were adopted based on London Councils extensive review of published local authority plans and feedback from their members.
- 6.3 Thematic CAP development is following a process that includes an assessment for each theme, developing high-level strategic actions which are ambitious, impactful, based on available evidence and for delivery over the next three years. Sitting beneath the CAP will be more detailed implementation plans which will be updated annually.
- 6.4 The period of three years for the CAP has been selected to:
- provide a sharper focus on the key actions needed now to maintain momentum;
  - identify actions that enable us to scale our activities for the period post the initial three year plan robustly; and
  - recognise that the technology and costs associated with net zero actions are changing rapidly which may impact on future delivery approaches.

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<sup>1</sup> Thematic CAPs include: Retrofit, Low Carbon Development, Renewable Energy, Low Carbon Transport, Consumption Based Emissions, Green Economy and Just Transition, and Resilient and Green

## **- Key focus areas of our Climate Action Plan**

6.5 Our key areas of focus are set out below:

- actions where we either have direct control or influence, as well potential for wider co-benefits;
- developing robust funding models and funding bids to meet delivery requirements;
- resolving or reducing technical and legal constraints to delivery: eg understanding our own building stock better, delivering pilots, reviewing leaseholder charging models for social housing;
- getting the organisation into the best place to meet the challenge: reskilling and carbon literacy, tailored additional staff resources, as well as making better use of resources already in place, embedding accountability for net zero more widely;
- joining up the work more effectively both internally and with others: consolidating partnerships to accelerate delivery - London Councils, Local Government Association (LGA), Mayor of London (MoL), Local Authorities (LAs);
- ensuring social justice and fairness are fully considered in our actions;
- focusing our lobbying better around high impact regulatory changes: eg Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards etc, switching levies to gas;
- putting in place the right local policy and guidelines to aid delivery: informing future Local Plan review, new Sustainable Construction SPD, homeowner guidance for retrofit; and
- scaling quickly areas of high impact that we know how to do already: 'No regrets' actions such as Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and active transport.

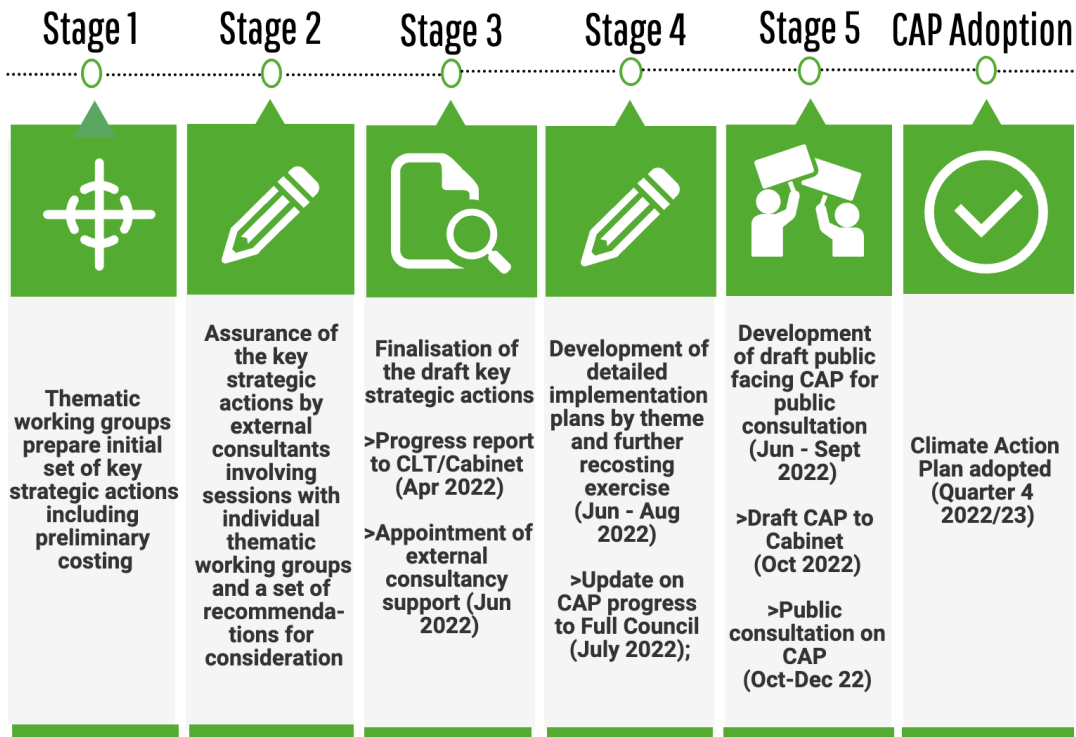
## **- CAP development programme schedule**

