

<b>Item No.</b> 11.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 July 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Climate Emergency Annual Progress Report and Update of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan	
<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**

The most recent report from the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has once again, been another stark warning, that things must change in order to avoid irreversible and damaging climate change. The authors have called for a “decade of action” and this is a call that all of us in positions of leadership and responsibility must heed. At the same time however, there is a glaring gap between global and national targets, and the delivery of the changes required, and at the local level we are having to face up to the reality of huge resourcing gaps which stand between our political ambition to be a carbon-neutral borough by 2030, and our ability to achieve this.

This updated action plan and progress report aims to highlight some of these challenges, providing further detail about timelines and funding for pieces of work as requested by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, whilst also celebrating many of our achievements in Southwark and successful projects to date. Over the last year in the role as lead Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, it has been encouraging to see some really ground-breaking pieces of work near completion – whether that has been the delivery of our Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme programme, installing solar panels and heat pumps into public buildings like our libraries, or the £7m retrofit of district heat networks on the Consort, Newington and Wyndham Estates. We are also ensuring that policies across the Council line up with our climate plans, and I am delighted that our now adopted Southwark Plan has such stretching carbon reduction targets for new developments – both residential and commercial – in our borough.

We know that tackling the Climate Emergency must be a collaborative borough-wide effort, and so that’s why in this updated action plan, we have also sought to draw on the collective wisdom of our recent Citizens’ Jury on Climate Change, as well as integrating new political priorities which will be reflected in our forthcoming Council Delivery Plan. Building on the £13m already allocated from our Climate Capital Fund for work which includes the establishment of a Southwark Schools Decarbonisation Fund, and for the acceleration of LED street lighting across the borough, we are intending to use the limited resources that we do have, to enhance some of those areas that have been prioritised by the

Jury, including through the investment of an additional £1m to improve walking routes across Southwark. Further improvements to parks and green spaces will also be supported through the Climate Capital Fund. And a new Southwark Community Energy Fund will be developed to enable groups to scale up their work locally.

Ultimately, this work must be about improving the lives of people and future generations across our borough. And with all the current pressures on household finances, we must continue to demonstrate that climate action can improve wellbeing for those at the sharp end of the cost of living crisis. As we continue to reflect on where we need to go further, we will be focusing on those things that deliver real and tangible benefits for our residents, including through the creation of 2000 new green jobs, and we will increase our advocacy where that's required – especially in the areas of housing retrofit and the need for public transport investment. And we will also be exploring ways in which we can improve on our community engagement around climate change, building on the work of the Citizen Jury by creating a network of Climate Ambassadors and improving our online communications. I want to thank everyone who has been part of this journey to date, and look forward to continuing this vital work in partnership with you.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Notes the progress made since publication of the previous climate change strategy and action plan in July 2021.
2. Agrees to the publication of the smart action dashboard, as set out in the report, on the council's website, which highlights the extent of delivery across the council but also the significant funding, resource and expertise gap in achieving net zero by 2030.
3. Agrees the approach to reviewing council wide policy and ensuring that climate objectives are built into the council's wider work as standard.
4. Agrees the proposed community engagement approach and associated governance structure, which sets out how the citizens' jury process will be utilised to underpin further resident engagement.
5. Notes the significant amount of revenue and capital funding now allocated in support of the action plan, and agrees to explore every route to attract and maximise additional resources for the Climate Emergency.
6. Agrees to proceed with additional allocations from the Climate Capital Fund to deliver projects in line with the climate action tracker and some priorities set out by the Citizens' Jury.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

7. In July 2021, Southwark Council published its first Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. As part of this, the council promised that it would annually review progress taken towards becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2030.
8. In December 2021, Overview and Scrutiny Committee made a number of recommendations to cabinet. Amongst other points, these recommendations included that the climate action plan should be 'be fully costed, showing clearly what funding is currently available, all sources of potential funding, innovative solutions to be tried, and where gaps remain'. It also recommended that the strategy and action plan be 'aligned with other major Southwark Council policies like the New Southwark Plan, the Waste Strategy, and the Movement Plan'.
9. In March 2022, the council published a response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's report on the strategy and action plan. Within the response, the Council promised to 'revise Southwark's Climate Action Plan to include smart targets throughout, including staged timeline and funding requirements and allocation against each action and policy'. It also promised to 'carry out a review to ensure the alignment and integration of all council policies with the Climate Action Plan.'

