

<b>Item No.</b> 10.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 July 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Climate Change Citizens' Jury – Response to Recommendations	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Helen Dennis, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development	

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

I want to take the opportunity to thank our Climate Change Citizens' Jury once again for such a considered and constructive report, and in this detailed response from the Council, I hope that Jurors' will see how their contributions are helping to shape policy and funding commitments going forward. In setting up the Jury when we did, it was our hope that their deliberations would help us build on our initial Action Plan, by teasing out priorities for Southwark residents, in a context of extreme budget pressures and lots of competing demands. In their 20 recommendations for the borough, which we have broken down in this report into 93 sub-headings, we have been presented with rich and varied ideas, which touch on all aspects of Southwark life – from housing to transport, business to wellbeing.

In comparing the Jury recommendations against our existing Action Plan, we have been immensely encouraged by the overall alignment and support for our direction of travel across key areas. And of the 93 sub-recommendations, we are pleased to be able to support 88% of these through existing, revised or new actions in our Climate Action Plan, which is being brought forward alongside this response to the Jury.

There are of course calls within the Citizens' Jury report, for action to be sped up across a number of areas and in response, we have been exploring ways in which we can allocate the remainder of the Climate Capital Fund to priorities which resonate with the Jury and which deliver the carbon savings that we need to see across Southwark. I'm delighted that we can invest an additional £1m in the top Jury recommendation – "Make Walking Great Again" to deliver improvements for pedestrians across the borough, and we will also be allocating further funding to enhance green spaces, supporting biodiversity and wellbeing. There are some areas highlighted by the Jury, where we have limited powers but where advocacy is required – "Accessible, Affordable and Appealing Public Transport" is one such area, and we will continue to make the case to government for a long-term Transport for London (TfL) funding

settlement, and for continued investment in local bus provision, including electrification.

The Jury also call on the Council to focus on the energy efficiency of housing, and especially at this time, with fuel bills spiralling, we couldn't agree more about the importance of action in this area. Our forthcoming Council Delivery Plan will also include action to make council homes warmer, and over the coming months, we will set out further detail including through our £1m project to replace windows in council street properties, our partnership with 'Warmfront', through the release of carbon offset funding (AKA the 'Green Buildings Fund') for social housing projects, and a bid to Wave 2 of the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Beyond our own council homes, we are also committed to using our licensing powers to require and incentivise improvements in the private rented sector, and we will be establishing a free Green Homes Advice Service to support home-owners wanting to take climate action in relation to their own properties.

Finally, within their top five proposals, the Jury have also supported calls for greater transparency and accountability regarding the Council's own climate plans, an area that we have been working on intensively to deliver, also in line with recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We were pleased that the Climate Emergency UK assessment of our Climate Action Plan earlier this year, was overwhelmingly positive, but we also recognise room for improvement, which is why the updated Action Plan this year provides further detail on timescales, resourcing and ownership of actions, and is intended to sit as a 'live dashboard' on the updated climate pages of the Council's website.

Addressing the Climate Emergency across our borough is a complex and resource-intensive task, requiring not only action and investment from the Council, but from key partners and of course from residents themselves. A year into this role, I have been heartened and inspired by the energy and ideas coming forward from so many different groups and individuals committed to climate action, and in the case of the Citizens' Jury, by the consensus for action which emerged from this intensive and deliberative process, involving some who were relatively new to the topic. We will continue to reflect on this report and the invaluable Jury process as we move forward with our plans for addressing climate change in Southwark, and enhancing our community engagement over the coming months and years.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Notes the council response to the jury's recommendations and the progress made to date.
2. Agrees to amend the council's climate change strategy and action plan in line with the jury's recommendations, as set out in the report.
3. Agrees to continue reporting progress against jury recommendations as part of the annual reporting on the climate change strategy and action plan and associated smart actions.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4. The council's Climate Change Citizens' Jury presented its recommendations to the council in March 2022. This followed 30 hours of learning, discussion and deliberation 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?'
5. The jury was made up of 25 members, all residents of Southwark, who represented the full diversity of the borough. The jury met over a number of months, hearing from a range of expert speakers on the science of climate change, its local impact and where the borough's emissions are generated. The jury also selected a number of key topics to learn about and discuss in more detail, these consisted of housing/buildings, transport and business.
6. The March 2022 Cabinet Report provides full information on the reasons for establishing the jury and the jury process itself, from start to finish. A copy of this report can be found [here](https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s105587/Report%20Climate%20Change%20Citizens%20Jury.pdf) (https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s105587/Report%20Climate%20Change%20Citizens%20Jury.pdf).
7. In total 20 detailed recommendations were received, covering topics including housing, planning, transport, waste and business alongside suggested improvements to governance, resourcing and communication within the council. While the majority of the recommendations are for the council, there are also those focused at a national political level, for local businesses and for residents.
8. This report should be considered alongside the Climate Emergency Annual Report and Update of the Change Strategy and Action Plan. This report sets out the council's transition to SMART climate actions, that will be published online and form a central part of reporting the council's progress going forward.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. The 20 recommendations contained a significant amount of detail, and numerous sub points. Each recommendation is responded to within the body of this report, highlighting the level of support from the council and the opportunity to deliver on the stated recommendation.
10. Appendix A splits the recommendations into their sub parts and provides a response to each part.
11. In total there are 93 sub recommendations contained in Appendix A. Each recommendation has been reviewed against the council's actions within the current 2021 Climate Action Plan in order to determine the status of the recommendation against the following criteria;

- Covered: the jury recommendation is already aligned closely with an existing action within the Climate Action Plan. The relevant action(s) is listed in Appendix A.
  - Part-covered: the jury recommendation is partly covered and can be fully addressed with a minor change to wording of an existing action. The relevant action, and new wording, is listed in Appendix A.
  - Other Strategy: the jury recommendation is relevant to the council's work but best aligns within another council strategy. The relevant strategy is listed accordingly.
  - New Action: the jury recommendation has been added to the updated Climate Action Plan, as it was not adequately covered in an existing action.
  - Not Included: the jury recommendation is either not relevant to the Climate Action Plan and reduction of emissions or it does not align with existing or future council policy. It may also be that the recommendation is outside of the council's scope of influence.
12. The overall breakdown of actions against the categories listed above is illustrated in the table below. Of the 93 sub recommendations made by the jury, 88% are either covered/part covered in the Climate Action Plan, have been added as new actions or are referenced in other council strategies. A breakdown of those actions which fall into the respective categories is shown in Appendix A. Of the 11 sub recommendations not currently included, several are to be considered at a future time or beyond the scope of the council's control.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Number of Actions</b>
Covered	38
Part-covered	9
Other Strategy	22
New Action	13
Not Included	11

13. Where possible, jury recommendations are being built into the council reporting of progress against climate actions. This will allow for progress to be reported via a live dashboard on the council's website, rather than requiring an annual update against actions. This will ensure the latest information is available to jury members and residents on an ongoing basis.
14. The council welcomes the time, energy and effort jury members committed to the process. While many of the recommendations align with existing work, there are also a number which push the council to deliver at a quicker pace, on issues that the jury consider of vital importance.
15. The following section details the jury recommendations in full with the council's response. As detailed in the March 2022 Cabinet Report, jury members voted on the recommendations, from strongly support to

strongly oppose. This resulted in each recommendation being ranked in priority order. Each ranking is included in brackets in the title boxes below.

## RESPONSE TO JURY RECOMMENDATIONS

16.