6.6 The schedule for CAP approval is set out below:





# Hackney's Climate Action Plan



## - Proposed approach to CAP public facing document

6.7 Our draft CAP should help us achieve the following outcomes:

- demonstrate the journey that Hackney has already taken in response to the climate emergency;
- facilitate helping residents, businesses and other organisations see their place in what will need to be a shared climate change response;
- identify where the Council has direct control and influence and the key actions it proposes for the period of the next three years to maintain momentum with its own climate response, communicating the urgency that drives this activity;
- support building a better shared sense of future ownership among partners; using the final adopted plan to shape agreements on how to work together to achieve the shared goals identified;
- build better shared understanding of the problem we face as a borough – both in terms of emissions reduction and adaptation based on evidence, as well as stating key challenges for example financing and responses;

- identify areas of opportunity or strong areas of alignment for partners so as to inform future areas of collaboration;
- present clear objectives for the three year plan and indicative goals that help to give a coherent sense of direction and confirm sufficient ambition;
- demonstrate how the three year CAP will align with/support the net zero trajectory based on the actions specified; and
- articulate targets for Council and boroughwide emissions providing a robust rationale based on evidence and work already undertaken.

### **CAP Thematic areas**

6.8 Below is a snapshot of the current work being undertaken on each thematic CAP by the internal working groups that were established last year.

#### **- Retrofit**

6.9 The Retrofit CAP is the largest and most complicated of the thematic CAPs and has been broken down into: Hackney owned housing properties, non Hackney owned housing properties (private rented sector, housing association and owner occupier housing) and non-domestic corporate and private commercial properties.

6.10 Key target areas are:

- Retrofit Council-owned and managed buildings
- Retrofit housing association, private rented and owner-occupied buildings
- Retrofit the borough's commercial properties

6.11 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Complete Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)\* within one year.*

\* Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) is a data driven and whole energy system, evidence-based approach that sets out to identify the most effective route for the local area to contribute towards meeting the national net zero target, as well as meeting its local net zero target.

6.12 Development of the thematic CAP has included a focus on addressing the significant financial costs - specifically looking at where Hackney can leverage its own capital and what the funding gaps are and how these gaps can be bridged. A funding bid is being developed for the next Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to support pilot projects. In addition fuel poverty has

been considered looking at the actions which can address this priority within the CAP.

6.13 A social housing pilot project is being developed based on an earlier assessment of 13 key estates which represents one of the principal building typologies of our social housing stock. The project will have three key focus areas and act as a learning bed to scale our future activity:

- Design & Technical - what 'fabric first' measures and heat source are needed to get the estate to net zero;
- Resident Engagement - how do we best engage with social rent tenants (who would potentially welcome improvements) and leaseholders (concerned about the upfront costs); and
- Financial - how to leverage some of the savings to offset the considerable capital costs (whilst sharing the benefits) and how to develop the solution in partnership with leaseholders.

#### **- Low Carbon Development**

6.14 Alongside local development of the thematic action plan, Hackney is also the lead borough on the Low Carbon Development London wide CAP for London Councils. The London wide CAP has been used to provide a backdrop with a number of key actions being cascaded down where applicable to a Hackney specific level.

6.15 Key target areas identified in the review work are:

- Low carbon Council-owned and managed buildings
- Low carbon private buildings
- Unlock co-benefits of Low Carbon Development (skilled workforce, reduced fuel poverty, improved standard of living etc)

6.16 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Agree embodied and operational carbon standards for all future buildings on the Council's own land, or council-builds*

6.17 Actions within this thematic CAP are seen to link to the other themes including low carbon transport, renewable energy, consumption emissions and resilient and green. There is also work being considered around ensuring our policies and guidelines are suitably ambitious, as well as permitted development rights, over which Hackney has less direct influence/control.

