

APPENDIX 1

SUBMISSION FROM EXTINCTION REBELLION SOUTHWARK

Deputation request to Southwark Council's Cabinet on 19 January 2021

Extinction Rebellion Southwark (XRS) is requesting a deputation to ask Southwark Council to step up its ambition and delivery on the climate emergency. It's been almost two years since it declared a climate emergency in March 2019, two years of drift and delay.

Despite austerity and COVID-19, other London boroughs have made huge progress. By contrast since Southwark declared a climate emergency in March 2019, we have seen little meaningful action from the Council. Its long awaited climate strategy does not even set out enough measurable reductions to meet the target announced by the Government in December 2020 to cut emissions by 68% by 2030, let alone make the borough carbon neutral by then. Rather than resetting policies in the New Southwark Plan or Movement Plan to meet those targets, Cabinet committed ploughing on with outdated proposals.

We welcome the news that very recently the Council is appearing to take some of the suggestions XRS has advocated more seriously, including our request for a fully funded Citizen's Assembly and for independent expert review of the Council's key policies to ensure Southwark achieves net zero by 2030. But with such scant detail provided around how, when, and who these initiatives will involve, XRS remains concerned that the Council is lacking in the requisite ambition and capabilities to treat the climate emergency as the emergency it is.

Recognising the severity of the situation means we can no longer do business as usual. Acknowledging that the recovery from the impact of the pandemic presents an opportunity for a better future, we ask the Council to immediately commit and offer clear timelines for a thorough revision of all relevant policies - including the Climate Strategy, the New Southwark Plan and the Movement Plan - under independent expert review from credible organisations such as Carbon Trust or Anthesis Group. Based on the history of our engagement with the Council, we believe this external input is vital to ensure plans live up to the Climate Emergency declaration and its commitment to "do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030" whilst emphasising a just transition. This review of these policies and subsequent recommendations should then be published publicly so we can understand where the Council is or is not choosing to adopt suggested measures. We also ask for clear timelines for the creation of a full Citizen's Assembly as a deliberative form of engagement with residents of Southwark to address the climate emergency.