

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 04/05/2021

Subject: Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission recommendations

Report of: Cllr Harcourt, Cabinet Member for the Environment

Report author: Bram Kainth – Chief Officer for Public Realm

Responsible Director: Sharon Lea, Strategic Director for the Environment

SUMMARY

This is a covering report accompanying the findings and recommendations of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham's (LBHF's) resident-led Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission (Appendix A). The commission launched in December 2019, and their recommendations follow a year of extensive research and engagement with internal and external stakeholders. The recommendations have been presented to SLT (Senior Leadership Team) and CSEPAC (Community Safety and Environment Policy and Accountability Committee).

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Cabinet to note and comment on the recommendations or provide any direction based on the findings of the LBHF Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission: Summary of findings, detailed in Appendix A.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	The recommendations propose how H&F's residents can benefit from the growing green economy, including through skills and promoting the circular economy. They pursue a broad view of prosperity encompassing economic, environmental, social and health aspects.
Creating a compassionate council	As well as ensuring a safe climate, the recommendations target poverty and

	inequality, and seek to improve health, public space and engagement for residents of all backgrounds.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	The recommendations have been produced by a resident-led commission, and map out how the council can extend its engagement and co-production with residents.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The recommendations relate to the council's commitment to a net zero borough by 2030. This will demand significant private and public investment; this report includes recommendations to maximise external funding.
Taking pride in H&F	The recommendations include deepening community engagement and environmental improvements to public space.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	The primary purpose of the recommendations is to help shape the council's activity around this value.

Financial Impact

The recommendation asks Cabinet to note and comment on the Commission's recommendations and findings.

There are no direct financial implications arising from this decision. Further decision reports will be required as the Council seeks to respond to the recommendations made. The financial impact, including the costs and funding and any financial opportunities and risks, specific to each decision will be set out at that time.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications in the noting and commenting on the findings report.

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Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Background

1. In late 2018 the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessed that the world has until 2030 to take radical action to keep global temperatures within 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels, beyond which catastrophic change is expected. In recognition of this, Hammersmith & Fulham council declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019, setting an ambitious target of 2030 for the borough to achieve net zero carbon. As part of its declaration, the council pledged to launch a resident-led climate and ecological emergency commission, to make recommendations for achieving this target.
2. In December 2019 the council appointed twelve local resident commissioners. Between January and December 2020 the commission conducted extensive research and engagement, within the council and externally, to produce its findings. This has included:
 - Surveying best practice and emerging innovations.
 - Engagement with H&F officers.
 - Engagement with H&F residents through a public event and an online consultation.
 - Engagement with external experts including industry and leading public authorities.
3. Delivering technical solutions to achieving net zero emissions requires bold and challenging policy decisions, including levels of regulation and how action should be funded. This report is the outcome of thorough discussion, agreement, disagreement and a diversity of thinking among the twelve commissioners. It does not represent a total consensus on each of the recommendations and illustrates the variation in views among residents. The report is intended to recommend areas of action and this is where its focus lies. Commissioners nevertheless wished to acknowledge the positive action and direction taken by the council to date on this agenda. The recommendations also speak to wider economic, regulatory and social structures that require action at the national and societal level, as well as from the council and borough.

4. The commission has worked closely with the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Unit throughout this year. They have given enormous time and dedication and have helped the council grow its network of contacts and resources on climate action. The Climate Unit is very grateful for their work and support.
5. In tandem with the commission's research, officers in the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Unit have been working with officers from all council departments in cross-cutting working groups to develop the council's draft climate and ecology strategy and action plan. This has been shaped by the commission's emerging findings and regular discussion with officers throughout 2020, and the commission's completed findings will now be used to finalise a first draft of the council's strategy.

Findings

6. The climate and ecological emergency touches on all areas of economic and public life. These findings present recommendations for three overarching aspects of the council's role in achieving a net zero borough:
 - a. **Communication and engagement**, including public communication and engagement, education, and staff engagement.
 - b. **Building knowledge at a local level**, on:
 - Built infrastructure
 - Transport
 - Ecology
 - Energy
 - Waste
 - Finance
 - Food
 - Health
 - c. **Leadership** on the above areas.
7. The findings and recommendations are attached as Appendix A.

Proposals and Analysis of Options

Reasons for Decision

8. The Commission's findings should be noted and received with thanks. The Council is grateful to members of the independent Residents Commission for their expertise and time in developing the report. The Council's vital work in response to their and other recommendations will continue to be implemented at pace over the next nine years. Individual project or policy proposals will always require Cabinet decisions and approval, noting that priorities, circumstances, technology, regional and national policy as well as the availability of legal powers and financial resources are likely to evolve significantly during this time period and will impact our ability to pursue our key goal of net zero carbon across the borough by 2030.

Equality Implications

9. There are likely to be significant implications from this report when individual recommendations are progressed into policy and projects. In this report only brief consideration is given to the impact on different communities

Risk Management Implications

10. The recommendations outlined in the Commission's report will need to be evaluated against a number of areas including ease of implementation, cost and time, benefit and risk.

Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski (Risk Manager - 020 8753 2587)

Climate and Ecological Emergency Implications

11. There are no direct climate and ecology implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's or borough's carbon and ecology impact.

Implications verified by: Hinesh Mehta (Strategic Lead – 07960 470125)

Procurement implications

12. There is no direct procurement resulting from this report as it is for information only. There will be procurement implications for individual decisions and initiatives in the future based on the recommendations in the report. Future procurements will need to ensure governance and compliance.

Implications verified by: Waheeda Soomro (Commercial Manager, Contracts and Procurements – 07776 672927) [09/04/2021]

Consultation

13. The Commission held a public event at the Lyric Theatre with 100 residents prior to COVID-19 and undertook a digital public consultation exercise with the Council to engage a larger, more diverse cross-section of H&F including businesses, community groups and households. The results and analysis have been used to prepare the findings.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A: LBHF Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission: Summary of findings.