



**Report for:**  
**ACTION/INFORMATION**

**Item Number: 7**

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Title</b>	Briefing on the development of the council's Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Director Regeneration and Planning, Lucy Taylor
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<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	Cllr. Julian Bell Cllr. Mik Sabiers
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	15 October 2019
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	28 October 2019
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Climate change, sustainability, carbon emissions, community

**Purpose of Report:** The 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stated that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius. In April 2019, Full Council declared a climate emergency. This report outlines our approach to address the emergency.

**1. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet

- 1.1. Note the initial work toward developing the Council's response to the Climate Emergency Declaration
- 1.2. Support the direction of travel for policy development, process and timescales to fully establish a Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy as outlined in this report
- 1.3. Note that there will be further reports to Cabinet with detailed financial implications and funding arrangements

## 2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

2.1. The 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report stated that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius. In April 2019, Full Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to:

- Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;
- Call on the UK Government to provide the necessary powers and resources to make local action on climate change easier (as set out in 3 and 5 below);
- Aim to make Ealing carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
- In light of 3. above, request Overview and Scrutiny Committee to urgently review and make recommendations on revisions to the Council's 2013-2018 Energy Strategy in light of the recent IPCC report and the latest Ealing data in order to achieve the revised target;
- Continue to work with partners across London to deliver widespread carbon reductions.

2.2. The climate emergency momentum has gained steadily since April and now over 90% of London boroughs have declared. Work has begun collaboratively across London to harmonise approaches to both gathering baseline data and dealing with the scale and depth of the issue. One of the first actions taken by London Councils on behalf of this consortium will be to call on the UK Government to provide powers and resources to address the crisis at pace.

2.3. The aim to make Ealing carbon neutral by 2030 has been considered in two parts – first, where the council has direct control over policies and resources and second, where the council is able to influence and advise. The task that lies ahead is grand, it reaches the very core of how the council approaches business and it supports the Future Ealing outcomes. The challenge is cross-cutting, affecting every aspect of council business. Success will require support within the organisation and externally from partners and suppliers. All financial expenditures and authority policies will need to complement and contribute to the delivery of the council's commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

2.4. In July 2019, officers presented an initial briefing to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The briefing aimed to ensure the cross-party committee understood the scale of the crisis and invited them to bring ideas to contribute to the solution. Over one hundred ideas were gathered to shape the policies, projects, partnerships and communications required to address the emergency. These ideas, alongside those offered by Ealing Transition (a local low carbon resident group) and the council's senior management team make up a long list that will be analysed as part of the forthcoming Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy development.

2.5. It is important to note that the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy will form the council's response, but it will take a cross-borough, multi-agency

approach including businesses, educational institutions, partnerships and community leadership to tackle the scale of the challenge.

2.6. Local authorities have a unique role to play in the climate change agenda including with a variety of powers and tools including setting policy, influencing new development and infrastructure, leading communities, managing public land and assets and commissioning a range of services for the public. Leading on the agenda is the council's greatest strength. Ecologist and Stroud Councillor, Simon Pickering, has identified a road map of nine key actions required by local authorities to become carbon neutral:

2.6.1. Complete shift to **zero carbon electricity generation** – produced both locally and nationally

2.6.2. **Manage electricity demand** and implement energy storage solutions

2.6.3. Significantly **improve building energy performance** through retrofit

2.6.4. Ensure **all new builds reach their energy and carbon saving potential** through planning authority and capital expenditure