## **- Renewable Energy**

6.18 The extent of recent utility inflation is providing added impetus to this area of work with the potential to improve business cases and payback periods significantly. Hackney's Renewable Energy CAP has taken a strong steer from the London Council's London wide CAP led by Islington Council, of which we are a key member of the group developing its focus. This CAP also links closely with Retrofit and the need to deliver comprehensive deep retrofit work packages alongside other measures such as PV installation and opportunities to realise larger scale heat pump networks. Increasing Electric Vehicle charging capacity and overseeing its roll out, alongside the transport theme is also a key component.

6.19 Key target areas identified in the review work are:

- Installation of renewables across Council-managed buildings
- Installation of renewables on privately-owned buildings
- Incentivising community groups to install renewables
- Installation of larger scale heat networks

6.20 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Secure 5-10 year Power Purchase Agreement for future energy purchased by the Council, taking into account planned de-gasification and following UKGBC renewable energy procurement guidance.*

6.21 Work has focused on assets and policy, as well as what needs to change to reduce emissions from energy. Consideration is being given to the following renewable technologies; microgrid, storage, solar as well as a more strategic, power purchase agreement with the aim of enabling the Council to secure a long term source of renewable energy for its electricity requirements.

## **- Low Carbon Transport**

6.22 Hackney is at the forefront when it comes to work around low carbon transport with many policies and actions already in place, demonstrated through having embedded long term high levels of cycling which are among the highest in the country alongside the highest level of active travel in London.

6.23 Key target areas identified in the review work are:

- Decarbonising Council transport
- Electrify and reduce usage of private vehicles

- Electrify and reduce usage of freight
- Increase active transport modal share
- Improve and increase modal share of public transport network

6.24 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Double the mode share of cycling of daily trips and support the rise in other forms of active transport taken by residents:*

6.25 Alongside ongoing road safety campaigns, this will be encouraged through a suite of measures such as delivering cycle training for all primary school students, fulfilling the waitlist for cycle hangers, introducing monthly cross-borough car-free days, trialling zero-car streets, publishing a network plan for the borough with all cycle routes brought to LTN 120 Cycling Design Standards and building on existing requirements for new developments to provide cycling infrastructure amongst others.

6.26 Hackney has recognised that based on previous work there needs to be better consideration on the most effective way of focusing on and talking about high impact actions including reducing through traffic in the borough and longer term aspirations to implement a road user charging scheme. Co-benefits are also being considered within the CAP such as the improvements actions will have on road safety and air quality.

6.27 Further to this, the group has focused on topics which have not been considered significantly in previous transport policy such as addressing freight and delivery impacts. This is in addition to developing actions on topics where there has already been substantial focus in Hackney including sustainable transport (walking, cycling, public transport), switching to cleaner vehicles in the borough for residents and businesses and looking at Hackney's own fleet.

#### **- Consumption Based Emissions**

6.28 Evidence from the London Councils consumption based emissions baseline produced by Leeds University is being used to provide benchmarks for what is a diverse area of emissions where the Council has a more variable level of control and influence. Hackney's borough wide consumption emissions baseline identified that the largest category is from finance and investment activity, an area where the Council has made substantial progress in respect of its own pension fund. The second largest category is reducing meat consumption.

6.29 The key target areas identified are:

- Food emissions

- Reducing waste
- Council procurement
- Council investment and finance
- Circular economy

6.30 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Map and set targets to minimise carbon emissions from Council procurement, and begin to reduce these.*

- 6.31 This is likely to include undertaking an assessment for Council operations, identifying high-emitting contracts and data gaps. Hackney will then deliver on the new targets set and incorporate the new targets into future updates to the Sustainable Procurement Strategy.
- 6.32 We are leading on the food emissions action plan within the London Councils London 'One World Living' London wide CAP. A joint food action plan was launched by the GLA, ReLondon, EllenMacArthur Foundation and One World Living in March 2022.
- 6.33 There are many elements of internal procurement where we have more direct influence, which will be incorporated in the new Sustainable Procurement Strategy. This will help Council contract managers to reduce the consumption emissions from their purchasing activities.
- 6.34 Thematic actions will also aim to encourage and empower businesses and residents to reduce their consumption emissions optimising links with our recycling, public health and education services. Actions focus on food, plastics, electrical and textile consumption which are closely aligned with our waste responsibilities.
- 6.35 One of the key objectives is for the Borough to keep on scaling the circular economy, the Library of Things, being an example, which reduces not only waste but the need to recycle, putting more emphasis on waste prevention in the first instance: reduce, reuse, refill, repair and rent.