## **CITIZENS' JURY**

10. From November 2021 to March 2022, the council ran a Citizens' Jury focused on climate change, with the aim of supporting the update of its Climate Action Plan. Made up of 25 residents with a broad range of views and experiences, the group was brought together to respond to the question; *'what needs to change in Southwark to tackle the emergency of climate change fairly and effectively for people and nature?'*
11. During the sessions, jurors heard from a range of expert commentators on climate change and had an opportunity to question the commentators, share opinions with each other, and ultimately reach a set of recommendations on how Southwark can best reduce emissions across the borough.
12. The jury formed a total of 20 recommendations in response to the central question, tackling themes such as housing, transport and business. As part of this process, the council promised to align the climate action plan with the recommendations set out by the jury where feasible. The council has therefore reviewed all actions within the climate action plan against the jury's recommendation, to align priorities where possible and ensure the council's work reflects the priorities set out by the jury.
13. This has resulted in a number of new actions being added to the climate action plan, or changes in wording to better reflect the jury's proposals. There were also actions that better aligned with other council policies, and

some that the council has limited influence over or cannot take forward. The council has responded in full to the recommendations of the Climate Change Citizens' Jury in an adjoining report also being considered by Cabinet in July 2022.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

14. The council is committed to improving its reporting of progress on climate change related projects. This report provides and update on recent progress in the last 12 months, updated carbon emissions data and a full list of smart (specific, measureable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) climate actions. In order to ensure the information is publically accessible, alongside this report, the climate change pages on the council's website will be refreshed, to allow clearer and more transparent reporting of progress, sharing of best practice and information on what residents can do to lower their own emissions.

### **Projects delivered to date**

15. Since July 2021, considerable progress has been made in our approach to the climate emergency. On internal procedures and engagement, the council has done the following:
  - Resulting from a constitutional change, embedded climate change 'concurrent' in all reports, ensuring that due thought is given to the impacts of all decisions taken by the council on emissions.
  - Set up internal governance structures (at an officer and director level) to oversee the delivery of our climate action plan.
  - Set up key funding streams to develop new carbon-saving projects, through the Green Buildings Fund and the Climate Capital Fund.
  - Established a baseline budget to support a permanent Climate Change Team.
  - Updated existing policies across the council to reflect the climate action plan.
  - Overseen the running of a Citizens' Jury, which produced a report that has been fully considered in our updated action plan.
16. We have also seen significant progress in the projects and schemes rolled out to reduce carbon emissions and protect biodiversity in the borough. This includes:
  - Significant retrofit on council-owned buildings such as offices, libraries and youth centres, including LED installation, solar PV on nine new sites, air-source heat pumps, glazing improvements and insulation upgrades.
  - Introduced a diesel surcharge and ongoing delivery of electric vehicle (EV) charging (nearly 400 charge points in total), including new charge points at council buildings on Tooley Street and Queens Road.

- Surpassed the target of planting 10,000 trees by 2022 and significantly expanded our Allotment Guarantee, with 108 new allotment plots created on estates.
- Secured funding with adjacent boroughs to establish a Green Skills Hub at London South Bank University.
- £16 million of funding secured to bring a low-carbon heat network to a new area of Southwark, expected to deliver on average 11,100 tonnes of carbon savings each year.
- Allocated an additional £2.18 million of funding to accelerate plans to switch all street lighting to LED, cutting carbon emissions in half.
- Publication of the Southwark Plan, which supports the creation of 58,000 new jobs, as part of a green new deal for the borough. It also designates 22 new sites of importance for nature conservation and brings forward stretching targets for the reduction of on-site carbon emissions, going beyond the London Plan.
- A reduction of 50% of carbon emissions from our pension fund at the end of September 2021, compared with those at March 2017. This is part of our overall aim of reaching net zero carbon in our pension fund by 2030.
- All 10 Southwark Streetspace schemes have been made permanent, reducing traffic and promoting more active travel.

