

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 March 2022	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Climate Change Citizens' Jury – Receipt of Recommendations Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Helen Dennis, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Southwark Citizens' Jury on Climate Change was established to enable us as a council to deepen our borough-wide response to one of the most significant challenges of our time. Our existing strategy and action plan, which supports our ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, is clear that we can only tackle the climate emergency if we do it together, and this is what the Jury has been all about. Bringing new and diverse voices to the table to help us answer the key question: What needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change fairly and effectively for people and nature?

As a member of the Oversight Panel, which was established to help steer the process forward, I'm conscious of how many people have contributed their time to ensure the success of the Citizens' Jury. The Jurors themselves have given a huge amount to listen, learn and ultimately shape the final report's recommendations. I want to thank them for their engagement, along with others on the Oversight Panel, and the expert commentators, who came along to the Jury meetings to share their insights and ideas. Huge thanks must also go to Shared Future who have skilfully led this work, facilitating sessions and ensuring that Jurors are well supported to participate.

The Jury were not asked to analyse the Council's existing strategy and action plan, nor have they been constrained by financial resources in their consideration of the question. This was intentional as we wanted to encourage the Jury to bring new and innovative ideas to us and to think outside of the box. That being said, it is encouraging to see so much synergy with our current plans, and to note that their three areas of chosen focus: buildings, transport and business, are also central to our current strategy.

This Cabinet report is an initial response to the Jury process, and will be followed by a detailed Council response this coming July, which will be published alongside the update of Southwark's Climate Strategy and Action Plan. From the outset, I have wanted to underline the Council's commitment to this process and our intention to respond fully to each of the recommendations. We will seek to

enact change where it is within the council's power and capacity to do so, and to work with partners across the borough, to get the full benefit from this in-depth work, and ultimately to drive down carbon emissions across Southwark.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Cabinet welcomes the recommendations of the climate change citizens' jury and thanks all the jury members who gave their time and contributions to the process.
2. Cabinet agrees to consider all the recommendations from the jury and to bring forward a full response in July 2022.
3. Cabinet asks officers to revise the climate change strategy and action plan in response to the jury's recommendations and to bring an updated plan to cabinet in July 2022 as part of the first annual review.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. In March 2019, the council declared a climate emergency and committed to doing all it could to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. It published a climate change strategy and action plan in draft in July 2020. The COVID pandemic meant that the council was unable initially to do the engagement that it had intended. It therefore published the strategy in draft, and carried out comprehensive engagement and consultation on this draft strategy before publishing a final revised plan in June 2021.
5. The strategy shows how the council has adopted an iterative approach where it committed to regularly reviewing the strategy and action plan, learning from what is working and what is not, and adapting the plan to meet the challenge of climate change. The council has also said that its residents will be at the heart of its approach and is committed to engaging, educating and empowering the community to ensure that every resident in Southwark is able to play their part in reducing carbon.
6. The council will publish an annual report in July 2022, which will set out progress in the first year of the process. It will be an opportunity to update the strategy and action plan and add further detail to the next steps for the council. To ensure that the strategy is aligned with the priorities and ambitions of our residents, the council has set up a citizens' jury process to inform our approach going forward and to shape the council's response to the climate emergency.
7. This jury builds on the engagement work we have already done, but is a further way of ensuring that at all times we are aligning with our residents and making the journey to a carbon neutral future alongside our residents.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. A citizens' jury is a type of deliberative forum. A representative group of residents are brought together around a particular policy issue. They are presented with evidence from expert speakers and given the time and support to evaluate the evidence, form opinions and provide a series of recommendations. A jury typically consist of 25 members of the public and is a smaller version of a citizens' assembly.
9. The process centres on answering a specific question, in order to focus the jury and ensure the recommendations are directly related to the topic being discussed. The central question for the Southwark Climate Change Citizens' Jury to respond to was: *'What needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change fairly and effectively for people and nature?'*
10. The council wanted to ensure that its engagement had breadth and depth. The engagement and consultation ahead of publication of the strategy and action plan ensured that we had breadth – speaking to a wide range of people to understand their views. The jury process complements this by working with a smaller group of residents who are representative of the borough as a whole, but who had time to consider the issues in depth before responding.
11. The council commissioned Shared Future, a social enterprise and community interest company with extensive experience of delivering citizens' juries and assemblies to manage the process. This has brought knowledge and experience to the process while also ensuring the process was delivered with a degree of independence from the council so that jury members are able to tackle this issue in the way that they think is best.
12. The full report from the jury is in Appendix A. This outlines the approach that was taken including the recruitment process, commentators who provided advice to the jury, details of the sessions and the jury's recommendations.
13. To support the jury through the process, provide guidance and ensure the content of the jury sessions met their needs, an oversight panel was formed. This panel consisted of academics, campaigners, faith and youth representatives, voluntary sector groups, councillors and council officers. The oversight panel ensured that jury selection was fair, ensured the jury had access to experts and had overall governance of the process.
14. This report was initially due in January, but various concerns raised by some members of the oversight panel, meant the process of establishing the jury took longer than anticipated whilst these were resolved. This has meant the report is slightly later than we intended, with the council receiving it in late February 2022. This means that the council has not yet had time to fully consider all the recommendations and officers will

therefore now consider the report and provide a full response to Cabinet in July 2022.

