
REPORT FOR: CABINET

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| Date of Meeting: | January 17 th , 2019 |
| Subject: | Climate Change Strategy |
| Key Decision: | Yes, as it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of two or more wards of the Borough. |
| Responsible Officer: | Paul Walker, Corporate Director Community |
| Portfolio Holder: | CLr Varsha Parmar – Portfolio Holder for Environment |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | Yes |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1- Climate Change Strategy - incorporating Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plans Appendix 2 –Equalities Impact Assessment |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Strategy 2019-2024 and the associated Air Quality Management and Climate Change Action Plans.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Approve the Climate Change Strategy incorporating the Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plans;
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Community in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment to finalise and implement the actions required to deliver the strategy and the related plans.

Reason: (For recommendations)

To ensure the Council has a framework within which to address issues affecting climate change and air quality.

Section 2 – Report

2.1. This report seeks Cabinet approval for the Climate Change Strategy to provide a framework within which the Council can undertake actions at a local level to address what is in fact a global issue. Climate change is happening because of an increase in greenhouse gases – predominantly carbon dioxide – caused by human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and reliance on landfill. The greenhouse effect occurs when gases trap the sun's energy and warm the planet. The main gas which causes this effect is carbon dioxide, (CO₂).

2.2. Using fossil fuels is unsustainable as they are finite resources and will eventually run out. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and this is a significant driver behind climate change. Economically, fossil fuels such as oil and gas will also increase in price as world demand increases and capacity either lags behind or falls. Changes in the way we source energy are therefore inevitable and we also need to prepare for a future where fossil fuel is expensive and its use restricted.

2.3. Air Quality is a key aspect of meeting climate change objectives as clean air is essential for people's health, the environment and to improve living standards as poor air quality can affect health at all stages of life.

2.4. The Climate Change Strategy at Appendix 1 incorporates both the Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plans which sets out the key tasks and

activities to be undertaken. These actions have been developed to ensure the Council acts in accordance with the following:

- The Mayor of London Environment Strategy, published in May 2018 and which aims for London to be zero carbon by 2050. The high level objectives include :
 - Decarbonize London's homes and work while protecting the most vulnerable by tackling fuel poverty.
 - Develop clean and smart, integrated energy systems using local and renewable energy sources.
 - Deliver a zero emission transport network by 2050.
- The Climate Change Act of 2008¹ which legally obliges the UK government to reduce carbon levels from 1990 levels, by 80% by 2050 with an interim target of a 57% reduction by 2032.
- The Nottingham Declaration signed by the Council in July 2007 wherein the Council acknowledged "that evidence shows that climate change is occurring and will continue to have far reaching effect on the UK's people, places, society and environment".
- The Climate Change Local Commitment from the Local Government Association signed by the Council in March 2013 and used as the opportunity to reiterate /reinvigorate our existing commitments and the previous climate change action plan.
- The Paris Climate Change Agreement 2015 which was ratified by the UK government in November 2016.
- Clean Air Strategy May 2018, which sets a direction for the country's future air quality policies and goals. This strategy is currently under review and will be published by March 2019. The proposal considers air pollution as the fourth biggest threat to public health after cancer, obesity and heart disease.

2.5. The Council's average utility bills for gas, electricity and water are over £4.5 million pa. This includes schools, housing and street lighting. By reducing the Council's energy demands by 4% a saving of £160,000 - 180,000 pa, can be achieved. This would be equivalent to saving 990 tonnes of emissions a year, which helps improve air quality across the Borough.

2.6. The Climate Change Strategy in Appendix 1 also sets out some external funding sources to which bids will be submitted to seek support for some initiatives. This strategy is necessary to support future funding bids.

2.7 The action plans have been allocated to the relevant area of service for whom the tasks are part of core functions. These services includes , but is not limited to:

- Energy Management and Building Operation
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- Domestic Energy
- Transport and Air quality
- Planning and Development
- Water and Flooding
- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- Waste Management

2.8 Management and overall control is with the Community Directorate as Corporate Landlord with responsibility for the Council's progress against relevant climate change and carbon reduction targets. Some proposed actions to note include:

- Energy efficiency improvements in buildings including schools where there is agreement to insert solar panels.
- Making improvements to transport infrastructure to encourage more sustainable travel and reduce reliance on private vehicles. There is an externally funded initiative underway re the use of electric vehicles and the provision of the charging infrastructure across the borough;
- Installation of digital air quality monitoring equipment as part of the upgrade of the CCTV infrastructure
- Sustainable planning and development, ensuring new developments are highly efficient and incorporate low carbon heating solutions. This is being applied across current capital refurbishment and building projects;
- Waste minimisation activities as part of the Waste Review and aimed at reducing waste generation and also increasing recycling rates;
- Raising awareness of sustainability and pro-environmental options amongst Harrow residents and businesses.

3 Options considered

3.1 The following options were considered:

- Do nothing – this was discounted as the Council needs a framework within which to support climate change and air quality improvement activities.
- Develop and implement the Climate Change Strategy and the related action plans. This is the option that has been undertaken.

4 Risk Management Implications

There is a risk in not having a Climate Change Strategy as it prevents the implementation of actions to address this issue including actions to address air quality matters.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? Yes

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| N/A |
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5 Procurement Implications

Any procurement arising out of this strategy will follow the required procurement guidelines and the council's scheme of delegation with reports to the relevant procurement boards.

6 Legal Implications

The Climate Change Strategy attached to this report at Appendix 1, sets out the Council's local targets which are consistent with UK and EU climate control requirements and commitments

7 Financial Implications

The proposed actions to implement the Climate Change Strategy are detailed in Appendix 1 and consist of various activities being undertaken by service areas across Community directorate. The revenue activities will be delivered as part of the core function of the services and therefore do not result in any additional financial implications. Where capital investment is required, the actions will be implemented using budgets already allocated in the agreed Capital Programme, for example, Carbon Reduction, Street Lighting, Local Implementation Plan (TfL funded), Schools capital maintenance and Green Grid. External funding sources will also be sought to support the delivery of some of the actions. These works will only be undertaken subject to successful funding bids.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no equalities Implication to this decision.

Council Priorities

Making a difference for communities:

a) Reducing our energy demands and also impact of climate change, could bring a range of benefits to Harrow residents, businesses and public sector with improved health across the borough.

b) Harrow's central energy purchasing policy allows Harrow state schools and housing leaseholders to benefit from lower gas and electricity prices.

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The proposals meet the Council's priorities and the Harrow Ambition Plan in terms of looking after the vulnerable, the community and being more business like.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

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| Name: ...Jessie Mann..... | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the * Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: January 9 th , 2019 | | |
| Name: Sarah Inverary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the * Monitoring Officer |
| Date: ...January 9 th , 2019. | | |

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Section 3 - Procurement Officer Clearance

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| Name: Nimesh Mehta | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Head of Procurement |
| Date: 9 th January 2019 | | |

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| Ward Councillors notified: | NO*, as it impacts on all Wards |
| EqIA carried out: | Yes |
| EqIA cleared by: | David Corby |

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Venetia Reid-Baptiste- Divisional Director-
Commissioning and Commercial Services.
Phone: Ext 2492 Email- venetia.reid-baptiste@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

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| Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and | YES/ NO / NOT APPLICABLE* |
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Scrutiny Committee

(for completion by Democratic Services staff only)

* *Delete as appropriate
If No, set out why the decision is urgent with reference to 4b - Rule 47 of the Constitution.*