2.6.5. **Decarbonisation of heat** for buildings, hot water and industry

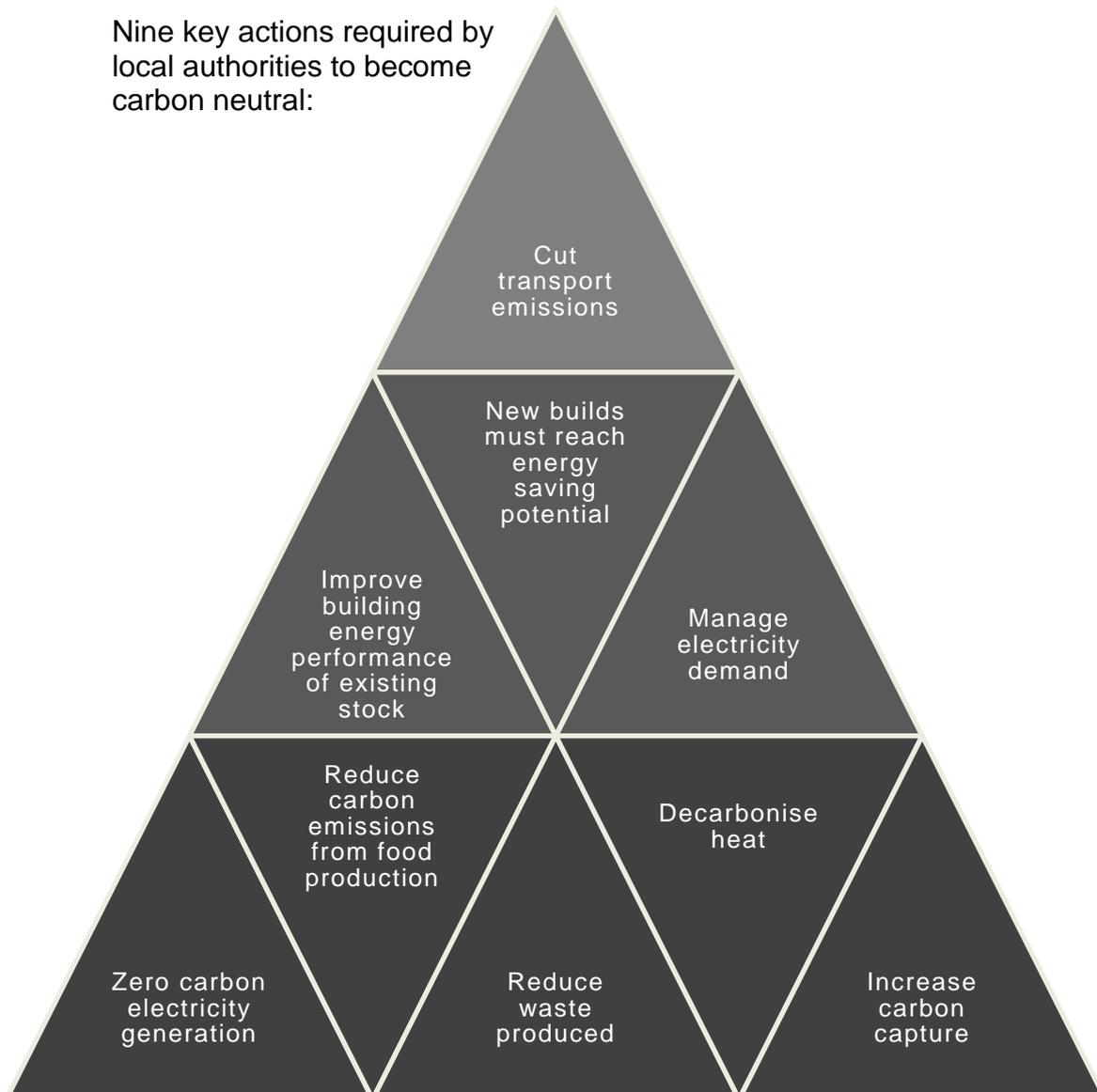
2.6.6. **Cut transport emissions** drastically with a step change to walking, cycling and public transport – and transition all essential vehicles to electric

2.6.7. Dramatically **reduce carbon emissions from food production** and agriculture

2.6.8. **Reduce waste produced** and process waste with lowest carbon emissions possible – transport, processing, food waste, etc.