### **Projects delivered in the next 12 months**

17. All of our actions are detailed within the climate action plan, which included in the Appendix 1 of this report. Below are some of the projects that are part of that action plan, which will be delivered in the next 12 months:

- Feasibility assessments to be completed for worst-performing operational council buildings, with future projects totaling £8.7million
- Roof insulation in properties identified by Warmfront will be completed
- Exemplary pilot schemes to be developed on site in Ann Moss Way and the Tustin Estate
- Completion of heat pumps project currently on site at the Consort, Newington and Wyndham estates. Between these three sites, heat will be supplied to 2,175 properties
- On track to have 500 cycle hangars installed by summer 2022
- Initial scoping meeting held to develop terms of reference for schools climate network
- Implementation of new Pesticide Policy adopted across the council
- Launch the green strand of the Pioneers Fund to support local businesses to take climate action
- Delivery of the Lost Peck Flood Alleviation Project, with £1.77m in funding support from the Environment Agency
- Pilot projects progressed at Brunswick Park Primary School and Crampton Primary Schools, converting heating systems to air source heat pumps

18. In addition, the administration is setting out its priorities for the council term through the forthcoming Council Delivery Plan. Among other things, this will include additional actions to tackle the Climate Emergency such as:
- Establishing a Southwark Green Finance initiative to maximize the resources available for climate action
  - Halving the Council's operational emissions again
  - Rolling out an ambitious programme to upgrade heating and insulation on our council homes
  - Establishing a Southwark Green Homes Advice Service
  - Creating 2000 additional green jobs
  - Working for Southwark to be the first inner London borough to have at least 100,000 trees
  - Doubling the number of cycle hangars again and offering free cycle lessons to residents
  - Delivering 1000 more EV charging points

### **Smart actions**

19. To ensure clear ownership of actions, set achievable milestones and track the progress on our actions going forward, the council has also developed a 'smart' action tracker (Appendix 1). An accessible, online version of this tracker is being developed and will be published on the council's climate change webpages. In publishing these actions online, the council can ensure that information on progress is available to all. Actions can also be updated to reflect the latest progress on an ongoing basis, rather than waiting for annual reporting cycles. New actions will be added as identified on an ongoing basis.
20. As detailed in the adjoining Cabinet paper on the Citizens' Jury, progress against the jury's recommendations will also be tracked via the smart action tracker, rather than creating a separate process for reporting. Numerous recommendations from the jury were already included in the council's work. There are also several reworded or entirely new actions that have been added to the council's climate action plan in response to the jury's work, alongside a small number of jury recommendations that have not been taken forward at this time.

### **Delivery challenges for our 2030 commitment**

21. As outlined in the Climate Change Strategy (2021), there are significant challenges that need to be addressed if we are to reach our carbon neutral target by 2030. Firstly, a considerable funding gap must be closed if we are to progress towards net zero carbon. For example, the cost of building retrofit required to upgrade our council housing stock and beyond that, the huge scale of change required across the private building stock. Resources that are being made available centrally, such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, often have short time-frames and require local authorities, all of whom must respond to the Climate Emergency, to bid against one another for a relatively small pot of funding.

22. In the current context, transport funding is also a particular challenge. The lack of a long-term funding settlement for TfL is creating a huge amount of risk and uncertainty around the resources available for public transport, active travel and infrastructure to support the climate strategy and action plan.
23. Secondly, there is a shortfall of expertise, skills and knowledge in the market place, around key areas such as retrofit, to deliver the ambition of being carbon neutral by 2030.
24. Thirdly, we will need additional staffing resource in the council to deliver the actions and to work with and engage with partners. The challenge around our annual budget settlement is well known, with the council having lost the equivalent of 63p in every £1 of grant funding from central government since 2010.

### **How we are responding to those challenges**

25. On the financial gap, we are continuing to support our project delivery through the Climate Capital Fund and the Green Buildings Fund. A total of £13m has already been allocated from the Climate Capital Fund, this report sets out the next tranche of funding to be allocated from this funding stream:
  - Funding to improve walking in Southwark: £1m
  - Green space enhancements and biodiversity improvements: £1m
  - Funding to further reduce the council's own emissions: £5m
  - A Southwark Community Energy Fund: £400k
  - Additional funding for cargo bike expansion: £100k
26. The council is also developing the first Green Buildings Fund proposals, which will to be presented to Planning Committee later this year.
27. On top of this, the council will continue to seek government funding, building on its successful delivery of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme project, and consider other additional sources including through a Southwark Green Finance initiative. The council will expand its lobbying of national government for crucial funding such as building retrofit, where there is a significant gap in the council's funds.
28. On skills and resources, the council is already working with other local authorities to develop a Green Skills Academy at LSBU and to enhance work around retrofit. Internally, our Southwark Construction initiative will also play a leading role in developing green skills.
29. On additional internal resources, the council will focus on those priority actions within the climate action plan where additional resource has been identified as a barrier to delivery and will explore how to effectively bridge the resourcing gap.