#### **- Green Economy and Just Transition**

- 6.36 A growing green economy offers opportunity for our residents and businesses, as well as being a crucial factor for any delivery against net zero across the UK. The green economy as a whole should be diverse and inclusive. Our approach to a green economy has to be about addressing inequalities as much as it is about potential economic opportunities.
- 6.37 Key target areas identified are:

- Economic opportunities for Hackney residents and businesses
- Just transition for carbon intensive businesses and jobs that are expected to shrink as part of the wider shift to net zero
- Using our purchasing power to stimulate both green economic activity and all businesses reducing their carbon emissions

6.38 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Create joined up green skills and employment pathways, tailored to the needs of local residents and businesses.*

6.39 The thematic working group is assessing five key areas - research, skills, career pathways, business engagement and procurement activity. Work has started by establishing a better picture of what a green economy in Hackney could look like with the aim of identifying which green businesses would be most likely to base themselves in Hackney, and work with those businesses on employment opportunities for our residents.

6.40 More engagement is needed with our current business base to determine what support they need to transition to green economic activity and to adopt greener practices. The work includes looking at wider opportunities across London's economy to identify the skills our residents will require to prepare them for future green jobs and careers. Working with our partners to create skills and employment pathways into green jobs will increase our impact here. There has been some consideration of the link to our procurement activities and how by incorporating net zero standards we may enable job opportunities to be generated for residents.

6.41 Work focuses on widening access to opportunities in the green economy, rather than continuing or exacerbating existing inequalities in the industries that are expected to grow.

**- Resilient and Green**

6.42 A key focus of this theme has been in respect of adaptation to the impacts of the climate crisis and hence the major benefits are wider than carbon reduction which is relatively negligible. A significant volume of assessment work has been done on a number of the topic areas of the resilient and green theme including the development of a draft Green Infrastructure Strategy and a Local Nature Recovery Plan. Relevant actions from the London Councils London wide CAP have also been incorporated. This includes actions on water quality, the resilience of externally owned infrastructure and robust emergency planning in response to existing and future extreme weather events.

6.43 The key target areas identified are:

- Resilience to flood risk
- Resilience to heat risk
- Resilience of natural capital
- Extreme weather
- Water quality and demand
- Cross cutting areas: air pollution

6.44 Example of a draft strategic action:

*Expand and maintain the network of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDs) and continue with other flood prevention strategies across Hackney:*

6.45 This action utilises a combination of levers to work with new developments, business owners and the GLA Infrastructure Coordination Service to install and maintain SUDs across Hackney. Flood reduction schemes will be initiated to protect homes and businesses currently at risk of surface water flooding, as identified in the Hackney Surface Water Management Plan. Critical Drainage Areas will be prioritised.

6.46 Community organisations are well represented in this area of work and hence there will be opportunities for them to assist with delivery. Implementation of new Biodiversity Net Gain requirements associated with major new building developments will also create opportunities to increase biodiversity. Better and more co-ordinated support will be provided by the proposed Green Infrastructure Forum which is likely to consist of smaller groups as well as key stakeholders such as Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, Thames Water and Network Rail to work together collaboratively to increase impact.



## **Independent assurance of the CAP thematic action plans**

- 6.47 The development of thematic action plans has been an iterative process and will continue to be so. It is also important to note that some themes are less focused on carbon impact and more on wider benefits: Resilient and Green, Green Economy are examples.
- 6.48 To provide the necessary independent assurance of the draft thematic plans produced by each working group, consultants were appointed to support more detailed development of the thematic CAPs.

### **- Assessment criteria**

- 6.49 Independent assessment of our actions has included:
- the level of impact on carbon emissions where applicable - need high impact;
  - enabling actions that support scaling up in the future - by removing barriers;
  - alignment with the modelled pathways based on net zero target - evidence based;
  - identifying key focus areas and most appropriate future implementation mechanisms - targeted and using leverage;
  - ensuring actions are SMART to support future monitoring requirements;
  - highlighting activity gaps, proposing additions and assessing synergies; and
  - developing a set of updated assured actions for testing and finalisation.

