

Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Climate Strategy – progress update

24th September 2019

Prepared by:

Stuart Robinson-Marshall
Head of Sustainability & Business Development
Environment & Leisure

1. Summary

This briefing note summarises the progress made since the first Southwark Climate Emergency Summit which took place on 1st July 2019, and sets out a proposal and roadmap for the development of a Southwark Climate Strategy.

2. Background - the summit.

On the 1st July 2019, Southwark hosted its first Climate Emergency Summit in response to the declaration by Council Assembly to declare a climate emergency on 27th March 2019:

- Council assembly resolved to call on cabinet to declare a Climate Emergency and do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.
- Develop a strategy, working with local stakeholders, to ensure that the council becomes carbon neutral at a much more rapid pace than currently envisaged.
- This Carbon Reduction Strategy should aim to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 if feasible.
- This strategy should be clear in its targets and resources required.
- It should also be developed in a way that is sufficiently flexible to make best use of new carbon reduction technologies as they develop.
- Call on other London boroughs to also work towards carbon neutrality by 2030.
- Lobby government to provide the power and resources to the Mayor of London and local authorities to accelerate the pace of carbon reduction.
- Lobby the government to take radical steps to divest away from fossil fuels, invest in new technologies to make innovative approaches such as carbon sequestering possible, and reduce the UK's reliance on greenhouse gases.

The summit agreed that the next steps towards developing a response to the emergency would be:

- That another meeting would be held in the autumn to look at the next steps and a draft carbon reduction plan.
- There was a need for further and extensive consultation with residents and stakeholders – it was agreed that officers would develop this as part of the strategy
- It was agreed that a formal consultative group would be formed, and that governance arrangements developed.

The proposals intended to deliver these steps are set out in this report, along with an outline plan for the development of a long term Southwark Climate Strategy to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

3. Background - outline position

The targets set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration are challenging. To deliver these will require a significant change to the way the Council, business and everyone living and working in Southwark operates. This is also in the context of delivering an accelerated process 20 years in advance of the current London plan's target of 2050.

Based on our previous baseline targets from 2008 and the data available, Council activity represents about 16% of Carbon Production in the borough, including from our own housing stock.

The direct implication of this is that we cannot achieve a Carbon Neutral Borough in isolation, but only through developing strong partnerships, shared agendas, agreed actions and structures that encourage behaviour change.

4. London wide context

Currently 21 London Boroughs have declared some variety of climate emergencies, with a range of targets from making only their own operations carbon neutral, to whole borough plans and with a wide range of targets from 2025 to 2040.

A number of cross borough groups are focusing on these issues including the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNET), the London Chief Executive Network (CELC) and London Councils has formed a Climate Change Officers Group. Southwark has engaged with all these forums as well as with the GLA in order to coordinate activity. We have also made direct contact with our nearest neighbouring boroughs in order discuss coordinating activity, particularly around data collection and analysis

Within this we are scoping and exploring a dense network of technical and specialist forums that will assist us with delivering our aims in areas such as transport, housing, business and energy.

5. Existing data, plans and targets

Our previous carbon reduction strategy was based on our 2008 baseline. This was a requirement of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC): this scheme has now ended. The borough wide baseline figures was extracted from existing data published by the department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) around energy, climate change, energy efficiency and fuel poverty, as well as the London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI) and other sources.

Our current Carbon Reduction Strategy has ended with the CRC scheme and there is a need to refresh and replace this strategy in line with the climate emergency and our new targets. Although many of the actions within the strategy are likely to be similar to those taken forward, they need to be looked at in the context of achieving carbon neutrality.

We have been working towards the Council target of reducing the emissions from our own operations by 50% by 2022, based on our existing CRC baselines. The 2008 CO2 baseline taken for the CRC was 41,306 tonnes per year. Against the same baseline, the figure for 2017-18 was 25961 tonnes. This is a 36.7% reduction on 2008 and work is ongoing. We have largely achieved this through a mixture of energy efficiency, building improvements and capital investments and the consolidation of accommodation.

6. Proposed activity

In order to becoming a carbon neutral borough there are a number of key principles and activities that need to be adopted and delivered:

6.1. **Data:** our current data set is out of date, and there have been significant changes in the borough and across London in terms of population, regeneration and infrastructure. New baseline data is required in order to assess the scale of the challenge, identify the most effective areas to target and set effective targets.