15. The council is committed to ensuring that tackling the climate emergency is something that every resident has a role in. The selection of the jury therefore ensured that the group was fully representative of the borough as a whole. It was essential for the council that there were a range of voices from every part of our community being heard.
16. The report in appendix A sets out the recruitment and selection process in full, detailing the target and actual demographic split of the jury. The demographic criteria looked at; age, gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic status, housing tenure, location within the borough and attitude to climate change.

Recommendations

17. The jury had eight sessions, and over thirty hours considering the issue, working with experts and discussing climate change. They agreed a series of recommendations in response to the question ‘What needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change fairly and effectively for people and nature?’
18. The jurors voted on the recommendations to rank them in priority. The full recommendations are set out in Appendix A. The wording was drafted directly by jury members with the support of Shared Future. The jury was not limited by budgets or finance and they were encouraged to be innovative, forward thinking and not constrained about how the central problem should be addressed.
19. The process was also not limited by the council’s areas of responsibility. The question focused on what needed to happen in Southwark – but some of this will fall outside of the reach of the council’s responsibility. Therefore, as with the council’s own strategy, it looks at what needs to happen in every part of Southwark to tackle the climate emergency together.
20. In agreeing the recommendations, the jury also wrote and agreed a statement. This statement was strongly supported or supported by over 85% of the jury, and reads as follows;

‘Having had, through this jury process, the opportunity to learn more about the impacts of climate change on Southwark and beyond, as well as the many potential solutions, some of us feel let down and overwhelmed because the gravity of the situation was not made clear to us in the past.

We feel worried, angry and disappointed and are concerned that we are not acting like this is an emergency.

We must have change and we must have a future.

We are passionate about being part of Southwark and care about the future of our borough.

There must be rapid and decisive implementation of the action that is needed. This action must be taken by the council and others; it must be bold and must be more than gestures. With the council blazing the path and leading by example and propelling the movement to change.

The council must look beyond its own immediate power at the same time as bringing all of its own departments together with a real sense of holistic purpose. At the same time, we believe legislation must exist to enable the council to take the action needed.

Although we recognise that individuals must bear some responsibility, we urge the council to recognise that we are not prepared to bear the brunt of change if we are not given the tools, encouragement and infrastructure for us to be equipped and empowered to act.

Having come together to deliberate and produce recommendations we expect measures to be put in place to allow the council and others to rapidly come back to the citizens of Southwark to report on progress in implementation of these recommendations with strong specific commitments.'

21. The jury has developed a total of 20 recommendations that are wide ranging, detailed and ambitious in nature. They cover a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: construction, energy generation, sustainable transport, waste and tree planting. There are also a series of recommendations for the council around transparency, accountability and reporting progress while ensure there is the resource and expertise in place to tackle the climate emergency.

22. The top four recommendation were as follows:

a. Make walking great again!

Walking is a free, easy and zero carbon method of transport. We need to remove barriers to walking by:

- Improve quality of pavements to ensure they are even, well-maintained and uncluttered
- Improve air quality
- More walking maps/directions - with timings and points of interest so people can see where walking might be quicker/easier/more pleasant than driving or using a bus
- More easy pedestrian routes (as above) and car free pedestrian zones, especially in busier locations e.g. Borough Market
- Encourage and enable more children to walk to school.

b. Affordable, accessible and appealing public transport

Affordable, accessible and appealing public transport should be the backbone of a low carbon Southwark. To achieve this there needs to be work (including with TfL) on:

- Increased number of electric buses
- Subsidies/free transport should be focused on those who need it most
- Wifi and phone charging on all buses and trains
- Positive messages to increase the uptake of public transport
- Increase speed of buses by further development of bus lane use and bus gates to give buses more priority on roads
- Increase the frequency of night buses
- Create greener and more appealing bus stops e.g. green roofs, solar panels
- Consideration of personal safety which is a barrier to wider use of public transport particularly for women at night e.g. better lighting at bus stops
- Improving public transport access parts of the borough which have low Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) and large numbers of residents e.g. Aylesbury Estate, North Peckham and Bermondsey.

c. Improvements in energy efficiency of housing

Incentivise all landlords to improve Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating from E to B by 2025 by offering discounts or loans on retrofit schemes. Local and/or small businesses providing retrofit services should be supported and prioritised for contracts. The Council should annually identify and publish accessible information on how many properties are currently rated below C, including Council-owned and privately-owned, and provide timelines for future targets.