### **- Implementation levers**

- 6.50 Each theme has reviewed its actions in respect of the potential implementation levers. The levers fall into the key categories identified below:
- Strategies, research and plans e.g. better planning guidance to enable domestic retrofit, new Housing and Transport strategies;
  - Partnerships and private sector collaboration and convening e.g. working with London Councils, other LAs, Housing Associations, anchor institutions, key utility providers, building on existing participation in the London wide action plan development as well as leading on some (low carbon development, food as part of consumption emissions);
  - Education and training e.g. better signposting and reskilling staff;
  - Delivery and flagship projects eg Business as Usual work, retrofit pilots of social housing; and

- Regulations, licensing and planning e.g. lobbying for changes in domestic and non-domestic minimum energy efficiency standard (MEES) regulations, LP33 update.

## **7. Community Engagement Proposals**

### **Community engagement to support local responses to the climate and ecological crisis**

- 7.1 Our work to date has confirmed a continuing need for a more in depth and longer term response to engagement of residents and other key stakeholders, as well as a requirement to build organisational skills and capability more broadly in respect of delivering varied and robust external engagement in this specific topic area.
- 7.2 The length of the pandemic though has hampered the degree of direct engagement undertaken to date, although we still held two large scale public events, the first for voluntary and community organisations to start building a consensus about a greener recovery from the pandemic (this was co-designed with community groups), and a second Climate Summit. The latter was held on 3rd March 2022 where a broadly demographically representative group of residents were able to debate and explore the Council's net zero ambitions and emerging CAP in two topic areas - homes and consumption. A retrospective by the Mayor and Cllr Coban regarding that event can be viewed [here](#). The insight report from the event is attached as Appendix 1.
- 7.3 As we emerge from the pandemic we are now better placed with the development of our CAP providing a good opportunity to anchor it to practically shaping future delivery of key actions.

### **- Local Community Engagement programme bid**

- 7.4 To strengthen understanding and application more broadly across the organisation of the breadth of public participation techniques etc that can be used to engage externally, we applied to the [Local Climate Engagement \(LCE\) programme](#). The programme supports local authorities to engage communities in their climate decision-making, helping to build a deeper understanding of local preferences, aspirations and needs - reaching beyond those they most often hear from, and enabling the development of policy that is more likely to achieve public buy-in and trust. It also supports local authorities to tackle the risks and challenges they can experience around public engagement, obtain wider participation in climate action, and achieve a fairer transition to Net Zero.

7.5 Although we were unsuccessful due to the volume of applications - we were just outside the shortlist; we have followed up with the lead consultants - [Involve](#) who have delivered a number of citizens' assemblies, some with a focus on the climate crisis and are experts in public participation techniques. A schedule for delivery of the internal training (funded by the Council) is being finalised which is expected to be delivered after the Summer.

7.6 The LCE programme has a number of key elements: training, mentoring, practical support, peer learning. Further detail is provided below on the training content which is the starting point:

- developing a shared language and understanding around public participation and engagement on climate, and drawing out learning from the work we have already done;
- how to plan public participation in climate decision-making (context, scope, purpose) and ensure it has genuine impact externally and internally;
- how issues of power, privilege and inclusion relate to public participation in climate decision-making and what that means in terms of practical steps that can be taken;
- how to decide who to involve externally (public and stakeholders), how to reach them and the different roles they can play;
- how public participation in climate decision-making can work with the latest thinking around storytelling (communications) and segmentation, to increase the impact of all three;
- different methods of public participation in decision-making and how to choose the right one(s); and
- how to better respond to frequently asked questions from Councillors and Senior Leaders about public participation in climate decision-making.

7.7 Each of the above areas cover the relevant theory and practical tools followed by support within each training session to apply those to the delivery of our CAP. The training takes an action learning approach.

#### **- Rationale for participation**

7.8 Some of our local policies – while popular and supported in consultation work – highlighted strong differences in viewpoint within our community. As the Council seeks to explain its net zero vision to residents and engage them on the actions that will need to be taken to meet it, it will do so in a challenging public environment. Participating in the LCE programme will help support the Council in developing a robust approach to public engagement on climate action, training a broader range of staff in the authority to take shared

ownership of how good public engagement works, and build the multi-disciplinary teams to deliver it.