2.6.9. **Increase carbon capture** through tree planting, land management and keeping pace with technological advances

Nine key actions required by local authorities to become carbon neutral:



2.7. Drawing from local and global case studies and input from senior management, officers identified five critical channels for the council to focus its resources to address climate change in a swift and meaningful way:

- › Energy
- › Transport
- › Food Systems
- › Waste
- › Green Spaces and Green Infrastructure

2.8. Chart 1 shows UK emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by end user segment. The five channels the council has chosen to focus generally relates to the national picture in the following ways:

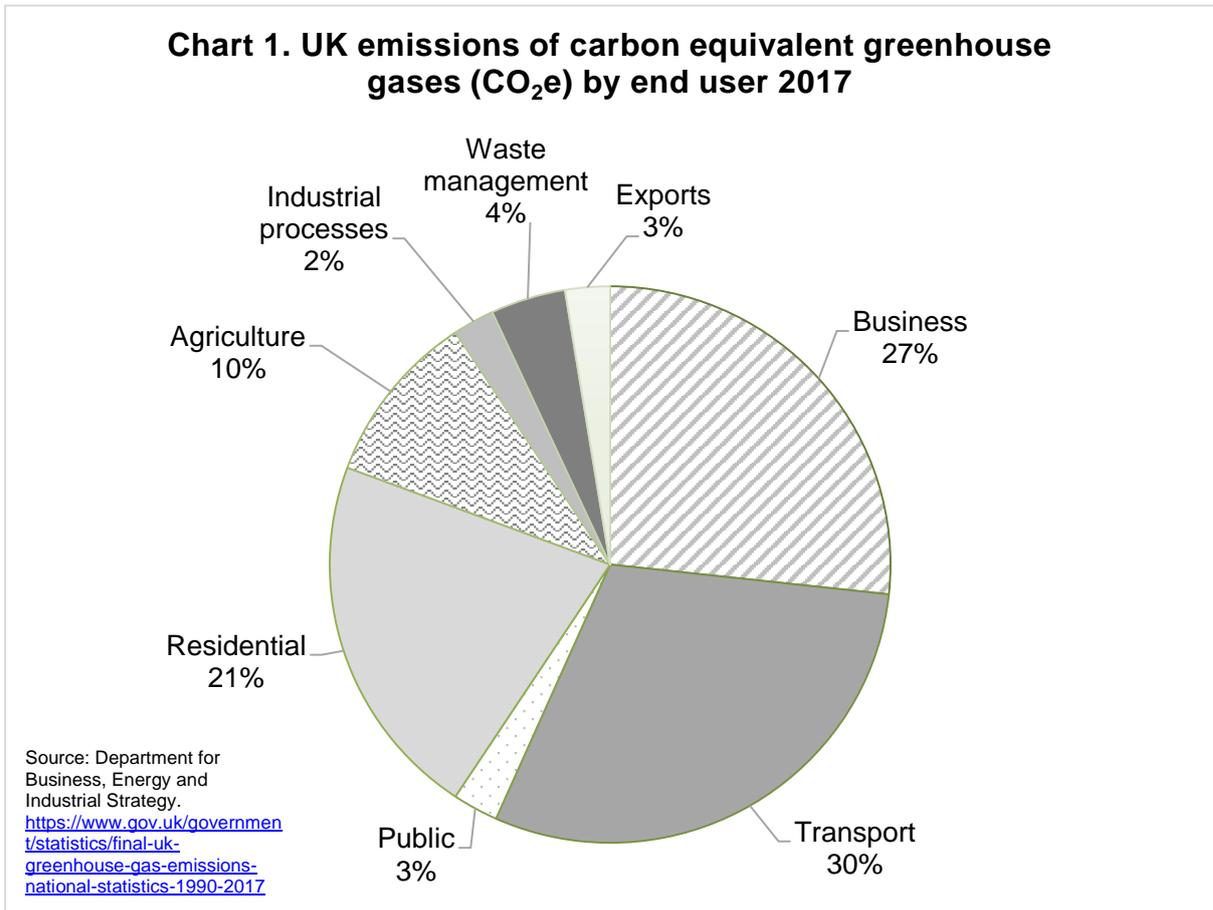
2.8.1. Energy – residential/business/industrial practices

2.8.2. Transport – transport

2.8.3. Food systems – agriculture

2.8.4. Waste – waste management

2.8.5. Green spaces and green infrastructure – agroforestry (which does not appear because it makes a positive contribution to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions)



2.9. Using these five critical channels as a framework, officers will develop the council’s Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy over the next eight months. A working group for each of the five channels, including stakeholders within the council alongside resident and businesses across the borough, will develop the detailed strategy. Progress of the strategy will be shared regularly with the council’s leadership team through an oversight panel.