In addition:

- Southwark Council should lead by example by retrofitting all its properties
- Southwark Council should repurpose unused funds to pay for retrofitting, and apply for additional funding opportunities
- To increase retrofitting in Southwark there should be an education and advisory service to DIY retrofitters including residential and small businesses
- Increase inspection and enforcement by council of energy efficiency standards
- Measures to increase and improve retrofitting in non-residential buildings should also be taken

d. Transparency, accountability and progress monitoring

The Climate Emergency needs to be a significant consideration in all council decisions to create net climate benefit.

We want more transparency and accountability on council activities. Clear goals on carbon reduction, climate mitigation and adaptation in relation to the climate emergency need to be communicated to Southwark residents, including the process of achieving them on a real time digital dashboard that makes council progress towards climate related goals transparent.

The Council should implement a clear emissions pathway for each year to 2030, with costs and estimated decarbonisation impact of each action outlined; SMART targets on every action in the Climate Plan, and a review of council policies by department to integrate Southwark's climate commitments.

Climate Juries to be called no more than three years apart to measure progress, sooner if required, to make further recommendations and hold council to account.

23. Other recommendations also received a high level of support from the jury and cut across key council policies and planning, delivery of a safe highway network that facilitates active travel, increased use of green energy and local energy generation and protection and enhancement of green spaces.
24. The recommendations require significant action from the council, but also at a London-wide and national government level. They include action from key stakeholders, including big business and other employers in the borough. They will need collective support from a wide range of stakeholders across the borough, in order to demonstrate positive progress in the near future.

Next Steps

25. The council welcomes the receipt of the recommendations and the time, energy and ideas that the jury have brought to the process. The council also recognised the hard work and dedicated put in by Shared Future to deliver the process and support and encourage the jury members over the last few months.
26. The final meeting of the jury was in early February 2022, with the recommendations voted on following the last meeting. The Council received the recommendation in mid-February and has therefore not had the opportunity to review and formulate a detailed response. This work will be undertaken in March and April, and officers will submit a full response to Cabinet to all recommendations in July 2022.

27. Alongside this, the council is also undertaking the first annual review of the climate strategy and action process. The jury's recommendations will form a central part of this process, with the annual review due to be presented to Cabinet in July 2022.
28. Launch events for the recommendations are currently being planned for the 3 March and 10 March 2022. Shared Future are working directly with the jury members on the agenda and content of both sessions. The 3 March event will focus on key stakeholders in the borough who will be required to understand the process, support the outcome and deliver against the recommendations. The public launch will take place on the 10 March and will be promoted widely.

Policy framework implications

29. The recommendations from the jury will be considered and used to update the council's climate change strategy and action plan. The climate strategy is a key policy framework, and as such these recommendations will have an impact on the policy framework of the council. The implications of these changes will be set out when the council's full response comes to cabinet in July 2022.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

30. The council will fully consider the recommendations from the jury and bring forward a response in July 2022. Nothing in this report has a direct impact, but the full response will consider the community equality and health impacts of any changes that are proposed to the council's climate strategy and action plan.

Climate change implications

31. The citizens' jury recommendations if implemented will have an impact on climate change by reducing carbon emissions and supporting more sustainable living. The full implications will be considered by officers who will report on this when the council responds in July 2022.

Resource, legal and financial implications

32. There are no specific implications from this report. Any implications that come from the jury's recommendations will be considered as part of the full response in July 2022.

Consultation

33. Extensive engagement and consultation has taken place in relation to the development of the climate strategy and action plan. The citizens' jury is the next step in engagement with residents, allowing a selected group the time, support and expertise to learn about the issue in greater detail. The

council will review their recommendations and integrate them into the reviewed climate strategy and action plan in July 2022.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

34. There are no significant legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report, as Cabinet is only at this stage being asked to welcome the recommendations of the jury and agree to give them consideration at a later stage. The Director of Law & Democracy and her staff will provide advice to officers on any legal and governance issues that might arise when Cabinet considers and responds to the recommendations, and when any proposed revisions to the climate strategy are brought forward.
35. The council has the statutory authority to produce and revise its climate policy in accordance with the powers of general competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (EL21/145)

36. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the request to Cabinet to welcome, agree and consider the recommendations of the climate change citizens' jury recommendations with a full response in July 2022.
37. The strategic director also notes the recommendation to Cabinet to ask officers to revise the climate change strategy and action plan in response to the jury's recommendations and to bring an updated plan to cabinet in July 2022 as part of the first annual review.
38. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no additional financial implications arising from this report at this stage.
39. All staffing and other related costs to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Report of the Southwark Climate Change Citizens Jury

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Helen Dennis, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development	
Lead Officer	Chris Page, Climate Change Director	
Report Author	Tom Sharland, Climate Change Programme Lead	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 February 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 February 2022