- 7.9 It will also give the authority expert opinion on shaping the external governance needed to provide meaningful scrutiny on its work, working collaboratively with residents and co-producing approaches wherever possible. By bringing together many suggested ways of engaging residents – ranging from localised citizens assemblies to statutory consultations – into a more coherent programme we seek to avoid the risk that approaches would be more conventional and only hear from already engaged citizens generally, as for example was experienced, on either side of the Low Traffic Neighbourhood debate.
- 7.10 In the last 18 months, the Council has led a mix of project-based statutory consultations and broader digital and place-based resident engagement on its Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets, Parking Enforcement Plan and other walking and cycling proposals. This work has seen thousands of specific responses to consultations, broader feedback about our ambitions encouraging conversations between councillors, council officers, residents, businesses and activists. In particular, the Council used an online platform (Commonplace) to seek broad resident feedback, and has heavily promoted this throughout all of its communications since 2020.
- 7.11 Our CAP is not fully developed and will continue to be iterative. Our ambition is that the practical action needed to meet net zero is a shared vision amongst everyone in our Borough – rather than a Council strategy we're simply consulting residents on. Participating in the LCE programme will lay the foundation for the longer term engagement programme for the period of the initial CAP.

### **Wider external engagement to support Climate Action Plan (CAP) development**

- 7.12 Internal development of the CAP to date has focused on how the Council can maintain momentum with its own plans for net zero/adaptation etc both as a Council and for a selection of boroughwide emission areas where we have most influence. The the next phase of development will take into consideration how engagement more broadly with residents, businesses, our Community of Interest and more strategic stakeholders including those who are responsible for significant local emissions, is required to create an action plan, that is reflective of the collective effort required to address the climate and ecological crisis within the borough.
- 7.13 The evidence based work undertaken over the last 18 months has helped develop a more in depth understanding about what needs to be done

practically to address the climate crisis and proven solutions already exist. Our future engagement emphasis may need to be less on the what and more on the how to best deliver alongside others for the priorities identified and ensuring this is done with fairness at the heart. Alongside this, there is a need to further develop key stakeholder engagement to deliver the CAP, building on partnerships and relationships that can optimise the role of the Council as an enabler to increase impact and facilitate wider sign up to our climate goals.

7.14 Based on the above, two interrelated responses are being advanced:

- delivering an initial period of focused engagement with external stakeholders in the Autumn (noting their differing requirements as outlined in the engagement framework section below) to build on the draft CAP that is scheduled to be published in October, followed by a final Hackney wide CAP for adoption this financial year; and
- developing a longer term engagement plan, underpinned by future external governance structures, shaped through the draft CAP engagement process and more widely, as well as harnessing the outcomes from participating in the LCE programme.

7.15 We propose breaking stakeholders into a number of clear groupings:

- **Key potential strategic partners that may become part of a future Hackney Net Zero Partnership e.g. major landowners, public institutions, large businesses, large housing associations:** Initial engagement will be through a set of workshops around the key themes, using the suggested future goals outlined in the draft CAP to provide an anchor for discussions, further shaping them, followed by an aspiration to secure their commitment to these collaborative goals once the CAP is adopted, or before if there is appetite.
- **Environmental Community of Interest (CoI):** Workshops centred on the draft CAP themes. Experience from the recent Climate Summit indicates that when the CoI are part of a more mixed group of residents there is difficulty in pitching materials that meet everyone's needs.
- **Wider residents:** Building on the learning from earlier engagement events, soundings are being taken from organisations with public participation expertise to provide input into shaping the resident engagement around a clearer set of longer term outcomes. This is to be framed around the manifesto commitment for more localised Citizens' Assemblies in the future on specific issues, rather than solely

activity that may fall within the CAP public consultation period, thereby aligning with the LCE programme work.

- **Businesses:** Of the circa 23,000 businesses/enterprises in Hackney nearly all are micro or small, with more than 91% having fewer than 10 members of staff. In addition, there are significant numbers of sole traders and other businesses operating under the VAT threshold. They are also very diverse, with some at the forefront of transitioning to a net zero future, such as in our healthy technical business sectors, building it into their future business models. Other large sectors in the borough, such as retail and hospitality, are struggling to trade in the exacting post-pandemic economic environment, relying on historic trading approaches and seeing their operating costs escalate. The focus should be on enabling a fair transition. More work is underway to develop a robust engagement approach using existing business networks such as the Hackney Business Network as a start.

