

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

**Report to:** Community Safety and Environment Policy and Accountability Committee

**Date:** 24/01/2022

**Subject:** Climate and Ecological Emergency programme update

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## SUMMARY

This briefing paper provides an update on the key initiatives currently underway to deliver on Hammersmith & Fulham's (H&F) Climate and Ecology Strategy, approved by Cabinet in September 2021, and co-produced with a resident-led commission.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For the Committee to note and comment on the report.
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**Wards Affected:** All

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<b>Our Values</b>	<b>Summary of how this report aligns to the H&amp;F Values</b>
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	This report provides an update on progress to date delivering the council's Climate and Ecology Strategy.

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## Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

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## DETAILED ANALYSIS

### Progress on the Climate and Ecology Strategy

1. H&F's Climate and Ecology Strategy was approved by Cabinet in September 2021. This strategy was built on:

- an independent audit of local carbon emissions;
  - the work of over 70 council officers taking part in 10 internal working groups;
  - the report from the resident-led Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission in April 2021.
2. Work by the resident-led commission was key in developing H&F's Climate and Ecology Strategy. Their report recommended the council build knowledge around eight key themes, which have been reflected in the council's strategy.
  3. A Climate Strategy Implementation Group is now in place, including relevant cabinet members, officers, and representation from the resident-led commission. This group meets monthly, reviewing plans and progress for each of the strategy's themes, with revolving attendance based on the subject area.
  4. Significant initiatives underway in each of the eight workstreams of the Climate and Ecology Strategy (five core 'climate challenges' plus three enabling workstreams) are highlighted below.

### **Homes, buildings and energy**

5. **Energy masterplan.** The council has won £75k funding to analyse the borough's energy requirements and opportunities for generating low-carbon heat and energy. This key strategic piece of work will indicate the preferred choice of heat technologies for different areas of the borough, and will underpin future planning policy and the council's own retrofit strategy.
6. **Retrofit strategy for corporate buildings.** Our corporate buildings include offices, service buildings, and maintained schools. These emit 75 per cent of our organisational scope 1 and 2 emissions (those for which we are directly responsible)<sup>1</sup>. H&F is currently working with the Greater London Authority's Retrofit Accelerator for Workplaces to produce a plan to retrofit the council's corporate estate. This will be completed in 2022.
7. **Retrofit strategy for council housing.** Emissions from the council's housing are 17.5 times greater than those from the council's direct emissions<sup>2</sup>. In September 2021 Cabinet approved £106m for housing retrofit in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 12-year asset management capital strategy. Retrofitting council housing remains a considerable challenge. Obstacles include cost, maturity of the supply chain, planning regulations, and working with tenants and leaseholders. A housing retrofit strategy is being developed to address these and set out the council's approach. This will be completed in summer 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> The council's scope 1 emissions are those emitted through the direct use of fossil fuels by the organisation (such as gas and diesel). Its scope 2 emissions are those emitted in the production of electricity consumed by the organisation. Scope 3 emissions are all other emissions that occur due to activity within the borough, but that occur elsewhere (such as in the production and transportation of gas consumed within the borough in this instance).

<sup>2</sup> Council housing emissions are estimated as 53,302 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019.

8. **Retrofit pilot projects.** H&F has won significant funding and is undertaking pilot retrofit projects on its corporate and housing stock. This will include two office sites, upgrading 28 council homes to reach zero carbon (using the Energiesprong approach) at the West Kensington estate, and a scheme to fund retrofit measures for fuel-poor private households.
9. **Planning.** An update to the Supplementary Planning Document is being drafted to give detailed guidance on achieving net zero in development proposals, for publication in 2022. Pre-planning advice for solar panels is also now free of charge to residents to encourage uptake.
10. **Council new builds.** A pilot project to build net zero carbon homes within the council's development programme is underway as part of the Hartopp & Lannoy redevelopment.
11. **Renewable energy.** The council has switched to a 100 per cent renewable electricity tariff for its own estate, and has been working with the Greater London Authority through the Solar Together scheme to offer group-buying of solar power to residents.

