

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 11 May 2023 at 7.00 pm at 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Margy Newens (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Sarah King
Lydia Marsden

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Julie Timbrell, Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Ketzia Harper, Councillor Reginald Popoola Councillor David Watson and co-optee Shalaka Laxman.

Councillor Emily Hickson gave apologies for lateness.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.

The interim minutes of 20 February were noted.

5. INTERVIEW OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, PARKS, STREETS & CLEAN AIR

The chair invited Cllr Catherine Rose to present her portfolio and then invited members to ask questions.

The following themes were discussed:

- Air quality limits, the Air Quality Action Plan across Southwark and the plan's focus on particulates and Nitrogen Dioxide,
- Registering for an air quality text and rationale,
- Measures to incentivise reduction in vehicle ownership,
- Increasing cycling and parking provision,
- Wood / solid fuel burning emissions , neighbourhood disputes , and how to tackle this including education on mitigation and potential enforcement,
- Bikes and scooter operators and managing obstruction,
- Bike theft - increasing security and promoting cooperative insurance policies,
- Gas burning contributing to internal air pollution.

RESOLVED

Officer briefings will be provided on:

- How weight of vehicles and consequent impact on increased production of tyre and other particulates, plus increased morbidity and mortality if involved in accidents, is being considered, and link with emission based parking charges,
- Updated information on car ownership using ONS data overlaid with parking provision.

6. REVIEW : FINANCING AND RESOURCING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN

The chair presented the draft report and invited the Commission to comment on the report and recommendations. As a result the following was agreed:

RESOLVED

Recommendation 1

Add 'explore' in the preamble.

Recommendation 2

Remove reference to Abundance and add: 'for the council to explore the most appropriate projects for a Municipal Climate Bonds, recognising that these will need to likely have visible community benefits.'

Recommendation 3

Amend to partner with 3ci, for example, or similar.

Recommendation 4

Add additional points to the Project Director's role, recommending that they:

- collaborate with the Greater London Authority, who is working to build a project pipeline at the city level, and that Southwark projects are prioritised in this pipeline, whilst also building a Southwark-level pipeline.
- incorporate the use of measurement/ performance metrics

Recommendation 5 add other partners to complement the reference to London Bridge BID.

Recommendation 6.

Verify if learning would be more appropriate than joining, in some cases
(note see *Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)*
<https://sciencebasedtargets.org/how-it-works>)

Make more general and use the body of the report to reference

specifics as well as a reference box linked to the recommendation including adding a reference to joining collaborations and initiatives that can maximise the impact Pension Funds can have on decarbonising the real economy, as well as their portfolios. Reference actions the Pension Fund could take include signing letters to companies/banks; co-filing shareholder resolutions; or other engagement activities that are within the capacity of the Pension Fund team.

Include references to:

- the Climate Action 100+ initiative;
- the CDP investor engagement initiative (<https://www.cdp.net/en/investor/engage-with-companies>)
- ShareAction's collaborative investor engagement initiatives on climate (e.g., on banks' fossil fuel financing; chemicals companies)
- United Nation initiative
- UNISON and ShareAction's work on pension divestment

(This recommendation will be finalised in consultation with co-optees and Chair.)

Recommendation 7

Soften this to 'consult Carbon Tracker's work'.

(This recommendation will be finalised in consultation with co-optees and Chair)

Recommendation 8 Agree

Recommendation 9

Amend to: explore / invite

Recommendation 10

Add reference to Just Transition

Additional recommendations:

- i. Develop a Green Finance Framework, which would serve as a voluntary governance standard, setting out how Southwark Council would manage its green financial instruments in the future, and outline how they would be classified as 'green'. These frameworks are essential as they assure investors that funds raised would only be used to help deliver eligible green

projects from within the framework - a third-party would monitor the use of funds and provide third-party certification.

- ii. Southwark Pension Fund explores and reports back on the potential of incorporating Scope 3 emissions into its definition of carbon neutral, recognising that this is particularly crucial for sectors where the majority of emissions are Scope 3 (downstream) such as fossil fuel industries
- iii. Explore whether carbon offset policy on price per tonne is in the right place in collaboration with other London boroughs
- iv. In consideration of the pivotal role that Green Finance will play towards achieving our aims within the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the Leader of the Council should ensure that this area is given due prominence in allocations of Cabinet level capacity and responsibility.

7. REVIEW: SUSTAINABLE FREIGHT

This review will be rolled over to next administrative year for completion.

8. MINI REVIEW : RESIDENT PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK

The chair presented the draft report and invited the Commission to comment on the report and recommendations. As a result the following was agreed:

RESOLVED

Recommendation 1 Agreed

Recommendation 2 Agreed

Recommendation 3

Include an amendment regarding young people and diversity, clearly including where it applies and include TRAs .

Recommendation 4 Agreed

Recommendation 5 Agreed

Recommendation 6

Clarify and refer to duplication and efficiency.

Recommendations 7 & 8

Include an action to compile a list of TRAs and an action plan for where there is not a TRA, including a) how to bring one forward b) how to increase engagement when there has never been a TRA,

Combine 7 & 8.

Recommendation 9

Be clearer and more specific.

Recommendation 10 Agreed

Recommendation 11

Add reference to Nolan Principles as per amendment below:

Residents taking on executive committee/ officer positions in constituent bodies within the Resident Participation Framework should be required to act in accordance with the Nolan Principles and submit a Register of Interests form in which they declare any private interests, which may conflict or be perceived to conflict with their public duties.

Additional recommendation

Add an additional recommendation to note the importance of training and capacity building.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

It was agreed that the chair would email members of the new Commission to invite comments on the work plan for next administrative year.