7.16 Using the proposed public consultation and pre engagement with a focus on boroughwide emissions where we have more variable influence is seen as creating longer term value. More outward-facing less prescriptive engagement would also help to build robust and mutually supportive relationships to guide the makeup of future external governance, supporting manifesto commitments to establish a Hackney Net Zero Partnership and political intentions to hold more localised deliberations on specific topics related to the climate emergency in the future.

## 8. Financing and Resourcing the Cap

8.1 Developing a fuller understanding of the finance and resourcing needs of the CAP is being completed and has consisted of two discrete assessments; one at an early stage using the initial outputs from the internal thematic CAP working groups, the second post the completion of external assurance which is ongoing. The approach is broad and encompasses estimated capital delivery costs, as well as the adequacy of existing staff resources and skills. This initial assessment is very much a first broad estimate of the high level actions coming through from the theme groups. More work is ongoing to develop accurate costs which will enable Members to make future decisions.

8.2 This initial cost estimate of the CAP high level actions, excluding the 4 extremely high cost actions with no cost estimates yet, is in excess of £50 million although not fully comprehensive. It does not yet take into account the outcomes of the independent assurance phase, and possible

amendments, nor the costs of new Manifesto Commitments that need to be fully evaluated.

8.3 The extremely high cost actions not included in the above are as follows:

Resilient & Green	Undertake further tree-planting and urban greening in to mitigate urban heat island where required.
Retrofit	Support fuel poor and able-to-pay domestic property owners and occupiers.
Retrofit	Commit to fabric first approach across all Retrofit Programmes which includes retrofit ventilation systems to PAS 2035 and installation of data capture and smart controls technology.
Renewable Power	Explore pilot projects on solar microgrid, hydrogen, energy storage, air and ground source heat pumps (ASHP, GSHP) with integrated additional technologies to increase efficiency.

8.4 It should be noted that this is very much a first broad estimate of the strategic actions coming through from the theme groups. Internal finance representatives are continuing to work with thematic leads as the implementation plans are developed further in order to establish robust estimates to inform decision making. We will also align the actions within the plan to the Capital programme as part of this more detailed work.

8.5 Whilst this is a huge financial challenge to meet Net Zero ambitions Hackney is not starting from scratch, as part of setting the 2022/23 budget Council approved £25m for green initiatives in the 2022/23 - 2024/25 capital programme. The table below summarises the programme.

#### **Green Initiatives included within the Council's Capital Programme**

<b>£000</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total</b>
CO2 Reduction	3,776	7,814	3,637	15,227
Energy Efficiency	2,994	2,608	100	5,702
Recycling	1,573	600	0	2,173
Other	1,280	332	335	1,948
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,624</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>4,072</b>	<b>25,050</b>

## **- Second cost assessment**

- 8.6 As outlined earlier, a further iteration of estimated costs is currently being undertaken. The key elements of the assessment are outlined below.
- review of pipeline projects where budgets haven't been approved but project activities are being worked on and/or there are existing estimates;
  - estimates of costs for projects that will need to be developed within the next three years;
  - review of existing annually approved budgets for green initiatives;
  - identification of where additional staff resources or reskilling costs may be needed for the delivery of the three year thematic plans; and
  - identification of likely funding sources.
- 8.7 The strategic objectives of the CAP are linked to an evidence base and, as part of the second wave of assessment of costs, the required investment will be matched against the expected outcomes to ensure the Council is getting the most from the resources we have. The CAP will apply a prioritisation model taking into account the cost of the investment, the impact in relation to delivering Net Zero and also the deliverability of the action. An assessment of the resource needs, encompassing the technical, financial and programme management requirements is also part of this work.
- 8.8 There is a need to be proactive and creative in order to find new funding and a recognition that the Council with others need to lobby the Government to get external funding for this agenda. As a Council we want to retrofit our social housing portfolio but it is accepted that the funding is currently not available for this work. The Council's Housing Asset Management Plan on Council homes allows for circa £14,000 every 7 years to invest in the maintenance of our housing stock. The initial estimated cost of retrofit to get to Efficiency rating B is approximately £50,000 a property - indications from the pilot project under development indicate that the cost could be higher. There is a huge gap in funding and innovative funding solutions need to be explored as well as leveraging in funding from the Government.
- 8.9 The actions emerging from plans will align with the capital programmes but require more detailed work to be done. It is recognised that there will also be a revenue impact which will be built into the medium term planning and the HRA business plan finance model. The sheer size of investment and pace of delivery needed and the lack of long term funding from the Government are the most significant challenges facing the Council. We are now going into a period of increased austerity and we have a number of priorities and the need to invest in this space, particularly retrofit, is key. Government funding is



therefore required to fund the domestic retrofit of Hackney's properties including the ones we own, as well as the community as a whole.