6.2. **Activity:** Although significant progress has been made in respect of carbon reduction and wider sustainability concerns by the council and partners, such activity is not necessarily as well coordinated or recorded as it could be. In line with the data baselining, a detailed analysis of the current activity in the borough needs to be carried out, and challenges and opportunities identified. Some examples of current and activity within scope are:

- Air quality action plan
- Development of a Southwark plastics strategy
- Staff travel strategy
- Sustainable fleet improvements
- Consolidation of depots
- Heat mapping and energy networks
- Divestment of pension funds from Fossil Fuels
- Public health strategies and action

6.3. **Organisation:** Although the activity assessment (6.2) will inform the structure of the strategy and future delivery areas, it is recognised that current Council activities in this area are not coordinated in a centralised manner, and that there is no overarching structure or reporting mechanism to do this. An initial proposal for such an organisational approach is set out in paragraph 8 along with likely works areas in order to develop the strategy.

6.4. **Resourcing:** Local government continues to face pressure on its resources. The delivery of this strategy will require the utilisation of existing resources, the identification of external funding, and the maximising of match funding arrangements. A realistic appraisal of the resources required for delivering carbon

neutrality will need to be carried out as part of the initial strategy production and resources will need to be matched to ambition.

- 6.5. **Partnerships and networks:** as set out in paragraph 4, there are a number of new pan-London and national networks that are now focusing on climate activity. Equally, there are existing networks and stakeholder groups that will have a key role to play in shaping our strategy and delivery for the next decade. An scoping and engagement exercise will be carried out with all existing networks and in order to integrate Southwark's activity into the wider field, share and develop best practice and shape the delivery of the strategy new partnerships will need to be developed with the private sector, housing providers, public sector partners and voluntary and community groups.
- 6.6. **Consultation:** Southwark cannot respond to the emergency alone and the climate emergency impacts on all residents and activities within the borough. It is therefore planned to carry out an extensive consultation exercise within the borough early in 2020 in order to give everyone with the borough an opportunity to shape the future strategy and ensure we are meeting the needs of residents and stakeholders. It is also proposed to have a partnership group within the ongoing governance structure to ensure the voices of residents are heard and continue to shape activity.
- 6.7. **Legislative landscape:** broadly speaking, current legislation does not support, or does not go far enough, to help deliver the likely aims of our Climate Strategy. We are working within local networks and with partners to achieve a consensus on key legislative changes that may be required, what potential incentives would be effective and removing key policy barriers.

7. A Climate Strategy for Southwark

Based on the above areas of focus it is proposed that Southwark develop a single, overarching Southwark Climate Strategy 2020-2030 to act as a response to the emergency and set out our plan, activities, milestones and targets for the next decade. This will be developed in conjunction with residents and partners following consultation.

8. Proposed governance

The development of such a strategy is complex and potentially touches on all aspects of life within the borough. As such the level of involvement and consultation from council departments, partners and consultative groups needs to be extensive. A governance framework is set out in appendix 1. The board aims of the boards are:

- **Partnerships steering group:** this is intended to be a broad, borough wide group which will include key members, partners, businesses, cultural organisations, national action groups and local groups, and it will have a steering role and be informed by the delivery board.

- **Strategic steering group:** this is an officer led group, with representatives from across the council. It will have a steering role (jointly with the partnerships group) and be informed by the detailed work of the delivery and coordination group.
- **Delivery and coordination group:** will deliver the strategic outcomes of the steering group across a series of workstreams – coordinating and bringing together established areas of activity as well as the new and emerging themes within the strategy.
- **Workstreams:** each Workstream will be led by a senior officer and report back to the delivery and coordination board. The initial areas of workstream activity are proposed to be:
 - Housing and new homes
 - Public realm and adaptation
 - Planning and regulation
 - Regeneration and development
 - Waste minimisation and plastics
 - Transport
 - Energy and facilities
 - Businesses
 - Green space and biodiversity
 - Data, commissioning, procurement and monitoring
 - Engagement and consultation
 - Communications

9. Project mobilisation

September 2019

- Draft governance structure proposed to COT for comments - complete
- Revision of governance following feedback - complete
- Formation of strategic steering group
- Drafting of terms of reference and scope for the overall project
- Identification of members for the partnership steering group

October 2019

- Climate strategy proposal taken to Scrutiny committee, and feedback incorporated into plan.
- Climate Strategy proposal to Cabinet
- Initial meeting of strategic steering group
- Start of data collection and strategy reviews
- Identification of members for the partnership steering group
- Workstream leads identified and scope produced
- Workstreams set up

November 2019

- Initial meeting of Partnership steering group
- Design work for consultation
- Best practice review

January 2020

- Consultation approach designed

February 2020

- Draft performance framework and baseline data
- Draft Southwark Climate Strategy

March 2020 – May 2020

- Consultation with residents, partners and stakeholders

June 2020

- Final draft of Southwark Climate Strategy incorporating consultation outcomes
- Climate Strategy to Cabinet for approval

July 2020

- Climate event

Appendix 1: Southwark Climate Strategy – Proposed governance structure

