

Item No. 19.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 January 2022	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Southwark's Climate Strategy and Action Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Overview and Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cabinet note the recommendations of overview and scrutiny committee arising from representations from Extinction Rebellion Southwark in respect of the council's climate action plan, paragraph 9 of the report.
2. That cabinet request that the cabinet member for climate emergency and sustainable development reports back to cabinet on the recommendations within eight weeks.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. At its meeting held on 1 December 2021, the overview and scrutiny committee received a presentation from representatives of Extinction Rebellion Southwark in connection with the council's Climate Strategy and Action Plan.
4. In addressing the overview and scrutiny committee, Extinction Rebellion Southwark highlighted areas where they felt the structure of the council's climate strategy and action plan could be improved, and suggested the following:
 - The inclusion of SMART targets and key indicators for each action to enable effective monitoring/scrutiny of performance against the plan, both by the council and external interested groups.
 - Outlining potential cost against each action and indicating where funding might come from.
 - Aligning the climate action plan with other council policies, such as the New Southwark Plan, Waste Strategy and Movement Plan and having these policies in one place so that they are readily accessible.
5. In terms of timescales for inclusion of the actions in paragraph 4 above, Extinction Rebellion Southwark asked for these to be actioned now on the

basis that it would be difficult to indicate what has been achieved against the action plan when undertaking the annual review if it has not been set out at this stage - what is going to be achieved and by when.

6. Extinction Rebellion Southwark suggested that scrutiny councillors undertake training to ensure effective ongoing monitoring of the Climate Action Plan. This was suggested with hindsight of their own experience as a climate emergency interest group having challenges with trying to understand the details of this complex issue.
7. Extinction Rebellion Southwark also highlighted the need and importance of councillors increasing knowledge and awareness of the climate emergency and being able to speak to the issue of carbon emissions reduction. This was highlighted in the context of concern around a siloed approach to the climate emergency and the need to broaden the reach of the issue beyond the existing climate emergency networks/forums.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Following the presentation from Extinction Rebellion Southwark, questions and discussion, and hearing from the cabinet member for climate emergency and sustainable development, the overview and scrutiny committee agreed to make recommendations to cabinet, as detailed in paragraph 9 below.
9. That the cabinet member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development be recommended to:
 - Revise Southwark's Climate Action Plan to include smart targets throughout, including staged timeline and funding requirements and allocation against each action and policy.
 - Carry out a review to ensure the alignment and integration of all council policies with the Climate Action Plan.
 - Arrange for training for all councillors on monitoring of the delivery of the Climate Action Plan, to be delivered immediately following the 2022 council elections.
 - Return to the overview and scrutiny committee meeting scheduled for 2 March 2022 with a timeline of when the above recommendations will be actioned.
10. It is for the cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the recommendations of overview and scrutiny committee.
11. Overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and minutes – 1 December 2021	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts Everton.roberts@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7221
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&MIId=7003&Ver=4 (See item 8)		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Member	Councillor Ian Wingfield, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Governance	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 January 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		6 January 2022