### Travel

12. **Cycling infrastructure.** In 2021 the council introduced extensive cycle lanes. The first phase of the Safer Cycle Pathway on King Street was opened in December, with works continuing in early 2022 to extend the route including over Hammersmith Gyratory.
13. **Electric vehicle infrastructure.** The electric vehicle charging point network has continued to expand to 1,049 points by December 2021, including the UK's first all-electric charging station. H&F remains one of the densest networks in the country with plans to reach 2,000 charging points by April 2022.
14. **Reducing through-traffic.** The SW6 traffic, congestion and pollution reduction scheme has reduced traffic in South Fulham by 23 per cent since its launch in July 2020. This has avoided over one tonne of carbon being emitted per day, and has won a Local Government Chronicle award.

### Things we use

15. **Nourish hub.** The hub in White City, which inspires and educates residents on sustainable and healthy food and tackles food waste, was launched in autumn 2021. It was recently awarded two prizes at the New London Awards.
16. **Library of Things.** The council is funding a new Library of Things, due to open in Kings Mall in 2022. This is a lending library of devices designed to reduce residents' reliance on carbon-intensive new purchases.
17. **Food waste collection.** The pilot is underway, collecting an average of ten tonnes per week, increasing recycling rates in the pilot area to 40%, and decreasing the amounts of refuse collected.

- 18. One World Living programme.** H&F is working with London-wide partners on a programme to reduce emissions from the things Londoners consume, leading a workstream on electrical products.

### **Ecology**

- 19. Biodiversity baseline.** The council commissioned a specialist ecological audit of the borough to identify priority areas for action on biodiversity. This has recently been completed and will be reported on shortly.
- 20. Grounds maintenance contract.** This has been recommissioned for parks and housing estate green spaces in 2021. It includes a focus on protecting and improving biodiversity, including provision of an ecologist and mapping of biodiversity-friendly planting.
- 21. 'No Mow May'.** H&F led a highly successful campaign encouraging grass to be left uncut during May 2021. This included pausing cutting in its parks, to allow biodiversity-friendly plants and wildlife to establish. This will be expanded alongside local partners in 2022 to encourage residents to make space for nature.
- 22. Tiny forests.** H&F became home to London's first 'tiny forest', a densely planted area of 600 trees, in Hammersmith Park in March 2021. Plans for further tiny forests are underway and expected to be planted in 2022, on Eel Brook Common and in Normand Park.

### **Adapting to climate change**

- 23. Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS).** Work was completed in 2021 on three SUDS projects on the White City estate, adding to various other schemes completed in H&F. Further scheme designs are in train with applications for funding underway.

### **Engagement, education and influence**

- 24. Climate carnival.** The council, together with over 30 community partners, held a successful programme of 65 events in the run-up to COP26. This engaged hundreds of residents on topics covering all aspects of the council's strategy. The feedback survey indicated that 45% of attendees were not already involved in local climate action.
- 25. Climate education.** Twenty-nine schools are involved in H&F's award-winning climate education programme, with 30 teachers trained on a UN-accredited course. The school holiday programme "Summer in the City" was climate and ecology themed, and engaged hundreds of children, young people and families with the topic. In partnership with the Youth Council, the council has set up a weekly meeting of Youth Climate Ambassadors to support youth-led climate action.
- 26. Community outreach.** The council has engaged with hundreds of residents through 8 pop up street conversations around the borough and 18 workshops

with voluntary and community groups. Resident priorities are fed back to relevant council teams.

### **Finance and decision-making**

27. **Climate implications in decision-making.** Since February 2021 the council has included climate and ecological emergency implications in all key decisions.
28. **Procurement policy.** H&F has collaborated with other west London boroughs on a sustainable procurement approach, to be finalised and considered for adoption into policy in 2022.
29. **HRA asset management capital programme.** The council has aligned its 12-year asset management strategy with the climate emergency. £106m has been allocated for housing retrofit, to be available from 2022/23.