## **Data**

30. Following on from an initial assessment of emissions as part of the Climate Change Strategy in 2021, the council has recommissioned an assessment of emissions based on more recent data. This report is contained with Appendix 2 and covers an assessment of both the council's own emissions and wider emissions for the borough as a whole.
31. The council's own emissions were analysed using data from 20/21, covering the council's buildings and vehicles (primarily scope 1 and 2 emissions) and the council's procurement (scope 3). In total the council emitted 415 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e, with procurement accounting for 84% of total emissions. While emissions have decreased from the data included in last year's report (19/20 data), it should be noted that this more recent assessment coincides with a number of coronavirus restrictions, such as enforced home working, which will have impacted on reducing energy use in operational buildings, while increasing energy use at home.
32. Emissions under the council's direct control, scope 1, were once again dominated by buildings, with the main emitters highlighted in Appendix 2. Council housing is responsible for over 90% of these emissions and the borough's climate action plan has a number of actions that focus on addressing this issue as a priority.
33. The remaining operational emissions (including schools and vehicle fleet) are the focus of the council's target to halve emissions again by 2026, an action detailed within the climate action plan. Leisure centres have been included in the data provided, given their upcoming return to council management and therefore the need to address the emissions generated by these buildings as a priority.
34. Appendix 2 also details the methodology used for analysing borough wide emissions, which were also led by buildings (75%) and transport (18%). This assessment of data from 2019, also shows a decrease in emissions from those presented last year (using 2017 data). However, the council will continue to strengthen this analysis as new, more recent data sets become available, to understand trends and how this should inform priorities within the climate action plan.
35. The emissions analysis list the assumptions used to generate the data alongside guidance for future reporting, as the council will be undertaking more of the analysis directly in future years.

## **Communications and engagement**

36. For Southwark to achieve its bold ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030, the whole borough needs to work together, to change the way we live our lives and run our businesses. The council has a leadership role in supporting this work, but we know our communities, businesses and partner organisations will have their own ideas and solutions for helping the

environment and reducing carbon emissions. Through effective communication and engagement as set out in a comprehensive communications and engagement strategy, the council will:

37. **Inform** – The work of the citizen’s jury showed 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. Through council channels, voluntary and community organisations, business networks, schools and colleges, we 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 we are collectively making, and what others are doing.
38. **Influence** – To do everything we want to do as a borough, we need national policy change, and additional government funding. We will continue to work with local councillors, MPs, London Councils, the GLA and campaign groups to exert our collective influence on national decision-makers to bring about positive change. From financing the retrofitting of tower blocks to helping residents insulate their homes, we will press for what Southwark needs to become carbon neutral.
39. **Engage** – We know local people hold the solutions to many of the challenges we collectively face, whether it’s through shared activities like community gardening to reduce air miles and supermarket packaging, or individual actions like reducing car use.
40. We will work with our 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.
41. Children and young people have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the planet for their own futures, and we want to help them channel their energy and enthusiasm into local projects, and work with them to develop a Let’s Go Zero Schools Network.
42. We will also bring together and continue to engage and work with our partners across the borough, such as businesses, large institutions, the NHS, and housing providers, to ensure we are all working together on our common goals. In addition to our Annual Conference, we are also planning to launch the Southwark Sustainability Awards in 2022 to celebrate good practice across the borough.
43. We will connect with campaigners and activists across the Southwark, and establish a regular pattern of meetings, to ensure that we are listening to concerns and challenging ourselves to be as ambitious as possible.

### **Policy framework implications**

44. The council will also ensure that internal policies align with our climate change strategy, including refreshed versions of our Southwark Nature

Action Plan, Air Quality Action Plan, Movement Plan, and Economic Wellbeing Strategy. This is shown in our policy tracker, which can be found in Appendix 3. The policy tracker is a result of a review of key policies across the council, and we will continue to update this to reflect how these policies are being aligned with our climate goals.

