

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Climate Change and Ecology Policy and Accountability Committee

Date: 14/09/2022

Subject: H&F 2030: Climate and Ecology Strategy and 2022-23 Priorities

Report of: Councillor Wesley Harcourt, Cabinet Member for the Environment

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Responsible Director: Bram Kainth, Strategic Director of Environment

SUMMARY

The attached slide deck gives a comprehensive overview of the council's Climate and Ecology Strategy, progress across the main themes, and priorities for 2022-23.

The strategy sets out the council's approach to delivering its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the borough by 2030. It was shaped by the work of the resident-led Climate and Ecological Emergency Commission, who worked closely with the council's Climate Unit throughout 2020, and was devised by ten cross-departmental officer working groups, led by the Climate Unit.

As well as responding to a global crisis, tackling the climate emergency in H&F will bring benefits for residents and the borough that deliver on the council's other values and objectives. These include a thriving green economy, with skills and jobs for the future; a clean public realm bringing improved health and wellbeing; a revival of biodiversity; and a locus for shared community involvement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Climate and Ecological Emergency Policy and Accountability Committee:

1. Note and comment on progress towards net zero.
 2. Note and comment on the strategic priorities set out for 2022-23.
 3. Give feedback on the strategy, progress, and priorities.
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Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Building shared prosperity	The council is supporting low carbon businesses to grow and move into the borough, and is targeting growth in green jobs through skills programmes and partnerships.
Creating a compassionate council	The impacts of the climate emergency fall unequally on different groups. Actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change aim to reduce this inequality and help residents manage the cost of living crisis, including initiatives to tackle fuel poverty.
Doing things with local residents, not to them	A continuous programme of events and engagement is underway with groups and locations around the borough, and a community climate champions programme aims to put localised climate action under the direction of local neighbourhoods.
Being ruthlessly financially efficient	H&F has won various external grants, including for housing retrofit, corporate building retrofit, and local energy planning. Capital planning for carbon reduction is maximising opportunities for energy efficiency and maintenance cost savings. Actions also aim to bring co-benefits for system-wide cost savings, including in waste prevention, preventative health, and fuel poverty.
Taking pride in H&F	A broad range of public realm improvements is underway that support biodiversity and carbon reduction, while providing a beautiful and safe public realm for residents. These include greening and cleaner air schemes in neighbourhoods, parks, and highways.
Rising to the challenge of the climate and ecological emergency	This report updates on progress towards the council's climate and ecological emergency ambitions.

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

1. The slide deck presents an overview of the H&F 2030: Climate and Ecology Strategy and Action Plan progress towards net zero to date.
2. The council is working hard to decarbonise its own estate by 2030, and to use its local powers and influence to support the borough to achieve the same.
3. The council's core organisational carbon footprint reduced by 21% from 2019/20 to 2020/21.¹ The council has made important first steps towards decarbonising its operations. Most significantly this includes the retrofit of the civic campus, initiating the development of retrofit strategies for its corporate and council housing built assets (which together represent 95% of its emissions, excluding procurement), and transitioning 15% of its fleets to electric vehicles.
4. To maintain this carbon reduction towards 2030, the council will accelerate its programme of retrofitting corporate buildings. Retrofit delivery plans for council housing and corporate properties are in development for completion by the end of 2022. Four initial pipeline projects plus the flagship retrofit of the civic campus are underway in corporate properties, and five hybrid heat pump systems are due to be installed in council housing blocks by late 2022. Significant obstacles are being managed, including costs, eligibility for external funding, competing operational requirements for buildings and fleet, and capacity of the market to deliver projects.
5. Borough-wide emissions reduced by 38% between 2010 and 2019 (the most recent data available). The carbon footprint from electricity use has decreased significantly over recent years due to the decarbonisation of the national grid, and increased efficiency of electricals.
6. Emissions reduction from gas boilers has been slower to date, with limited government support for private sector housing decarbonisation during the past decade. The pace of installation of insulation and heat pumps in the private sector will need to accelerate significantly, with substantial investment needed from central government, homeowners and landlords. The council is delivering initiatives to support this transition including subsidised retrofit plans for private homes, and grant schemes for energy efficiency measures.
7. Emissions from road transport remained at the same level in the decade to 2019. A net zero road network requires a 27% reduction in motor vehicle use, as well as a transition to electric vehicles. Since 2019 the council has rolled out further cycling infrastructure, an extensive vehicle charging network, and a Clean Air Neighbourhood, with further schemes to enable sustainable travel in development.

8. The council has made good progress on most of its strategy workstreams. As well as carbon reduction mentioned above, action to nurture the borough's biodiversity is underway, including improvements to habitat in parks such as tiny forests, and the borough-wide No Mow May initiative.
9. Actions across the workstreams are at early stages, with plans in place to build these towards full roll-out over the decade.
10. As well as carbon reduction mentioned above, action to nurture the borough's biodiversity is underway, including improvements to habitat in parks such as tiny forests, and the borough-wide 'No Mow May' initiative.

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - H&F 2030: Climate and Ecology Strategy; Progress and 2022-23 Priorities