### **Green economy**

30. **Industrial strategy.** H&F's Industrial Strategy has supported the growth of the local science and technology sector, including sustainable biotechnology start-ups, with 4,000 new jobs created in science sectors. The climate education programme (see point 25) is preparing schoolchildren for a growing green economy.
31. **Climate Alliance.** The H&F Climate Alliance is a network of local organisations committed to reducing their carbon emissions. This was soft-launched at the council's Climate Summit in November and includes free tools to support small and medium-sized enterprises to measure and reduce their carbon footprints.

### **Embedding a climate-conscious culture within the council**

32. A key recommendation from the Commission was to develop a culture of carbon literacy within the council. Consideration of climate and ecology in all activity is key to the success of the climate strategy.
33. Council officers are now required to consider the climate implications of proposals. This applies to all decisions with values above £300,000 and for all procurement strategies. These draft implications are then refined and verified in dialogue with the climate unit, and considered by councillors. As well as ensuring projects align with net zero, this approach is helping to embed carbon literacy across the organisation and is strengthening collaboration between services and the climate unit. The initiative was recently spotlighted by the Local Government Association's *Pass the Planet* campaign.
34. Every two weeks the climate unit has been holding 'climate cafes', open to all staff, in collaboration with other services. These highlight how different teams across the council are taking action on the climate emergency. Sessions act as a forum for learning and discussion. Online events, including those in H&F

Climate Carnival and London Climate Action Week are open to all staff and have been well attended.

### **Next steps for resident involvement**

35. The council is developing five Climate Co-production Groups to help deliver on the Climate and Ecology Strategy and ensure H&F is 'doing things with residents, not to them'. Residents will be recruited to be representative of local demographics and groups will be expertly facilitated to ensure everyone has a voice.
36. Groups will act as a sounding board to explore the biggest challenges in delivering the strategy. Together the group will discuss constraints and present solutions to be considered as part of the council's usual decision-making processes. The first group, Travel, will be initiated in January 2022.

### **Challenges for delivery**

37. The Climate and Ecology Strategy highlights various challenges to delivery that remain significant. These influence the extent of delivery that the council can achieve against the eight workstreams. Some of the major challenges include:
  - Influencing the 90% of borough emissions that are beyond the council's direct control
  - Achieving sufficient external funding for delivery of initiatives at scale
  - Balancing climate ambition with manageable costs in procurement
  - The scale and maturity of supply chains needed to deliver works such as retrofit
  - Logistical challenges to retrofitting buildings, including disruption to occupants, additional enabling works required, and costs to leaseholders
  - Regulatory challenges, including balancing changes to the built environment with planning policies and conservation
  - Winning residents' support for policy and service changes, such as those around road use and waste
  - Additional complexities and costs associated with external influences including the Covid-19 pandemic, energy price inflation and Brexit
  - Encouraging changes to consumer choices where price and other incentives favour more carbon-intense options
38. The Climate and Ecology Strategy sets out the council's objectives and actions at a high level. As described above, detailed delivery strategies are currently being developed for some of the most critical and challenging aspects, such as retrofitting of council housing and the corporate estate. These plans will give deeper analysis to the challenges listed above, and outline our approach to them.
39. For aspects of the climate and ecology programme such as retrofit, it is likely that the next year will involve programme planning and pilot schemes, with an

acceleration in delivery during the decade as experience and clarity on external funding grows.

### **Measuring progress**

- 40.** A baseline carbon footprint for the council and borough was published as part of the council's Climate and Ecology Strategy in September 2021. This footprint is in the process of being updated for the most recent reporting period and will be reported shortly.
- 41.** A set of quantitative proxy measures for progress against key aspects of the strategy will be implemented from 2022/23. This will give a more detailed understanding of the borough's trajectory towards net zero, expressed in measures that are more easily understood by most audiences than tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

None.