45. The council will also develop an Adaptation Strategy, focussing on how to best prepare the borough for the impacts of climate change. This will build on work already taking place on climate change mitigation, such as our Local Flood Mitigation Strategy.

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

### **Community impact statement**

46. The evolving communications and engagement plan on climate change will reaffirm our commitment to engagement, empowerment and education, and working with all our residents is essential to our success. As set out in the climate strategy, we will particularly focus on groups who are traditionally under represented and ensure that our work reflects the aspirations and concerns of our residents.
47. The council is committed to the values of a fairer future for all, and as detailed in this report is committed to narrowing social inequality and injustice. This has been a key consideration of the development of the council's communications and engagement plan on climate change.

### **Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement**

48. While everyone is affected by climate change, the extent of that impact is not equal. Climate change has the biggest impact on those who are poorer or have underlying health conditions. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic residents are disproportionately affected. Social justice is central to our approach including maximising the co-benefits of action and ensuring that climate change policy reduces inequality and promotes fairness. Recognising the inequality in the climate emergency, we are aiming to engage with the broadest section of the borough so that those who are most affected are able to share their views about the solutions. This has initially been realised through the work of the citizens' jury.

### **Health impact statement**

49. Action towards climate change can promote improvements in health, for example by reducing pollution, mitigating against extreme temperatures, and encouraging active travel.

### **Climate change implications**

50. This report directly addresses how the council is continuing to focus on climate change within its work, ensuring it underpins all we do as a council.

The report demonstrates the progress and improvements made over the last 12 months, since the publication of the council's initial climate change strategy and action plan, while also recognising that further work is needed, at pace, to ensure progress towards the 2030 target.

### **Resource implications**

51. The climate action plan sets out where resource is an issue for the council in delivering the stated actions. As detailed above, we will explore how to effectively close the resource gaps in key areas to allow delivery of actions.

### **Legal implications**

52. 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.

### **Financial implications**

53. 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.
54. Projects totalling £13m have already been approved and additional projects costing £7.5m are also being proposed for approval to prioritise key actions within the council's climate action plan, aligning with a number of recommendations as set out by the climate change citizens' jury.
55. 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.
56. Officers will also be exploring external and central government funding in contributing towards the council's agenda for climate change.
57. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **Consultation**

58. Full consultation was carried out prior to the publication of the initial Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan in July 2021. The focus of resident engagement since that point has been the undertaking of a climate change citizens' jury, as detailed within this report. The work of the jury has directly influenced the refresh of the climate action plan and the smartening of the actions contained within.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

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

59. The council has the statutory authority to produce this policy in accordance with the powers of general competence in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. In order to achieve best value it is advisable to review the progress of such policies.
60. The cabinet will need to ensure that the public sector equality duty in section 149 Equality Act 2010 is considered in developing and finalising this policy 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. The report recognises the potentially disproportionate impact of climate change on those with protected characteristics and particularly refers to this in the community impact section above. Consideration has been given to ensuring that those with protected characteristics can appropriately engage in the consultation process. It is noted that a full equalities analysis will be produced to be considered by the cabinet when it finally determines the climate strategy after the consultation.
61. The development and review of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan is an executive function of the Council which can be considered by the cabinet in accordance with Part 3B of the council's Constitution.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (CAP22/016)**

62. This report is requesting cabinet to note the Council's Climate Emergency Annual Progress Report and provide an update of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan
63. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the financial implications in the report and understands any proposed action plan that cannot be contained within existing revenue and capital resources will be considered as part of the council's budget setting process for revenue and capital.
64. The strategic director of finance and governance also notes that officers will be exploring external and central government funding in contributing towards the council's agenda for tackling climate change emergency.
65. Officers' time and any other costs associated with this recommendation to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Response to overview and scrutiny committee on climate strategy and action plan	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/s105588/Report%20Response%20to%20the%20OSC%20report%20-%20Southwarks%20Climate%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan.pdf">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s105588/Report%20Response%20to%20the%20OSC%20report%20-%20Southwarks%20Climate%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan.pdf</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Climate Action Plan
Appendix 2	Emissions Report
Appendix 3	Policy Tracker

## 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