

## **Delivering a climate strategy for Southwark – update**

This report sets out progress that has been made in response to the climate emergency. It sets out the values that the council will adopt to develop a strategy and the draft structure of the report. It also sets an engagement approach.

Since the publication of this report, the situation with Coronavirus has been changing rapidly. Some details in this report therefore need to be amended in light of this pandemic. Details are set out below.

Borough Conference (paragraph 32). This has been postponed. The Leader of the Council issued a press statement on 13 March 2020 which said “The conference will be rescheduled at the first opportunity. The decision to postpone will not delay plans to develop a Climate Emergency strategy by July.”

Engagement (paragraphs 33-34). The situation with coronavirus is changing rapidly, but it is likely that it will not be possible to do any face to face engagement, and that it will not be possible to convene groups. Officers plan to continue to progress with writing the strategy and bring it to July Cabinet as set out in the report. However, it will be necessary to have more limited public engagement.

Officers are preparing the online engagement portal so that the public can engage on this, and will also be speaking with key interest groups in the borough. However, it is anticipated that engagement will be limited before July.

As engagement is central to this strategy, officers are recommending that the council instead conducts the majority of its engagement after publication, in line with the values and approach set out in the report. Officers are asking cabinet to agree the report, including the approach to engagement, but that they can adapt engagement as necessary due coronavirus, and do this in consultation with the Cabinet Member.

### **Additional Recommendation for Cabinet**

4. That Cabinet notes the additional officer advice, attached to this report and agrees that officers, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport and the Climate Emergency, make necessary changes to the engagement process due to the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.

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