

## REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 May 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	Climate Change Strategy Action Plan-report back on public consultation, and report back on the RE:FIT scheme
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes Affects all the borough
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Community Safety
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix A – draft climate change consultation results Appendix B – Revised Action Plan - <i>Due to the size of this document, it has been circulated to Cabinet Members only, Members' Library and Group Offices only. The document has been published with this agenda and can be viewed on the website.</i> Appendix C – draft list of council properties to be included in RE:FIT Appendix D - Energy Service Companies (ESCos) being used on the RE:FIT programme

### **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out the comments of the public consultation on the annual review of the climate change strategy and the draft responses. It also reports back on the proposed use of the London Development Agency's (LDA) RE:FIT scheme to retrofit energy efficiency measures into council buildings

### **Recommendations:**

- (1) That Cabinet note the result of the consultation and approve the revised climate change strategy Action Plan for implementation.
- (2) Note the proposed use of the RE:FIT scheme on an initial programme of retro-fits.

### **Reason (for recommendation)**

To incorporate any proposed changes into the council's Climate change Strategy and action plan.

To make progress on achieving the council's target to reduce carbon emissions from its estate by 4% a year.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **2.1 Introductory paragraph**

The council adopted the climate change strategy in September 2009. In October 2010, Cabinet reviewed the Strategy and agreed to consult on the revised Action Plan. The consultation took place in January/February 2011.

Cabinet also received a report in December 2010 on the Carbon Reduction Commitment – Energy Efficiency Scheme, which recommended that further investigation be undertaken into the London Development Agency's RE:FIT programme for energy reducing retrofits of public sector buildings in London. These investigations have now been completed and further proposals are set out below.

### **2.2 Climate Change Consultation**

The climate change strategy Action Plan was put out to public consultation via the council's web portal between 14 Jan and 25 Feb 2011. During this period the consultation documents were presented at meetings of the Sustainable Development and Enterprise Management group of Harrow Strategic Partnership and at a meeting of Greener Harrow.

Comments were received from a total of six people/organisations including key influential groups Greener Harrow, HA21 and Harrow Friends of the Earth. The comments made have been considered in the development of the action plan. In general the respondees have been positive about the direction that the Council is taking in promoting activities to mitigate and adapt for Climate Change.

Appendix A sets out the comments received and the council's responses.

The Action Plan has been updated to take on board the consultation responses and to bring it up to date. The headline changes are: -

- References to LIP included Ref 15
- Flats recycling scheme Ref 32
- Waste Prevention strategy Ref 32A
- Transfer of CA Sites to WLWA Ref 32B
- Changes to CRC scheme Ref 71
- Communications Plan Refs 76/82
- Street lighting consultation Ref 79

- RE:FIT retrofit programme

Ref 90

. Appendix B shows the proposed Action Plan with the changes, following the consultation, tracked.

## **2.3 RE:FIT**

RE:FIT is an LDA Framework Agreement that allows all public sector bodies to procure energy efficiency retrofits for their building stock. Following the report to cabinet in December 2010, officers have undertaken further evaluation of this programme. The Council's Corporate Procurement section have concluded that the council can proceed in using this route to procure work as long as it adheres to the guidance in the contract.

Officers have drawn up a list of council buildings that appear to be suitable to be included as a pilot programme under RE:FIT.

We are proceeding on the basis of holding a mini-competition with the contractors who are part of the Framework Agreement and to select preferred supplier with whom to enter into detailed negotiations. The final proposals to be brought back to Cabinet in the autumn for approval.

The draft list is appended at Appendix C. As will be seen, the civic centre complex is an important element of this programme. The aim is to coordinate the RE:FIT and accommodation consolidation programmes to maximise efficiency and minimise costs. The overall programme will be organised by a project manager who will report directly to the asset management section.

The mini competition will be managed and run in conjunction with the London Development Authority. Depending on guidance from the LDA, the Council's Procurement team will manage the procurement competition. As this is a service to which the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 apply online tendering tools will be used record and manage contact with suppliers.

Appendix D sets out Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) being used on the RE:FIT programme.

## **2.4 Financial Implications**

There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report for the Capital, Revenue or Housing Revenue Account. There is provision in the capital budget for some schemes, but no provision in the Housing capital or revenue programmes. The seeking of external funding opportunities is key to the advancement of the action plan.

RE:FIT programmes require public bodies to repay loans for energy efficiency investment out of the resultant savings in energy costs over an agreed period. The report to cabinet in December 2010 (on the CRC) recommended that repayment periods of up to ten years be adopted. Business cases will be developed for the projects. Based on current energy consumption levels this allows investment levels that should produce carbon savings in the region of 25%.

The details of the RE:FIT scheme will be reported to cabinet for final approval once the arrangements have been finalised.

Measures to reduce energy consumption will assist the Council in mitigating the impact of charges that will be levied against the Council under the Government's Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme.

## **2.5 Performance Issues**

Performance issues arising from the annual review of the carbon strategy were set out in the report to Cabinet in October 2010.

Projected carbon savings arising from the RE:FIT programme will be reported to cabinet once finalised.

## **2.6 Environmental Impact**

The climate change strategy addresses the following policy areas

- Planning and Development
- Domestic Energy
- Transport
- Water and Flooding
- Waste
- Biodiversity and the Natural Environment
- Food, Fair Trade and Sustainable Shopping
- Businesses and the Public Sector, and
- The Council's Footprint

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

## **2.7 Risk Management Implications**

Risk included on Directorate risk register? See Strategic Risk 3: Fail to actively contribute to sustaining the environment in the Strategic Risk Register.

## **2.8 Equalities implications**

The action plan includes a wide ranging set of activities and specific Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out in relation to items identified in the Action Plan 2010/12 prior to implementation.

## **2.9 Corporate Priorities**

The climate change strategy incorporates the following corporate priorities

- **Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.**  
Climate change is the world's number 1 environmental issue. Failure to act and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels will lead to increasingly severe impacts on our lives and those of our children.

- **Supporting and protecting people who are most in need**  
Rising fuel costs mean that our residents face increasingly difficult choices about heating their homes, and more cases of fuel poverty. We aim to target help to vulnerable people to insulate their homes and reduce their fuel bills.
- **United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads**  
We aim to lead by example in reducing our carbon emissions – with the main focus of our climate change strategy is to reduce the carbon emissions from our own estate by 4% a year.  
We promote awareness of the issues to residents and schools.
- **Supporting our Town Centre, our local shopping centres and our businesses**  
We promote awareness of the issues to local businesses and our partners in the Harrow Strategic Partnership.

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21 April 2011		
Name: Matthew Adams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 21 April 2011		

### Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Martin Randall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date: 13 April 2011		

### Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Andrew Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director (Environmental Services)
Date: 14 April 2011		

## Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Andrew Baker, Head of Climate Change,  
020 8424 1779  
andrew.baker@harrow.gov.uk

### Background Papers:

Annual review – climate change strategy

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=71220>

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=71221>

Progress report – The Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=72384>

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

**NOT APPLICABLE**

*[Call-in applies]*