1. Housing and Buildings (=7 <sup>th</sup> )
<p><b>Wellbeing</b></p> <p>Climate change cannot be considered in isolation. We want a liveable Southwark. New builds should always have wellbeing as a central consideration.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. 15 mins walk to essential services (15 min city), designing in active travel as default</li><li>b. Reducing fuel poverty</li><li>c. Playgrounds and green spaces</li><li>d. Encourage outdoor/public art via local arts education</li><li>e. Resilience should be taken into greater consideration, including assessing flood risks and mitigation strategies.</li></ul>
<p><b>Council Response:</b></p> <p>The council welcomes the recommendation not to address climate change in isolation. The Climate Action Plan clearly identifies owners of actions that sit across multiple council departments. A continued area of improvement for the action plan is to ensure owners of actions are identified from outside of the council, for example central government, local businesses, community groups or academic institutions. The council's climate emergency is for the borough as a whole, and should underpin all of our work as a council.</p> <p>The Southwark Plan (2022) places wellbeing at its heart, and forms the key policy document that will ensure new build properties contribute to revitalised places and neighbourhoods that reduce inequality and contribute to positive wellbeing for residents. The Southwark Plan (2022) sets out a range of policies that encourage both the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. This includes an open space strategy to both protect existing and deliver new open spaces across the borough. The council also has a separate Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy (2022) focused on improving the health and wellbeing of people in the borough.</p> <p>The introduction of 15 minute cities support the aim that everyone living in a city should have access to essential urban services within a 15 minute</p>

walk or bike from their home. The council is embracing this policy through a 'Thriving Neighbourhoods' approach in the Council Delivery Plan. This draws on the concept of 15 minute cities and many of the principles adopted within the Southwark Plan (2022). This includes protecting the borough's local town centres, ensuring that amenity and job creation is spread throughout the borough and that transport priorities focus first on active and sustainable travel, such as walking, cycling and public transport. This results in a polycentric borough, with many thriving town centres, which embodies the same characteristics of a 15 minute city.

Existing actions within the Climate Action Plan focus on fuel poverty, which will be a priority area for the council in 2022 and 2023 due to the ongoing cost of living crisis and significant recent increase in fuel bills. This will form the immediate focus of the council's engagement with residents on climate matters. There is also a section of the Climate Action Plan focused on enhancing biodiversity, and includes work on community garden plans and allotments.

The council has a separate Public Arts Policy (2022) which encourages public art in the borough, which also includes detail on how the commissioning, fabrication and installation of the artwork can minimise any negative environmental impact. This also includes careful consideration of materials and waste disposal, suppliers and supply chain carbon, including last-mile transit options.

The council recognises that resilience to climate change does not form a key part of the existing Climate Action Plan. An action has therefore been added to prepare a Climate Adaptation Plan in 2022 which will cover the council's adaptation measures. This follows on from work the council is currently doing in leading London Council's Resilient and Green climate working group. There is however, already extensive work across the council to prepare for climate risk, including flood risk. This includes the delivery of sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS) and the Lost Peck Flood Alleviation Scheme. The adopted Southwark Plan (2022) includes key policies relating to sustainability, biodiversity net gain, and reducing flood risk, and this will be further strengthened through an early review.

Appendix A provides an additional response to points a to e contained within the jury's recommendation.

17.

## **2. Housing and Buildings (=11<sup>th</sup>)**

Constructing new buildings should be a last resort and where new building is necessary, it should be with the goal of zero carbon emissions. Where zero carbon is not possible, for example during construction, developers should be required to prioritise carbon offsets that include local investment, to reach net zero. This should be mandatory and not subject to a profit

viability assessment. Developers should be incentivised under the local planning framework to create zero carbon buildings. There should be a public and accessible transparent ledger of all homes built, including their carbon emission rating, updated regularly. All new builds should adhere to other existing regulations including the percentage of social housing.

- a. Council should lobby central government to end the right-to-buy programme and assess the benefits and detriments of properties in line for right-to-buy.

Possible inclusions as part of new building:

- b. Electric vehicle charging stations (including disabled access)
- c. Bike storage
- d. Cycle and walking pathways

#### Council Response:

The council recognises the importance the jury have placed on addressing emissions from construction within this recommendation and we are committed to embracing and promoting best practice within the sector. The council will always promote retrofit of existing buildings where appropriate but new buildings are sometimes necessary, especially in response to the housing crisis. There is evidence that building new homes in urban settings which are well connected to public transport, can help reduce emissions overall.

Southwark has to deliver at least 2,355 new homes every year until 2036 (a target set out in the London Plan) which equates to ~40,000 homes over the lifetime of the Southwark Plan. Alongside this there is also the requirement for 58,000 new jobs, 460,000sqm of new office space, 90,000sqm industrial, distribution, hybrid and studio workspace, and 76,670sqm retail floor space over the plan period.

All major development must be net-zero and if it is not, a financial contribution is made to offset the carbon emissions up to 100%. The 'Green Buildings Fund' has been approved by the council, which collects this contribution from developments and will in turn re-distribute the funding to retrofit existing buildings in the borough to be more energy efficient. The council will be reviewing the level of the carbon offset price, in order to continue to push for higher standards in new build properties and reduce the need for offsetting. Furthermore, the council will respond to this recommendation by progressing an action to assess options 'for encouraging the use of recycled materials in new development as a means of reducing the embodied carbon of new builds'. This will be prioritised as part of the early review of the Southwark Plan (2022) as detailed within the Climate Action Plan.

The council has no direct control over the government's right-to-buy

programme and this is considered beyond the scope of the council's Climate Action Plan which is focused on emissions reduction and improving biodiversity. However, the council has publicly lobbied against the extension of right-to-buy and for greater flexibility in the use of existing right-to-buy receipts.

The council welcomes the recommendations above (points b to d), which are considered within new development. These points are all covered in policies contained within the Southwark Plan (2022) as detailed in Appendix A.

18.

### **3. Housing and Buildings (=13<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Demolition as a last resort**

Demolition impacts neighbourhoods and communities. We are concerned that demolition and rebuild may have a negative effect on climate change impact compared to refurbishing existing buildings.

No demolition should proceed until:

- An assessment of CO2 emissions is completed and includes those generated during the build as well as during its lifetime compared to a refurbishment option.
- Assessment of structural soundness of existing buildings
- Rigorous community consultations (to avoid new buildings where possible). This must include ballots or compulsory co-design for current and/or potential tenants.
- Assessment of empty buildings: with over 7000 empty or unused properties in Southwark, empty buildings should be prioritized to be put to use before new builds. If a building is found to be structurally sound, there should be compulsory retrofit instead of rebuilding.
- Encourage compulsory purchase of empty buildings
- Assess impact on use of green space, to avoid new buildings where possible

**Council Response:**

Southwark is predominately brownfield land, and therefore demolition must occur before the development of a new building unless a building is being

retrofitted. There are pros and cons to the demolition and construction of a new building versus retrofitting, and which is 'better' should largely be assessed on a case by case basis. There are a number of factors that can result in a building being suitable for retrofit, although this can be very costly, this should be considered against the impact of the embodied carbon that is released as part of demolition.

Major referable development in the borough is subject to a whole lifecycle carbon assessment and a Circular Economy Statement which sets out where carbon has been emitted throughout the process, including in both construction and demolition of existing buildings. There are benchmarks for whole lifecycle carbon that must be met, demolition will negatively impact on the development's ability to meet these requirements. This ensures it is a key consideration for major schemes.

The council recognises the jury's concern on the impact of demolition. Demolition may be necessary in certain cases where there are environmental issues, like contamination and hazardous substances, and where the existing building is very poor structurally, where there are fire safety issues, and cannot be retrofitted easily for another use. Not all materials are suitable for reuse.

New development can include demolition and still utilise parts of the existing structure and materials to retain the embodied carbon. The Circular Economy Statement sets out a recycling target that will be met for the development and this is scrutinised at pre-application, at planning stage and on completion.