2.10. Preliminary information has been gathered internally to shape what is required to comprehensively address the emergency. A summary table of this work, which is considered the framework for the strategy, is found in Appendix 1.

2.11. Importantly, the council should note that the organisation has a history of delivering projects and policies that support environmental sustainability.

2.12. The council’s housing stock has been extensively fitted with solar panel systems that provide green electricity to 500 homes. Council offices have saved significantly on energy consumption and bills from improvements and better management over the past five years. The Cowgate Day Centre

retrofitted to achieve a 49% reduction in energy consumption since 2014/15. A community energy programme, led by Ealing Transition, has installed solar panels on 13 schools in the borough at no cost to the schools.

- 2.13. Teams have worked collaboratively to support the transition to sustainable transport by offering cycle confidence training, building segregated cycleways and improving the town centre experience for pedestrians. A network of electric vehicle charging points has come together rapidly over the past eight months and will continue to grow. This helps to enable the council's own fleet to transition to electric vehicles.
- 2.14. Food growing on public land, led by community groups, has sprung up across the borough, including on housing estates. New food growing partnerships with schools are taking hold as a pathway to health and wellbeing for young people.
- 2.15. The council's recycling rate ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in London. Fortnightly collections have reduced vehicle movements throughout the borough benefitting road safety, air quality and carbon emissions.
- 2.16. Parks continue to engage residents in the developing a sense of pride and vision for their local landscapes. A partnership with Trees for Cities planted 50,000 new trees in the borough. An £830K River Brent restoration project with Thames 21 will add flood resilience and improve habitat to encourage greater biodiversity. More of these successes are noted in the "Progress to Date" column of Appendix 1.
- 2.17. While it is important to celebrate the council's foundational successes, the call to action is to act in a focused and urgent manner to pull this thinking to the forefront of all council service delivery and business practices.
- 2.18. The council has committed to treat climate change as an impending crisis, where a swift, intensive and substantial response is compulsory.
- 2.19. Timescale for development of Ealing's Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy
  - Working groups November 2019 – April 2020
  - Consultation April/May 2020
  - Council adoption July 2020
- 2.20. Next steps
  - 2.20.1. Gather data to establish current carbon emissions across the various sectors within the borough including Council's own estate, schools, homes, business and transport.
  - 2.20.2. Gather information on the initiatives and ideas to establish factors including carbon reduction impact, speed of carbon reduction and cost so they can be prioritised.
  - 2.20.3. Set up working groups with internal and external stakeholders to develop the initiatives and ideas into projects with resources required and timescales identified.

- 2.20.4. Identify funding needs and sources, including the carbon offset fund, which is accrued through development failing to reach zero carbon targets.
- 2.20.5. Continue studies and other evidence gathering for Local Plan updates related to climate change.
- 2.20.6. Collaborate with other local authorities to share knowledge and find efficiencies.
- 2.20.7. Return to cabinet in summer 2020 to adopt the council's Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.

### **3. Key Implications**

#### **3.1. Financial**

#### **3.2. Financial impact on the budget**

- 3.3. Financial implications will be quantified when new projects and policy proposals aligning with a zero-carbon future have been identified. Council will ensure that maximum income generation and external funding opportunities are explored to finance proposals that deliver the strategy. These will be reported in the future update reports.
- 3.4. Any additional funding requirement will be proposed through the Council budget setting process.

#### **3.5. Financial background**

- 3.6. External funding sources are often available for projects that deliver energy savings or flood protection, for example. The council will look to use the Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund available to councils, where projects align with the criteria. The parks service has successfully drawn funding from Thames21 for flood protection enhancements, and the highways service has successfully bid for DEFRA funding to update the understandings of critical drainage areas in Ealing.
- 3.7. This agenda challenges the council to make a paradigm shift, using life-cycle analysis to forecast the long-term financial implications and subsequent outcomes.

#### **3.8. Legal**

- 3.9. The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases be reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for. The Act also establishes the framework to deliver on these requirements.
- 3.10. The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050.

### **3.11. Value For Money**

3.12. One aim of the strategy will be to quantify the projects and policies delivering the best value over the long term and making strategic investment.