- 8.10 The speed of technological advances is a challenge with the cost of new technologies at a high premium when at the early adoption stage. Running a pilot study for social housing retrofit is therefore challenging because of the impact on leaseholders of the scheme at the beginning of the Council's retrofit journey, when the cost of retrofit may be significantly higher than in future years. Options to mitigate this need to be considered.
- 8.11 Some business investment cases remain marginal, where investing in certain things can have excessively long pay back periods. Therefore, these will have to be supplemented with other funding. The principal agent issue in both social housing and the private rented sector needs to be considered, whereby investing in retrofit to save energy costs, the benefit goes to the tenant not to the person making the investment. This impacts on the ability to attract investment in this area - investors want to see a return. Solutions to this issue will need to be found.
- 8.12 The largest cost to deliver our Net Zero ambitions is currently seen as in relation to retrofit. There is a London working group on this with involvement from many London Boroughs as well as other organisations. There is a need to be realistic on the Government's ability to give funding and start to explore how the private sector can help with this and lever these opportunities into the development of the Council's CAP funding Strategy.

## **9. Outline Annual Environmental Sustainability Board Work Plan**

- 9.1 The key tasks/objectives for the Environmental Sustainability Board - Chaired by the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources - for the next 12 months includes:
- oversight of the programme for development and production of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for public consultation later this year;
  - oversight and approval of annual progress reporting on decarbonisation to Full Council;
  - maximising the benefits that come from the recent establishment of the Climate, Homes and Economy Directorate;
  - oversight of longer terms plans for community engagement;
  - further development of the external engagement framework required as part of delivering the CAP;
  - ensuring a system is put in place the for the reporting/monitoring requirements of the CAP;

- ensuring robust participation with the London Council led regional climate action plan work and associated oversight structures, plus the London Recovery Board Green New Deal mission;
- ensuring an effective interface with political participation in regional climate emergency governance;
- overseeing and shaping the production of the funding and resource strategy for the delivery of the CAP;
- establishing and approving further governance structures where required to support this work;
- establishing robust future internal and external scrutiny arrangements; and
- building in related manifesto commitments to future plans for delivery effectively.

## **10. Comments of the Group Director Finance & Corporate Resources**

- 10.1 Dealing with the Climate Emergency represents the single largest financial challenge that Local Government faces over the medium to long term. Significant capital resources need to be identified, investment in new technology is needed, new methods of delivery and collaborative ways of working both within and outside the Council are required.
- 10.2 Hackney is at the forefront of these efforts, both recognising the scale of the Climate Emergency and building in remediating action to tackle it as part of Business As Usual, as well as developing plans to tackle the big ticket items.
- 10.3 As part of the Council's existing programme of work to tackle the Climate Emergency, £25 million has been earmarked for climate related works over the next three financial years. In addition, private sector investment worth £11.5 million has been secured to deliver the Council's green objectives.
- 10.4 The Council continues to seek a diverse range of sources of funding, bidding for government grants, when they become available, to support the green agenda. However, the scale of funding required to deliver works to meet the Council's Net Zero ambitions is vast & far beyond what can be achieved through traditional funding mechanisms, from either local or national Government. To that end, innovative ways of delivering funding on the scale required are being explored, ranging from lobbying Government for long-term financing, to issuing municipal bonds, to leveraging in patient capital from private sector institutions such as pension funds.

10.5 It is expected that the delivery of Net Zero will create green job opportunities within the borough, provide an associated boost to the local economy and deliver co-benefits across the borough.

**11. Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

11.1 This report recommends that Full Council note the annual update on the progress of the Council's decarbonisation commitments. The Council committed to a decarbonisation programme 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. There are no legal implications arising directly from this annual update report.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: Climate Summit Insight Report July 2022

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