The council published its new 'Putting Residents First Standard' in September 2021, covering the engagement standards that will apply to all major works upgrades to council housing properties. This sets out the communication channels and process that will be used before, during and after the works.

The London Plan and the council's Housing Strategy (2020) require a ballot to be carried out on estate regeneration schemes, this is supported by further resident engagement on design options. For example on the Tustin Estate five possible options were put to residents in an Options Survey in October 2020. The option favoured by residents was then further developed to become the Landlord Offer which was voted on in the resident ballot in March 2022. A Tustin Resident Project Group was also set up in May 2019 to monitor and provide resident input throughout the project.

While this approach applies to council developments, the council has also established a Developer Consultation Charter which sets out how a developer should consult prior to submitting a planning application. Regarding business premises, the Southwark Plan (P33) requires the submission of a Business Relocation Strategy where existing tenants are affected.

In October 2021 the council agreed its Empty Homes Action Plan. This action plan sets out Southwark Council's zero tolerance approach to long term empty homes and plans to bring empty homes quickly back into use. This plan notes that while the council has limited powers to address private, empty homes, there is more we can do to lobby for greater power in this area while improving what we do with our own housing stock. The action plan sets out the scale of the problem and then a clear list of actions across both private and council owned homes.

The Empty Homes Action Plan has a specific action around the use of compulsory purchase orders (CPO) as part of the solution to reducing private empty homes in the borough, and a new rolling £2m CPO fund has recently been agreed by Cabinet. Beyond this, the council also uses the CPO process where required as part of the redevelopment process, in line with legislation.

Appendix A provides more information against the bullet points listed in the jury's recommendation.

19.

#### **4. Housing and Buildings (=3<sup>rd</sup>)**

##### **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

Council Response:

Improving energy efficiency of buildings is a key component of the council's Climate Action Plan, and the council strongly supports this recommendation. The action plan has a number of actions grouped together under the theme 'buildings minimise their carbon emissions and maximise their energy efficiency'. This includes a focus on the council's operational buildings (e.g. offices, libraries and schools), council housing, private homes and businesses.

As noted in more detail in question 12 below, the council has offered its commercial tenants rent free incentives in order for businesses to be able to improve their EPC rating. Subject to the performance of the building, these grants are worth up to £4,000 and will give businesses flexibility to afford energy efficiency upgrades to their premises. A separate action within the plan is the introduction of the Gold Standard Charter scheme which encourages landlords in the private rented sector to raise their Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) to a B or C. It should be noted that an expanded roll out of this scheme requires an increase in resource within the council, as the initial impact has been limited.

With regards to council housing, two feasibility studies have recently been completed (Parity Projects and Warmfront) reviewing the energy efficiency of council housing stock and suggesting improvements. This work will be used to identify the worst performing social housing stock and cost work required to improve these properties to an EPC C. Funding remains a significant barrier in achieving these improvements. This work is picked up within the Climate Action Plan, with milestones and key dates added.

The council has bid successfully for a number of external government funding streams over the last two years, focused on both the expansion of heat networks and heat pumps in the borough, including;

- Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)
- Heat Network Efficiency Scheme (HNES)
- Heat Networks Investment Programme (HNIP)
- Energy Company Obligation (ECO) through Warmfront

The council also successfully bid for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, and while this specific partnership is no longer proceeding, the planned works to replace windows in council street properties is intended to go ahead through the council's Climate Capital Fund. Whilst our initial bid to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 1 (SHDF) was unsuccessful, the council will be submitting an enhanced SHDF bid for Wave 2 in 2022.

The council has also allocated £25m of capital funding, the Climate Capital

Fund, for delivery of projects contained within the Climate Action Plan, including retrofitting buildings. Initial projects include energy efficiency and heating measures at two schools. Further funding will be allocated to office, library and youth centre sites across the borough, targeted on those buildings with particularly poor EPC ratings.

The forthcoming council delivery plan will also address the information/advice and planning support required by private home-owners to retrofit their own homes, and explore the establishment of a retrofit learning network.

Appendix A sets out how the actions within the Climate Action Plan meet the requirements of the jury as included in the bullet points above. The work of the council is very closely aligned with this recommendation.

20.

<b>5. Housing and Buildings (=7<sup>th</sup>)</b>
<p><b>Improve local generation and use of green energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Council-owned buildings should be fitted with air source heat pumps</li><li>b. Cladding on all buildings in Southwark should be immediately assessed, and where it must be updated, this should be done via new technologies that support energy conservation.</li><li>c. Council should conduct and publish an audit of the below options for local green energy by 2024, and implement the most viable options by 2030 or before:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Centralised large-scale ground source heat pump for multi building usage (or other green heat sources)</li><li>- Power Purchase Agreement with renewable energy for Southwark</li><li>- Consideration of schemes to lease rooftops for solar energy production</li><li>- All council-owned buildings should have solar panels</li></ul></li></ul>
<p>Council Response:</p> <p>The council supports the aim of improving local energy generation and</p>

increasing the use of green energy. 'Renewable Energy' is one of the five main categories identified in the council's Climate Action Plan, with supporting themes around improving local energy infrastructure, moving towards green energy, addressing fuel poverty and boosting renewable energy generation.

All electricity supplied to council operational buildings is currently from green tariffs. Work is now underway to move all council operational buildings' gas supply to green tariffs and to also move non-operational buildings to green tariffs. This means all council energy supplies, apart from gas for council housing, will be sourced from a green tariffs by 2023. We are exploring varied options around council housing but cannot justify increased costs for residents at this time. Over the longer term, our plans to support the switch away from gas through heat pump installation and SELCHP extension, as well as the installation of individual heat meters, will be the most transformative. The council is currently conducting feasibility work to explore whether a solar PV farm could be set up outside of the borough to generate additional renewable energy.

Solar PV feasibility studies are currently being carried out for eight council housing blocks, with meters installed to measure the electricity usage and therefore viability of PV. Rooftop PV has also been installed at eight operational building locations, with a further two sites pending approval in late 2022, and air-source heat pumps have also been installed across a number of locations including libraries.

From July 2022, the council will be commencing its programme of surveys for its High Rise residential blocks. This programme will help the council to meet the new requirements relating to Building Safety Cases and it will include FRAEWs (Fire Risk Assessment External Walls). These FRAEWs are a new requirement and they look at cladding and other materials on the outside of the building. Given that the council has over 170 high rise blocks (a larger number than any other social landlord). It is expected that the FRAEWs will take around 6 months. The outcomes from these surveys will tell the council whether any cladding or other external wall materials need to be replaced. For those buildings where this is required, the appropriate considerations will be given to the recommendation relating to energy conservation. It should be noted that the council has previously uploaded to data to DELTA (the government database) about our external walls. This data showed that the council's high rise blocks do not have any ACM on them (this was the cladding on Grenfell Tower). Following the surveys of the High Rise buildings, the council will also need to assess the external walls of any residential building with a height between 11 and 18 metres. The council is the landlord for over 1500 of these.

The council is also currently installing innovative water source heat pumps on three housing estate locations - Consort, Newington & Wyndham. Between these three sites, heat will be supplied to 2,175 properties, replacing gas boilers with a low carbon heating source.

Appendix A provides a response to each of the points listed in the jury's recommendation.

21.

## **6. Transport (=17<sup>th</sup>)**

### **Significant reduction in cars**

We want to see a significant reduction in cars. People need freedom and flexibility to travel in a low carbon way, with fewer people therefore needing their own personal private car. Fewer cars will increase the success of walking, cycling and public transport.