3.13. Best value will not always mean the lowest immediate financial cost to the council, but it will deliver the greatest benefit to residents, the environment and the local economy over time. Officers will seek to identify co-benefits of working on the climate change agenda, which may be health, biodiversity, community cohesion, housing and/or avoided future costs.

### **3.14. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

3.15. Acting now on climate change will dramatically improve the council's environmental performance.

### **3.16. Risk Management**

3.17. According to the IPCC report in October 2018, climate models project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between present-day and global warming of 1.5°C, and between 1.5°C and 2°. These differences include increases in: mean temperature in most land and ocean regions (high confidence), hot extremes in most inhabited regions (high confidence), heavy precipitation in several regions (medium confidence), and the probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions (medium confidence).

3.18. The council would expect the following outcomes, identified by the UK's Committee on Climate Change, if carbon emissions are not drastically reduced by 2030:

- ▶ Climate extremes. Temperature extremes are expected to increase by 2-3 times the increase in global average temperature between 1.5°C and 2°C. Around 420 million fewer people would be exposed to extreme heatwaves if warming was kept to 1.5°C than 2°C.
- ▶ Ecosystems. Risks of species extinction on the land and in the ocean are lower at 1.5°C than 2°C. For example, the fraction of global land area that would change ecosystem type due to climate change factors at 2°C (13%) would be roughly halved if warming was kept below 1.5°C (7%).
- ▶ Distribution of risks. The additional increase in climate risk between 1.5°C and 2°C warming would affect poor and vulnerable people most of all. Poverty and disadvantage have increased with recent warming and are expected to increase for many populations as average global temperatures increase from 1°C to 1.5°C and higher.
- ▶ Irreversible changes. Marine ice sheet instability in Antarctica and/or irreversible loss of the Greenland ice sheet could possibly be triggered by warming between 1.5°C and 2°C. Keeping warming as low as possible reduces the risk of triggering these large-scale irreversible shifts in the climate.

### **3.19. Community Safety**

3.20. The impacts of climate change, if unmitigated will impact community safety. The council will need to prepare to deal with flooding, overheating and general antisocial behaviours if a sense of desperation ensues.

### **3.21. Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough**

Links to Future Ealing and borough priorities are referred to throughout Appendix 1.

### **3.22. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

3.23. Not required at this time. An equality assessment will be undertaken whenever specific proposals are made to implement the Strategy.

### **3.24. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:**

3.25. At this time, no impacts have been identified.

### **3.26. Property and Assets**

There are no direct implications arising from this report although some of the nine key actions identified above will have implications for the Council's properties.

## **4. Consultation**

Scrutiny July 2019

Senior Management July 2019

Chief Executive briefing July 2019

Leader briefing July 2019

## **5. Timetable for Implementation**

November 2019 – June 2020 – analysis, research and consultation

Summer 2020 – further report to cabinet

## **6. Appendices**

Appendix 1. Draft Strategy Matrix

## Consultation

<b>Name of consultee</b>	<b>Post held</b>	<b>Date sent to consultee</b>	<b>Date response received</b>	<b>Comments appear in paragraph:</b>
<b>Internal</b>				
Tony Clements	Executive Director Place	19/09/19	23/09/19 and 25/09/19	throughout
Lucy Taylor	Director	30/08/19	09/09/19	throughout
Jackie Adams	Legal Services	12/09/19	18/09/2019	throughout
Yalini Gunarajah	Finance Officer	12/09/19	25/09/19 and 2/10/19	3.1
Chris Welsh	Parks	09/09/19	17/09/19	Appendix 1
Catherina Pack	Waste and Recycling	09/09/19	17/09/19	Appendix 1
Russell Roberts	Transport	09/09/19	18/09/19	Appendix 1
Risa Wilkinson	Corporate energy	09/09/19	08/09/19	throughout
Tania Jennings	Domestic energy	09/09/19	08/09/19	throughout
Steven Meah Simms	Policy and Performance	09/09/19		
<b>External</b>				
Trever Sharman	Ealing Transition	19/09/19		

## Report History

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item</b>
For information	
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:
	Jo Mortensen, Sustainability Programme Manager