



Report to Scrutiny

Item Number:

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information

No

Subject of Report:

Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Briefing

Meeting:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
11 July 2019

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Scrutiny Officer:

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Cabinet Responsibility:

Councillor Julian Bell, Leader of the Council
Councillor Mik Sabiers, Environment and Highways

Director Responsibility:

Lucy Taylor, Director of Regeneration and Planning

Brief:

In April 2019, Ealing Council passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency. This agenda item gives members the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on Ealing's response to the climate emergency and the commitment to draw up policies that will achieve a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

1. Review and make recommendations on revisions to the Council's Energy Strategy in light of the recent IPCC report and the latest Ealing data in order to achieve the revised target.
2. Support council officers to develop and deliver a policy and supporting strategies that comprehensively address climate change to achieve the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

1. Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Briefing

In April 2019, Ealing Council passed a motion declaring a Climate Emergency. This agenda item gives members the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on Ealing's response to the climate emergency and the commitment to draw up policies that will achieve a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Jo Mortensen, Sustainability Programme Manager, will present the slide pack attached as **Appendix 2** and will invite OSC members to then participate in small discussion groups.

2. Legal Implications

The UK is legally bound by the 2008 Climate Change Act (CCA) to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 (see box below). In March 2016, the Government confirmed that the UK will enshrine in law a long-term goal of reducing its net carbon emissions to zero, as called for in the Paris Agreement (Hansard, 2016).

Ealing Council passed a declaration on 2 April 2019 to aim to achieve zero carbon status by 2030.

3. Financial Implications

This presentation identifies projects, policies and partnerships that will have both financial benefits and costs in the short term, however research confirms, the cost of inaction radically increases the council's risk and vulnerability to escalating future costs.

4. Other Implications

According to studies by a partnership of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and ARUP, there is widespread recognition in the international community that the commitments made by national governments under the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015 cannot be achieved without concerted action by cities.

5. Background information and appendices

2 April 2019 Council motion declaring a Climate Emergency.

"Council notes that:

- a) The 2018 IPCC report states 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;
- b) All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. UK boroughs need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

c) Urban areas are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their higher density opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;

d) That meetings are taking place between the Ealing Council leadership and officers with Ealing Transition, to discuss Ealing's response to the climate emergency and that a commitment has been made to draw up policies that will achieve a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030, which will be presented to cabinet.

e) That Ealing Council has already demonstrated significant ambition and achievement in tackling issues around climate change and reducing carbon emissions, including increasing the borough's recycling rate, expanding the network of segregated cycle routes and quietways, introducing emissions-based charging for parking permits, planted more than 66,000 new trees over the past four years, delivered over 1,200 'green doctor' visits to help residents on low incomes reduce their energy growth, rolled out 20mph zones to cover two-thirds of the borough, replaced eight diesel vehicles in the council's fleet with electric and delivered more than 40 chargepoints for electric vehicles.

f) Supports the further ambitious proposals in Labour's 2018 Ealing manifesto on climate change, including a further expansion of the electric charging network, fining drivers who sit in parked vehicles with engines running, moving streetlighting to LED versions to cut energy consumption, requiring new large commercial buildings to generate at least 10% of their energy needs on site or locally using renewable sources, encouraging new housing developments to go car free, delivering the £8.5m Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme in West Ealing and along the Uxbridge Road, work towards eliminating the number of dangerous junctions in the borough, increase the amount of secure bike parking and work with other public sector bodies to reduce our pension fund's exposure to carbon industries.

In light of the above, the Council therefore agrees to:

1. Join other Councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;
2. 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);
3. Aim to make Ealing carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
4. 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;
5. Continue to work with partners across London to deliver widespread carbon reductions."

Appendix 1: Ealing Transition's Climate Emergency Action Plan

Appendix 2: Presentation for discussion: Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy for Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Appendix 3: Ealing's key actions to reduce environmental footprint

Appendix 4: Ealing's carbon emissions estimates 2005-2017

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Department	Date Sent to Consultee	Date Response Received from Consultee	Comments Appear in Report Para:
Internal				
Lucy Taylor	Director Regeneration and Planning	02/07/2019	02/07/2019	
External				
None				

Report History

Decision Type:			
Non-key decision		No	
Authorised by Cabinet Member:	Date Report Drafted:	Report Deadline:	Date Report Sent:
Report No.:	Report Author and Contact for Queries:		
	Jo Mortensen Sustainability Programme Manager MortensenJ@ealing.gov.uk		