A reduction in cars should happen through:

- a. More car share schemes and car clubs with increased number of parking spaces for these vehicles
- b. Electric vehicles are not a simple answer but remaining vehicles should be electric where possible
- c. Every road to have electric vehicle charging points with multiple chargers and fully accessible for disabled people. Charging points should not be located on the pavement.
- d. Measures to reduce and manage through traffic should be considered.

We expect ambitious targets to be set for all the above. Clear methods for measurement should be determined and communicated, with an annual record of progress published to ensure transparency. Targets should include a specified figure for an overall reduction of motor vehicle traffic.

Parking policies can and should be used as a tool to reduce private car ownership and usage. Specific policies to achieve this are sensitive and need careful local engagement, including car owners and non-car owners proportionately. Parking policies may include increased or further developed use of:

- e. Parking permits
- f. Increase costs for multi-vehicle households e.g. second parking permits
- g. Controlled parking zones (CPZ)

- h. Workplace parking levies
- i. Emissions based parking
- j. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) should only be implemented if extensive engagement with broader potentially impacted areas as well as the specific area is carried out thoroughly and shows support.

**Council Response:**

The council’s Movement Plan (2019) is the key policy document addressing transport in the borough. It puts people at the heart of transport decisions, with a focus on healthy, sustainable travel, while promoting policies that reduce car use and improve safety on Southwark’s streets.

Action 7 of the Movement Plan focuses on reducing car ownership in the borough and the council fully support the jury’s recommendation for a significant reduction in private car usage. The council is also planning to scale up the delivery of EV charging points, with a target to install another 1000 points over the next four years.

The Movement Plan is an evidence based document relying on comprehensive data to inform policy. This data is published alongside the report and can be found on the [Movement Plan page of the council’s website](https://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-transport-policy/transport-policy/policy-and-guidance-documents/movement-plan) (<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-transport-policy/transport-policy/policy-and-guidance-documents/movement-plan>). The council has a set target of reducing the number of trips made by car/motorbike to 13% of all trips in the borough by 2041. The Movement Plan will be updated again in 2022, when this figure will be reviewed. The jury’s recommendations will also feed into this review.

As part of the process for setting smart climate actions, clear milestones have been defined with specific targets for each action. The action dashboard will be made live on the council’s website, to ensure updates are available on an ongoing basis, rather than waiting for the annual progress report on the Climate Action Plan.

A response to points a to j above is contained with Appendix A. This includes a new action which has been added to the Climate Action Plan focusing on reviewing the policy for parking charges.

22.

<b>7. Transport (6<sup>th</sup>)</b>
<b>More people cycling</b>

We need to see more people cycling and less people driving. Cycling is a low carbon mode of transport. This should be enabled by:

- a) Better and more cycle infrastructure - joined up cycle lanes, increased cycle traffic lights
- b) Bike security improvements - secure parking in residential and workplace areas. Cycle parking should be free.
- c) Targeted campaign to stop/reduce bike theft
- d) Free bike check-ups such as Dr. Bike and bike repair vouchers (focusing on marginalised communities)
- e) Comprehensive measures should be taken to promote and support disabled cyclists as part of a holistic approach to support disabled people travelling around Southwark.
- f) Review and implement the 2015 Southwark Cycling Strategy
- g) Education for cyclists and other road users to improve overall safety.

Targets should be determined, monitored and reported on publicly to ensure transparent assessment of progress.

We must encourage the next generation of cyclists by:

School age:

- h) Starting to teach children to cycle when they are young
- i) Enabling cycling to school e.g. by exploring examples of car free streets around schools implemented in other areas and investigating other methods to make this happen.

New cyclists of any age – people who currently don't feel confident to cycle

- j) Supporting more cycle mentors and awareness of them (e.g. Southwark Cycle Buddies) to help plan routes and offer encouragement and support to new or less confident cyclists
- k) Providing help and education for bike choice and maintenance

**Council Response:**

The council's Movement Plan (2019) is the key policy document addressing transport in the borough. It prioritises active travel, walking and cycling, due

to the benefits to physical and mental wellbeing, alongside the associated improvement to air quality. There are a number of actions within the Movement Plan prioritising cycling, including 'Action 4: Deliver infrastructure to support active traffic' and Action 5: Enable people to get active'. One third of car trips in London are under 3km in length, a distance which for most people could be easily cycled.

The council therefore fully support measures than encourage more residents and visitors to cycle. There are existing actions within the Climate Action Plan focused on improving the cycle network and increasing bike parking in the borough. The council is committed to doubling cycle storage again over the next four years and earlier this year, additional investment was allocated through our Climate Capital Fund. A new action has also been added focusing on cycle training for all, in particular the young and those with disabilities.

A full response to points a to k above is provided in Appendix A. Funding for transport behaviour change measures has been particularly hard hit by funding pressures at Transport for London, primarily due to reduced income from passenger travel during the coronavirus pandemic. Many existing programmes focus on promoting active travel have been scaled back or are coming to an end. As part of the refresh of the Movement Plan in 2022, it will be crucial to consider how these programmes can secure funding to be restarted and where possible scaled up.

A response to the jury's bullet points above is provided in Appendix A.

23.

## **8. Transport (1<sup>st</sup>)**

### **Make walking great again!**

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

- a. Improve quality of pavements to ensure they are even, well-maintained and uncluttered
- b. Improve air quality
- c. 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.
- d. More easy pedestrian routes (as above) and car free pedestrian zones, especially in busier locations e.g.

Borough Market.

e. Encourage and enable more children to walk to school

Council Response:

The council's Movement Plan (2019) is the key policy document addressing transport in the borough. It puts people at the heart of transport decisions, with the priority mode of travel being walking. Walking is prioritised due to its ability to deliver an affordable mode of travel that provides significant health and wellbeing benefits. The council fully supports the jury's recommendation to make walking an easier and more attractive mode of travel. To that effect, £1m has been allocated from the council's Climate Capital Fund to remove barriers to walking in line with the objectives as set out in the Movement Plan and as defined by the jury.

The council also has the Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan (2017), and an associated programme of work on projects to monitor and improve air quality. Consultation recently closed on an update to a new Air Quality Action plan (2023-27). Many of these actions cross over with the Climate Action Plan and are referenced accordingly in Appendix A. This includes work to remove goods vehicles from the borough's streets and upgrade the council's fleet to include more electric vehicles.

The council's Streets for People programme has put in measures in many parts of the borough to reduce traffic and improve conditions for pedestrians, the council will also be launching a proactive communications campaign later in 2022 to encourage more people to walk, cycle and use public transport.

Appendix A sets out the council's position on each of the points above. It is however recognised that the Climate Action Plan published in 2021 did not prioritise walking to the level requested by the jury. Given the recommendation of the jury a new action has therefore been added which will allow progress to be tracked.

24.

## **9. Transport (2<sup>nd</sup>)**

### **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:

a. Increased number of electric buses

- b. Subsidies/free transport should be focused on those who need it most
- c. Wifi and phone charging on all buses and trains
- d. Positive messages to increase the uptake of public transport
- e. Increase speed of buses by further development of bus lane use and bus gates to give buses more priority on roads
- f. Increase the frequency of night buses
- g. Create greener and more appealing bus stops e.g. green roofs, solar panels
- h. 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.

**Council Response:**

The council fully supports the aim of affordable, safe and accessible public transport, all of which are key aims underpinning the council's Movement Plan (2019). As the recommendation identifies, Transport for London (TfL) are a key partner, operating all of London's bus, tube and tram services alongside the London Overground train services.

The council works closely with TfL on improving public transport services in the borough, however current funding challenges make this recommendation particularly challenging. Reduced passenger numbers during the coronavirus pandemic, which persisted well into 2022, have significantly reduced the funding available to TfL to operate public transport services, alongside the absence of a long-term funding settlement from central government. Rather than expanding networks and improving frequency, the challenge is very much on retaining the services currently available in the borough. Bus services across London, for example, are at risk of reduction by nearly 20%.

