

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	26 June 2014
Subject:	Climate Change and Delivering Warmer Homes Strategy - Officer's response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee queries
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Caroline Bruce, Corporate Director of Environment and Enterprise
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Varsha Parmar, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Crime and Community Safety
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A – Comments/Recommendations from Scrutiny Committee and Officers' Response

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report summarises the 18th March 2014 Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments on the Climate Change and Delivering Warmer Homes Strategy Action and provides officers' responses to queries raised.

Recommendations:

1. Note the officer responses to the queries raised by Overview and Scrutiny on 18 March 2014.

Reason: (For recommendation)

To ensure continued progress in delivery of the council's climate change strategy and the target to reduce carbon emissions.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The revised climate change strategy Action Plan was adopted in March 2013 and was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 March 2014. The queries raised by the Committee were presented to Cabinet on 10th April 2014.

The outstanding responses to these queries are given in this report at Appendix A.

Options considered

No further options are considered at this stage.

Legal Implications

The Council has a range of legal obligations aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change. This includes participation in the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (previously Carbon Reduction Commitment) pursuant to the Climate Change Act 2008, and through its role as the lead local flood authority, co-ordinating flood risk management for the area in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Financial Implications

The delivery of Affordable Warmth programme continues to be funded from external funding where available, whilst internal funding opportunities via Public Health budgets will be explored and any provision will be decided by CH&W directorate.

A range of energy efficiency projects have been included in the 2014/15 capital programme. These capital budgets have been agreed and will enable the Council to invest in its buildings and infrastructure to reduce future energy consumptions and to mitigate the effect of rising energy prices.

Performance Issues

The Climate Change Action Plan sets out performance targets. This report is specifically addressing the queries raised by Overview and Scrutiny and general performance issues related to the queries are discussed at Appendix A.

Environmental Impact

The Climate Change strategy addresses the following policy areas:

- Planning and Development
- Transport
- Water and Flooding
- Waste
- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- The Council's Footprint
- Delivering Warmer Homes (HECA)

The strategy aims to protect and enhance the environmental impact of each of these areas.

Risk Management Implications

No separate risk management implications identified.

Equalities implications

The Climate Change strategy and Delivering Warmer Homes strategy include a wide ranging set of activities and specific Equality Impact Assessments will need to be carried out in relation to items identified in the Action Plans prior to implementation.

Corporate Priorities

- Climate change is a key environmental issue. Failure to act and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels will lead to increasingly severe impacts on our lives and those of future generations.
- Rising fuel costs mean that our residents face increasingly difficult choices about heating their homes, and more people's lives are affected by fuel poverty. Living in cold homes affects the health and well-being of people and adversely affects educational attainment of children. We aim to help all residents to reduce their energy use and

will particularly target help to vulnerable people. This supports our Corporate Priorities of making a difference for the vulnerable and making a difference for families.

- We aim to lead by example in reducing our carbon emissions – with the main focus of our climate change strategy being to reduce the carbon emissions from our own estate by 4% a year and reduce our running costs. Through achieving this we will be able to share best practice with local businesses and exemplify that changes can be made to save money, protect the environment and increase efficiency. This supports our Corporate Priority of making a difference for local businesses.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jessie Man	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28 May 2014		
Name: Matthew Adams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 28 May 2014		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Solakha Lal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Strategic Commissioning
Date: 28 May 2014		

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Hanif Islam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Corporate Director (Environment & Enterprise)
Date: 28 May 2014		

Ward Councillors notified:

NO

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Hanif Islam, Policy Manager, Environment & Enterprise, 020 8424 1548

Background Papers:

Overview and Scrutiny Report, 18 March 2014:

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g61507/Public%20reports%20pack%20Tuesday%2018-Mar-2014%2019.30%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

Cabinet Report 10 April 2014:

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/documents/g61438/Public%20reports%20pack%20Thursday%2010-Apr-2014%2018.30%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Climate Change Strategy Action Plan:

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/100006/environment/1035/climate_change-policies_strategies_and_commitments

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE

*[Call-in does not apply as the
decision is for noting]*