While this risk is reflected in actions contained within the Climate Action Plan, which focus on retention of services, the council will also seek to lobby central government for increased investment and decarbonisation of the public transport network.

While the council has no control over the cost of public transport, we will continue to seek opportunities to work with TfL to make public transport in the borough more accessible and appealing, in line with the jury's

recommendations. As specific opportunities arise, new actions will be added to the Climate Action Plan. These recommendations have also been shared with colleagues who are drafting the council's updated Movement Plan, due in late 2022.

A response to items a to h above is detailed within Appendix A.

25.

## 10. Transport (16<sup>th</sup>)

### Haulage and Freight

Southwark Council should introduce cargo bike infrastructure to encourage, facilitate and expand cargo bike deliveries across the Borough. The council should lead by example by maximizing the use of cargo bikes within its own fleet and any third-party contractors which it has control or influence over.

Targets for 2023 could include:

- a. highlighting examples of good practice and responsible cargo bike use in public campaign, including the savings for businesses
- b. provide grants to small businesses to buy cargo bikes for own deliveries.
- c. invest in secure bike storage suitable for cargo bikes
- d. support training for cargo bike riders

Additionally the council should develop and deliver a Sustainable Freight and Last Mile Delivery Hubs Plan by 2026 that prioritises areas of greatest need and potential (e.g. regeneration areas and town centres)

Council Response:

The impact of freight in the borough is clearly identified within the council's Movement Plan (2019). Action 14 of the plan focuses on reducing the impact of freight on the borough's streets. TfL predict a potential growth of light goods vehicles of 22% by 2031. Minimising deliveries through consolidation, but also ensuring a higher proportion of journeys are made by sustainable means, such as cargo bike, is therefore a priority.

The council is already working to promote and fund the use of cargo bikes in the borough, for example through the High Street Recovery Fund in East Dulwich. The council will continue to explore funding opportunities to expand this further while helping to promote best practice (such as through

the local Business Improvement Districts). Following on from the jury's recommendation the council has also begun to accelerate moving more of its own freight journeys to cargo bike.

Other work in this area includes exploring how to make better use of the River Thames for freight, to take pressure off the borough's roads. In order to help bring this work together, a new action has been added to develop a Sustainable Freight and Last Mile Delivery Hubs Plan, as recommended by the jury. This will help to ensure a consistent approach across the borough, while also working with businesses and adjacent councils to encourage partnership working.

A more detailed response to points a to d can be found in Appendix A.

26.

### 11. Business (=17<sup>th</sup>)

#### Big businesses

Nationally, high emitting **big** businesses that are not acting to reduce their emissions, (and those that support them e.g. banks) should:

- a. Be heavily taxed to reduce their emissions – regulation should be put in place to enable this to happen.
- b. Have to report their emissions in the annual report. This must be mandatory - this will help us all to decide which companies we support

Our local MP and politicians should lobby for this to happen.

#### Council Response:

The UK has many forms of taxing carbon, which are levied on different types of emissions and different industries and sectors including aviation. One such form of taxation is called the national emissions trading scheme (ETS), which gives firms in sectors such as aviation a carbon allowance. The idea of expanding the ETS to be levied against businesses in other industries was consulted upon by HM Treasury in 2020. The Government eventually decided against this despite campaigning for more stringent taxation on different forms of pollution by such pressure groups as the Zero Carbon Campaign.

In response to the jury's recommendation the council will consider a new action on business lobbying, dependent on where the council can add most value. The work would be developed through the Southwark Anchor Institutions' Network; a strategic leadership group of key organisations in

Southwark formed by the council. This group works together to deliver impactful activity which benefits Southwark residents by reducing inequality, building an economy that works for everyone and creating a greener future for Southwark.

The council welcomes the jury's response on reporting emissions. The Climate Action Plan includes a number of actions around procurement, and positively influencing the council's supply chain of goods and services. This includes work 'to establish standards of effective carbon reduction, measurement and management within contracts' and work to 'introduce a carbon neutral aligned procurement policy'.

27.

## 12. Business (=17<sup>th</sup>)

### Small and micro businesses

The 16,000 medium, small and micro businesses in Southwark must be pushed to reduce their emissions and encourage nature in whatever way possible.

The council should support these businesses by:

- f. Offering subsidies
- g. Offering discounts on business rates if the businesses are low emitters
- h. Offer small businesses free audits of their emissions – more customers may be attracted to businesses who are backing efforts to reduce their emissions

All business grants (and repeat grants) from the council should only be awarded to business who pass an explicit climate criteria. The council could take inspiration from the work that Oldham Council has done with business. We need to support our small and micro businesses to make choices that recognise the emergency we face in such a way that the businesses can thrive and are not forced to close down leading to unemployment and hardship.

Council Response:

As part of the Government's commitment for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050, it will be unlawful for leases on certain commercial buildings to

continue after 1 April 2023 where buildings have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of below 'E'. The council has therefore offered its tenants rent free incentives in order for businesses to be able to improve their EPC rating. Subject to the performance of the building, these grants are worth up to £4,000 and will allow businesses flexibility to afford energy efficiency upgrades to their premises. The council is also able to offer support in undertaking the works, if this is preferred by the business.

The Government will soon launch two measures that will offer business rate reductions for green investment and the decarbonisation of buildings. This includes business rate reductions for onsite renewable energy generation or connection to low-carbon heat networks. It is anticipated these savings will be backdated to April 2022 for eligible businesses. Any further local support of business rate reduction will need to be considered from a cost implication, and would be subject to consultation.

Business grants awarded via the Local Economy Team may be made in a range of circumstances and for a variety of purposes. This could range from supporting entrepreneurship and business growth through to dealing with business hardship and emergency support.

The Southwark Pioneers Fund aims to support smaller businesses to reduce their climate impacts which could include information such as carbon audits, advice and support, including grants. This strand of the fund will launch later in 2022.

The Southwark Pioneers Fund is also designed to support businesses to start up and grow while meeting wider ambitions to support a fairer, greener and more resilient economy in the borough. It is therefore well aligned with the principle that climate impacts are considered before awarding public funds to a business. However, the appropriate measure of climate impact to be applied will need careful consideration so as not to override the primary aim of supporting entrepreneurship in communities less likely to access support from mainstream business support services.

The council welcomes the jury's recommendation, which aligns closely to the Southwark Pioneers Funds and an action within the Climate Action Plan to 'support innovation in green business sectors through council business support and workspace programmes.' New ideas are welcome and the council will look at the example given by the jury when developing future plans.

28.

<b>13. Business (20<sup>th</sup>)</b>
<b>Pension funds</b>

Relevant big employers e.g. the council, hospitals, retail, Veolia etc. should invest their pension funds in renewable energy / green projects / funds, not in fossil fuels. It must be clear where pension funds are invested so employees can make informed decisions.

**Council Response:**

The council has taken a number of steps regarding its own pension and removing investment from fossil fuels. Following a scheme member survey in 2015 and the assessment of a clear investment case, it was decided that Southwark Council's Pension Fund would aim to reduce its exposure to fossil fuels over time. In March 2017, this was cemented and taken a step further. The Fund released an Investment Strategy Statement, outlining the aim to eliminate exposure to fossil fuels with the fund divesting in full from fossil fuel companies, such as Shell, in a risk-controlled way in the period following.

Since the release of this strategy, the fund has begun to monitor the carbon footprint of its holdings, with a reduction of 50% in the carbon emissions at the end of September 2021, compared with those at March 2017. This reduction was due to movements in investments from those categorised as high carbon into lower emission investment categories. These include, for example, innovative sustainable infrastructure funds that invest in renewable energy and timberland investments that remove carbon from the atmosphere. These actions reflect how Southwark is staying at the cutting edge of technologies in order to become a greener pension fund.

As climate change has become central in social focus and fund performance has remained strong following divestment from fossil fuels, the fund has since provided a further update to its Investment Strategy Statement. This update includes the fund's updated goal of reaching net zero carbon by 2030. Although green investment takes the forefront of the Fund's goals, it is approaching the task cautiously, in a way that will maintain appropriate returns on investment while managing risk. Not only will this ensure contributions remain affordable for both the council and members of the fund, it is also key to meeting the fund's primary purpose, which is to continue to be able to meet payments to our pensioners as they fall due.

Southwark Pension Fund was one of the first London funds to commit publicly to eliminating its exposure to fossil fuels. It is now one of London's most progressive funds, leading the way. The council will remain open to further improvements and be transparent in its reporting of progress. The council will also promote this positive change to other local institutions and businesses via the council's Anchor Institutions Network, that brings together some of the borough's biggest employers.

A new action has been added to the Climate Action Plan to reflect the council's commitment to make the pension fund zero carbon by 2030.

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29.

<b>14. Other (=3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>
<p><b>Transparency, accountability and progress monitoring</b></p> <p>The Climate Emergency needs to be a significant consideration in all council decisions to create net climate benefit.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Council Response:</p> <p>Addressing the climate emergency remains a top priority for the council. Significant changes have been made in the last 12 months to ensure that consideration of carbon emissions underpin the council's decision making processes. This includes the introduction of a new climate change 'concurrent' for all decisions made by the council. Formal governance processes therefore require all council staff to consider the impact of their project on climate change, prior to seeking approval from political members.</p> <p>The council's Climate Action Plan was highly scored earlier this year by Climate Emergency UK, but we want to ensure that we are continually improving and enhancing our transparency, accountability and progress monitoring. To that end, the council has also gone through the process of making its Climate Action Plan 'smart' (specific, measureable, achievable, realistic, time-bound). The smart action process is detailed in full in an adjoining Cabinet paper. Actions have been given an owner within the council, a clear timeline, milestones for delivery and an estimated cost. Risks have also been identified, based on the resource and funding the council has at its disposal. A real time dashboard of these actions is in development, and will be published following the council's Cabinet meeting in July 2022. This will allow for real-time reporting on progress and a</p>

greater level of transparency as requested by the jury.

Adaptation to climate change and building a resilient borough is recognised as a priority. The council support the jury's recommendation and a new action has been added to the Climate Action Plan confirming that an adaptation strategy will be developed by the end of 2022.

As part of the council's annual report on climate change, also being taken to Cabinet in July 2022, data analysis has been updated on both the council's own emissions and borough wide emissions. The analysis undertaken in 2021 set out two emission reduction pathways, the first, based on 'business as usual' with the second an 'ambitious' pathway. The council will explore how best to share this information in an accessible way going forward. The smart action process will also be improved in the future to begin the work of associating direct carbon savings with specific actions where data is available, but the council recognises that this is an area where continued improvement is required.

The council thanks the jury members for the time, commitment and knowledge provided during the process. The council will be liaising with jury members to provide an update in line with the content of this report and continues to consider ways that jury members can remain involved in the council's work on climate change. Due to the cost of running a deliberative forum process such as a citizens' jury or assembly, the council can not commit to running a similar process every three years. However, the council is developing a communications and engagement strategy on climate change which will build on the work of the jury and identify further opportunities to involve residents in the decision making and the delivery of projects related to climate change.

30.

#### **15. Other (=13<sup>th</sup>)**

##### **Staffing and funding / resourcing the work**

Southwark should maintain specific dedicated staff members who are responsible for bringing in available funding and overseeing that funds are used in a timely and efficient manner. Where funds or powers aren't available Southwark Council need to lobby central govt to give local council more funding and decision making power in environmental matters.

Southwark should work with the 308 other councils and authorities who have declared a climate emergency to lobby central government as a unified block to take the steps necessary to address the climate crisis and appoint specific staff members to lead on this whilst integrating this into all other relevant roles.

Council Response:

The council has established a dedicated Climate Change Team to lead the council's response to the climate emergency and created a permanent budget for the team earlier in 2022. Their work includes identifying funding opportunities and liaising with teams across the council to bid for funding where appropriate. The team also manages the Green Buildings Fund, which is the funding taken from development to facilitate retrofit of buildings, and the Climate Change Capital Fund, which consists of £25m committed by the council to fund upgrades to capital assets that reduce emissions. It is recognised that additional resource to lead on funding could be beneficial and this will be a consideration going forward.

The council is able to lobby central government in conjunction with other local authorities via the Local Government Association, which engages with the government on climate in a number of ways, including submitting written evidence and appearing before House of Commons select committees. The council can also lobby government through London Councils, which represents the interests of all London boroughs and the City of London. The council already leads on the 'Resilient and Green' work stream for London Councils, focused on developing a city that is able to adapt to the impact of climate change. The council has a Public Affairs and Policy Team, which leads on lobbying issues on behalf of the council, working closely with both councillors and local MP's. The council is also a member of UK100, a network of UK elected leaders who have pledged to play their part in addressing climate change.

The Climate Action Plan has three initial areas of focus with regard to lobbying government, focused on increased investment on home retrofit and the decarbonisation of transport and the national grid, areas that have significant opportunity for improvement with government investment. The detail of this lobbying work will be developed further within the council's upcoming climate change communications and engagement plan.

31.

#### **16. Other (=7<sup>th</sup>)**

##### **Trees:**

Southwark should work with residents to increase canopy cover in the borough to achieve at least 35% cover within a specified timeframe and use this opportunity to engage residents in local community projects that enhance and upgrade green spaces across Southwark.

Mature trees should be protected, and only considered for removal when damaged or ill. Soil quality across the Borough should be increased by effective use of composting and ending use of dangerous chemicals.

### Council Response:

The council has had an ambitious tree planting programme, having planted over 17,000 new trees in the last 2 years. There are now 300 different species across the borough, helping to tackle carbon emissions, improve air quality and significantly adding to the biodiversity of the borough. The council supports this recommendation of the jury and will continue its planting programme with an additional 20,000 trees.

The council's assessment shows that 24% tree canopy cover is a more realistic ambition than the jury's stated figure of 35%. This would be an increase from an existing coverage of 20%. While the council will strive to exceed 24% if possible, initial desktop analysis shows that a higher figure would require all available green space to be planted, much of which the council has no direct control over. Location by location analysis is required in order to maximise tree canopy cover, this work has begun and will inform the council's upcoming tree planting programme.

The council has a Tree Management Policy (2020) which protects mature trees and those in all stages of development. This includes a number of specific policies for protection in a range of circumstances including;

- Tree removal - sets out the limited specific criteria for the removal of trees in the public realm.
- Tree protection - describes the statutory protection afforded to trees (mainly) in private ownership through Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area status. This policy also references the non-statutory protection provided to woodland trees through Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designation.
- Trees and development – sets out a framework for developers to ensure that protection is given to trees worthy of retention on development sites.
- Unauthorised works prosecution – states what the council will do if trees are removed illegally.
- Veteran and ancient trees – sets out a commitment to promote a programme of recording and protecting veteran and ancient trees.

With regards to soil quality, the council has an existing action within the Climate Action plan to review the use of pesticides in the borough, and an active programme of reducing their use, year on year. The council also has an action around strengthening the Southwark Biodiversity Partnership, ensuring that partnership with the local community informs priorities on biodiversity and maximises the opportunity for funding for local green spaces. The recommendation of the jury and work of the council in this area are therefore very closely aligned.

## 17. Other (5<sup>th</sup>)

### **Green spaces /natural resources:**

The council should use planning policy and other measures to encourage better use of brown sites, protect existing green spaces and enhance and expand green spaces, by, for example, converting parking spaces into mini parks and rewilding brownfield and other relevant sites.

Flooding should be mitigated by using porous materials for pavement surfaces, driveways, and construction. Southwark should also implement a borough wide water conservation and management policy.

### **Council Response:**

The council supports the need for planning policy to protect green space in the borough and the recommendation set out by the jury. A clear action has been completed within the Climate Action Plan to 'Impose more ambitious requirements in planning policy for the protection of existing green space'. This was achieved by the adoption of the Southwark Plan (2022) which included a number of specific policies targeted at the Protection of Amenity (Policy P56) and Open Space (Policy P57). The Open Space policy sets out a strategy to protect designated open space, and only allow development on designated open space in exceptional circumstances. The Southwark Plan designated 11 hectares of new open space in the borough and created 22 new sites of importance for nature conservation. Open space equates to 21% of the borough's land area, including woodlands, parks, riverside paths and sports pitches. Protecting and improving this space will remain a priority.

There are a number of other policies within the Southwark Plan that encourage the delivery of Green Infrastructure (Policy P59) and promote Biodiversity (Policy P60) net gain. These are supported by The Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP) 2020, which sets out a strategy to protect the borough's natural assets. There are a number of actions within the Climate Action Plan focused on enhancing biodiversity and green space within the borough, such as increasing community gardens, allotments and tree planting.

The design of pavements in the borough takes into account the need for natural water drainage and the council has its own streetscape design manual which sets out the preferred materials to be used to lower flood risk. All developments have to submit planning applications for review by the flood risk team so that the drainage proposal, potential sustainable urban drainage (SUDS) schemes and water runoff are fully assessed. This supports the council's Surface Water Management Plan, which will be updated in 2022 and the Local Flood Risk Strategy, due for publication in 2023.

Ensuring the borough can adapt to climate change is key, including

managing surface water and minimising flood risk through the design of buildings and streets. Developing a climate change adaptation strategy, that includes this work, alongside water conservation, will be undertaken in late 2022 and has been added as a new action to the Climate Action Plan.

33.

#### 18. Other (=7<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Recycling:**

The council should aim to achieve 100% recycling of recyclables as soon as possible by

- a. providing borough-wide standardised processes, sufficient recycling bins and staffed cleaning routes,
- b. provide all buildings with access to composting, and;
- c. commit to sending zero waste to landfill or incineration.

The council should engage businesses and communities to reduce Southwark's use of plastics and other unsustainable materials.

##### **Council Response:**

The council has a 25 year combined waste collection and disposal PFI contract, which started in 2008, to undertake management of all municipal waste collected by the council in Southwark, including waste from a number of council departments such as street cleaning. As part of this contract an Integrated Waste Management Facility on the Old Kent Road opened in 2012. This has resulted in substantial increases in recycling rates (35% in 19/20) and decrease in waste going to landfill.

It should be noted that while the council collects all residential waste, businesses have the freedom to choose any registered waste provider. The council therefore collects significantly less business waste and has less control in this area around reducing waste and ensuring recycling is maximised.

The council already implements a standardised process where possible for recyclables. The same range of dry recyclables are collected from all residential properties in the borough. Dependant on the type of building, some residents will have bagged waste collections, some their own bins and some shared communal bins, but that reflects the different types of housing in the borough. There is no single service method that fits all property types, but the council strives for a consistent approach where possible. Limited space at some properties can also restrict the ability to provide all the required bins, which is an ongoing challenge.

The council does not provide a composting service, which would require waste to be treated in gardens and communal spaces across the borough. The council does collect organic waste such as food/garden waste. Of the total 142,000 households in Southwark, roughly half (mostly kerbside properties) receive an organic waste collection. In 2019, pilot projects were also established to collect food waste from blocks of flats, to an additional 15,000 properties. Expansion of this service will be considered within existing resource.

Providing all buildings with access to organic waste collections is currently awaiting updates as part of the national Resources & Waste Strategy, with further developments expected in 2024. This could bring into force legislation requiring all properties to have organics waste collection.

The council currently diverts over 99% of the waste collected from landfill. In order to achieve this target it is necessary to utilise the South East London Combined Heat and Power Plant (SELCHP) to divert waste from landfill. SELCHP is an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) that incinerates waste that would otherwise be sent to landfill converting it to both heat and electricity. It also has a significant role to play in reducing the borough's carbon emissions by supporting the shift away from gas in the provision of heating and hot water. The carbon savings gained through this approach far outweigh any of the emissions generated through the incineration process – the extension of SELCHP, including to 11 council estates and 5 schools, is expected to deliver on average 11,100 tonnes of carbon savings annually. The council cannot commit to sending zero waste to landfill or incineration as requested by the jury. In order to achieve this, residents and businesses would have to produce zero non-recyclable waste. However, the council does commit to maximising recycling and minimising waste to landfill, both of which have been added as new actions to the Climate Action Plan in response to the jury's comments.

As identified by the jury, behaviour change by all is critical in this area and the council has a key role in spreading a positive message around reducing consumption and therefore waste, promoting reuse of materials and an increase in recycling of what remains. The council will therefore look to work more closely with our waste contractor, Veolia, and through the council's own communication channels to promote behaviour change. This action is contained within the Climate Action Plan. This work will also feed into the council's updated Waste Strategy, to consider what more can be done in the short term. The council also has actions to ban single use plastic in its own buildings, and will look to progress work on waste reduction through a new business network, both of which are detailed within the Climate Action Plan.

34.

**19. Other (15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Education and communication:**

Council and others to give thorough education on global and local climate change prevention and adaptation to schools, businesses, council members and beyond. This should include a Borough wide communications programme including active marketing and info sharing with residents, visitors, business etc. Social media and other supportive tech can be used to get information to people about climate change and potential actions. Members of this jury could be supported to assist alongside other community members.

This could happen through:

- a. In – person events
- b. Sharing schemes available to residents and visitors alongside information about other actions they can / should take
- c. Educating businesses
- d. Climate Change first-aiders
- e. Climate Month Festival that allows for fun and thorough education and reaches everyone, not just those already engaged in climate activism
- f. Commitment to embedding climate related communications and information in a variety of council activities and communications so that all people in the borough can be reached
- g. All people appointed by the council to take care of Southwark must be well-versed in the effects of climate change on people and nature in Southwark

**Council Response:**

The council welcomes the jury's recommendations on increasing communication and education on climate change in the borough. The work of the citizens' jury has shown us that there is a wide range of knowledge and understanding about climate change in our borough, with some residents knowing a great deal, and others feeling uninformed. The council has made 'building understanding in the need and the challenge of tackling the climate emergency' a key area of focus for climate change communications for the next four years.

The council has a leadership role in supporting this work, but the borough's communities, businesses and partner organisations will also have their own ideas and solutions for helping the environment and reducing carbon emissions. The council has set out how it will use effective communication and engagement in a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy.

The council will inform and educate residents through council channels including social media, voluntary and community organisations, business networks, schools and colleges, the council will ensure everyone in the borough can access accurate and useful information about the steps they can take to tackle the climate emergency, the progress the borough is collectively making, and what others are doing.

Residents also hold many of the skills and solutions to some of the challenges the borough collectively faces, whether it is through shared activities like community gardening to reduce air miles and supermarket packaging, or individual actions like reducing car use. The council will use engagement with its communities to support education and communication at a local level between residents.

To do this the council will work alongside its residents, voluntary and community sector partners to create a network of climate champions who will help raise awareness of climate issues and support environmental projects in their neighbourhoods.

The council also welcomes the jury's recommendations for working with schools. Children and young people have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the planet for their own futures, and the council will help them channel their energy and enthusiasm into local projects, and work with them to develop a Let's Go Zero Schools Network.

The council will also bring together and continue to engage and work with its partners across the borough, such as businesses, large institutions, the NHS, and housing providers, to ensure everyone is working together on common goals.

Each year, as committed to in the action plan, the council will hold an annual climate conference, with the ambition to being able to hold this event in-person in 2022. In addition to the Annual Conference, the council is also planning to launch the Sthwark Sustainability Awards in 2022 to celebrate good practice across the borough.

35.

<b>20. Other (=11<sup>th</sup>)</b>
<b>Incentivizing and enabling fixing and repairs (circular economy):</b>
Southwark Council should lead and set up initiatives that incentivise businesses to operate in a more circular way, reducing consumption, and promoting fixing and mending – leading the charge on helping residents use their 'right to repair'. The council should open fixing centres and repair cafes to reduce waste and incentivise businesses that reduce waste.
Council Response:

The council fully supports this jury recommendation and has a section of the Climate Action Plan dedicated to creating a 'more circular economy'. This includes a series of actions focused on supporting residents to reduce consumption and increase reuse and recycling rates in the borough. Initial work will focus on launching the borough's first Library of Things.

Library of Things is a social enterprise that rents out affordable and useful items like drills, sewing machines and kitchen utensils from local spaces to the community. Established in 2014, they now have nine sites across London including in Greenwich and Bromley. Their central objectives are to reduce waste and carbon emissions and help local residents save money.

The council has reached a funding agreement with Library of Things for an initial site and is exploring a preferred location, with the plan to launch by early 2023. While this is the initial action, the council will also explore the opportunity to expand this programme and how fixing and repair centres may further support residents in the borough to reduce consumption and waste while also saving money.

## **NEXT STEPS**

36. As noted in the report, the recommendations that are being taken forward by the council have been built into the Climate Action Plan, an update on which is being taken in a separate report to Cabinet in July 2022. The council is developing an online dashboard, for reporting of smart actions, which will allow the jury's work to form an important part of a new and regular reporting of progress.
37. The report has also identified a number of other policy documents across the council where the jury's recommendations are relevant, many of which are due to be updated in 2022 and 2023. The Climate Change Team will continue to liaise with colleagues across the council, to ensure the work of the jury is considered more widely than just the Climate Action Plan.
38. The council's upcoming communications and engagement strategy will also set out options for how jury members can remain involved in the council's work, for example through the set-up of local climate champions.

## **Policy framework implications**

39. The recommendations from the jury have been considered and used to update the council's Climate Action Plan. The action plan is a key policy framework, and as such these recommendations will have an impact on the policy framework of the council. Where a recommendation from the jury has direct impact on the Climate Action Plan, the relevant action has

been listed in Appendix A. This also lists other policy documents that overlap, such as the Southwark Plan and Movement Plan.

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

40. Climate change is experienced unequally. Income, race, age, and health status are just some of the factors that can influence how Southwark's people experience climate change. Some people are more susceptible to the contributors and effects of climate change, and others are less able to mitigate against the impacts. The recommendations from the Citizens' Jury provide opportunities to reduce inequality and promote fairness.

### **Climate change implications**

41. The citizens' jury process was commissioned to directly inform the council's work on climate change. The project has been essential in ensuring the input of residents into the update of the council's Climate Action Plan in 2022. This report sets out which of the jury's recommendations have been taken forward, alongside those that either sit within alternative council policies or those that cannot be supported, with a clear rationale.

### **Resource Implications**

42. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **Financial Implications**

43. The Council has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and has invested in excess of £100m in the capital programme. In addition, in February 2021, cabinet approved a capital budget of £25m as part of the council's capital programme to help tackle the Climate Change Emergency.
44. Projects totalling £13m have already been approved but there is a shortfall in available resource to deliver all the recommendations set out by the jury. Where a recommendation is being taken forward the corresponding action in the climate action plan is detailed in Appendix A. The supporting cabinet paper focused on the council's Climate Change Annual Report provides a detail update on whether resource that is in place to deliver each of these actions.
45. A number of additional financial commitments have been made following the completion of the citizens' jury process. This allocates additional funding of £7.5m from the council's climate change capital fund to support priorities made by the jury;
  - a. Funding to improve walking in Southwark: £1m (linked to recommendation 8; Make walking great again)

- b. Green Space Enhancements and Biodiversity Improvements: £1m (linked to recommendations 16; Trees and 17; Green spaces /natural resources)
  - c. Funding to further reduce the council's own emissions: £5m (linked to recommendations 4; Improvements in energy efficiency of housing and 6; Significant reduction in cars)
  - d. A Southwark Community Energy Fund: £400k (linked to recommendation 5; Improve local generation and use of green energy)
  - e. Additional funding for cargo bike expansion: £100k (linked to recommendation 10; Haulage and Freight).
46. Any agreed additional projects and action plans that cannot be contained within existing budgets will be considered as part of the council's budget setting process for both revenue and capital budgets.
47. Officers will also be exploring external and central government funding in contributing towards the council's agenda for tackling the climate change emergency.

### **Legal implications**

48. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report; however, any necessary legal advice should be sought in relation to individual decisions resulting from the ongoing implementation of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

### **Consultation**

49. Extensive engagement and consultation has taken place in relation to the development of the initial climate strategy and action plan. The citizens' jury has been the next step in engagement with residents, allowing a selected group the time, support and expertise to learn about the issue in greater detail. As explained in the report, this detailed engagement work has allowed for the views of residents to be a key consideration in the update of the Climate Action Plan, and the publication of smart actions.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Governance**

50. This report sets out the recommendations arising from the Climate Change Citizens' Jury's deliberations, and includes in part agreements to update the council's current Climate Action Plan and processes relating to this. The council has the statutory authority to produce and update the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan policy in accordance with the powers of general competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

51. The development of a climate change strategy is an executive function of the council which can be considered by the cabinet in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and Part 3B of the council's Constitution.
52. There are no significant legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report, but the Director of Law & Governance and her staff will provide advice to officers on any legal and governance issues arising during the continuing development of the strategy and action plan.
53. The cabinet will need to ensure that the public sector equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010 is considered i.e. to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and to foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and others. Reference is made to this in the "Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts" section above.
54. The jury's deliberations and recommendations are one aspect of consultation by the council in the development of its climate change strategy. The report clearly demonstrates how the council has taken careful note of the recommendations and provides a response for the cabinet to take account of in its further consideration of the council's climate strategy.

#### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (CAP22/017)**

55. This report is requesting cabinet to note the responses to the citizen's jury recommendation on climate change and also approve the amendments to the council's climate change strategy and action plan.
56. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the financial implications in the report and understands that any agreed action plans that cannot be contained within existing budgets will be considered as part of the council's budget setting process for both revenue and capital budgets.
57. It is also noted that officers will also be exploring external and central government funding in contributing towards the council's agenda for tackling the climate change emergency.
58. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Climate Citizens Jury – Receipt of recommendations report	Constitutional Team / Tooley Street	Paula Thornton Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk
<b>Link (please copy and paste into browser):</b> <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s105587/Report%20Climate%20Change%20Citizens%20Jury.pdf">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s105587/Report%20Climate%20Change%20Citizens%20Jury.pdf</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Southwark Climate Change Citizens Jury Recommendations Breakdown

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Helen Dennis, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	John Wade, Head of Traded Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Tom Sharland, Climate Change Programme Lead	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	6 July 2022	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	6 July 2022	