

For General Release

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| REPORT TO: | CABINET 8 JULY 2019 |
| SUBJECT: | CLIMATE CHANGE |
| LEAD OFFICER: | SHIFA MUSTAFA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR PLACE |
| CABINET MEMBER: | CLLR TONY NEWMAN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL |
| WARDS: | |
| CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: Sustainability is recognised throughout the Corporate Plan, across development, economy, health, transport and environment. This recognises that becoming more sustainable is not the responsibility of one service, but drives activity across everything we do. | |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: No financial impact as a result of these recommendations. | |
| KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: N/A | |
| The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS That the Cabinet: 1.1. Establish a new working group, to bring together existing work and identify any gaps or further opportunities to reduce the Council's carbon emissions and encourage and support residents and businesses to be more sustainable; 1.2. Agree that at the outset this working group be chaired by the Leader of the Council in recognition of sustainability needing to cover everything we do; 1.3. Receive an annual report from the working group on progress. Recommend that Council: 1.4. Notes the impact that climate change is already having around the world and the need for urgent action at an international, national and local level; 1.5. Declare a 'Climate Emergency'; 1.6. Notes the work and commitment that the Council has already made towards sustainability; 1.7. Establish a target for Croydon Council be become carbon neutral by 2030; 1.8. Work with the Mayor of London to meet the aim for London to be a zero-carbon city by 2050; 1.9. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible; 1.10. Work with communities across Croydon to ensure that all residents and businesses are empowered and encouraged to play their part in making the Croydon the most sustainable borough in London. 1.11. Note the important role of all elected Members in leading this agenda. | |

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report highlights the urgent need to take action in response to climate change. The issues has seen increasing public challenge and expectation in tackling climate change.
- 2.2 Croydon Council has a strong track record in sustainability, and the Corporate Plan includes a range of commitments to sustainable growth, environment and making Croydon the greenest borough in London.
- 2.3 The report provides a summary of recent research on climate change and the need for radical and urgent additional action. Declaring a climate emergency will raise the profile of this issue among residents and businesses in Croydon, and provide the framework for the Council to further increase its focus on sustainability.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Climate change is an international issue, but that does not mean that it is not a key issues for local authorities.
- 3.2 The UK is a signatory to the Paris Agreement (through the European Union), which is a global commitment to mitigate global warming and limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- 3.3 The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report in October 2018, setting out findings on the impact of a 1.5°C temperature increase above pre-industrial levels. The findings were based on available scientific, technical and socio-economic literature.
- 3.4 According to the IPCC report, human activities are already estimated to have caused approximately 1°C global warming, and likely to reach a 1.5°C increase between 2030 and 2052 based on current rates.
- 3.5 The report highlighted a range of impacts as a result:
 - Increased mean temperature in most land and ocean regions
 - Hot extremes in most inhabited regions (with an increase in sever heatwaves, as seen recently in Europe)
 - Heavy precipitation in several regions (which increases the risk of flooding)
 - Probability of drought in some regions
- 3.6 The report concludes that urgent and unprecedented action is required, with reductions in CO₂ required well before 2030 in order to meet the Paris Agreement target.
- 3.7 The increasing sense of urgency in tackling climate change is seen as one of the reasons for recent increases in demonstrations and protests across the globe, which have included protests in London.

4. CONTEXT

4.1 Croydon has a track record of promoting sustainability across its own organisation, and for residents and businesses. As stated above, sustainability as a key theme flowing through the Corporate Plan. Actions have included:

- Work is already underway on planting 3,500 new trees by 2023
- Embracing Clean Air Day, with school competitions, vehicle checks and promoting alternative travel options
- Increasing our recycling rate
- Reducing energy use
- Introduction of e-bike hire scheme
- Promoting sustainable development and sustainable growth
- Divesting pension funds from fossil fuels
- Ambitious targets for electric vehicle charging points

4.2 A number of Councils have declared a climate emergency, as well as the Mayor of London. The first London Climate Action Week is taking place from 1 – 8 July. As the largest borough in London, Croydon has a key role to play in tackling climate change.

4.3 London Climate Action Week will focus on:

- community action and business leadership on climate
- clean energy and energy efficiency
- adaptation and resilience
- climate finance and investment
- legal, engineering and other environmental consultancy services
- low emission transport
- London's role in driving UK and international climate leadership
- Improving air quality around schools, including 'School Street' project to tackle congestion around schools.

5. SUSTAINABLE CROYDON SUMMIT

5.1 On 27 June 2019, the Leader of the Council hosted the first Sustainable Croydon Summit, bringing together schools, businesses, residents and stakeholders to discuss the opportunities for Croydon to become more sustainable.

5.2 Approximately 180 people attended the event, including over 40 students from schools across Croydon.

5.3 The event provided an opportunity to hear from key speakers on the impact that climate change has on people, and the opportunities to make changes.

5.4 The event included interactive sessions where attendees made pledges on the changes that each could to be more sustainable.

5.5 The Council also announced the launch of the Green Croydon Fund, with £250k allocated for community projects in Croydon that deliver a benefit around environmental protection, green living or sustainable lifestyles. Attendees were able to provide feedback and suggestions on the type of projects that should be

supported, and this will inform the final criteria and application process, which will launch in September.

- 5.6 A full report from the summit is being prepared and will be reported to Cabinet in September 2019.

6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

- 6.1 The recommendations recognise the findings from the UN, which highlight the need for urgent and radical action. By declaring a climate emergency, Croydon Council is showing its ongoing commitment to sustainability and making Croydon the greenest borough in London.
- 6.2 The commitment will also raise the profile of this issue among residents and businesses, as action by the Council alone will be insufficient.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no initial direct financial considerations arising from this report. The financial detail for any specific projects / activities, including costs, savings and benefits will be developed by the working group.
- 7.2 There is, however, an increasing risk if no action is taken. Climate change is linked with severe weather events, such as flooding and heat waves. These events increase the risk of harm to residents, particularly the more vulnerable. There is also additional costs incurred when responding to these events.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk & S151 Officer

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK government to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Act provides for the setting of legally binding 'carbon budgets'. The Act also puts in place a policy framework in the UK to promote adaptation to climate change in five yearly cycles. The Government has pledged to introduce a legally binding target for the UK to have net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8.2 The European Union Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC has been transposed into English law as the Air Quality Regulations 2010.
- 8.3 In January 2018 the government published a 25 Year Environment Plan which sets out the government's goals for improving the environment within a generation. The Plan's broad goals are clean air, clean and plentiful water, thriving plants and wildlife, a reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as flooding and drought, using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently, enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment, mitigating and adapting to climate change, minimising waste, managing exposure to chemicals and enhancing biosecurity.

- 8.4 In May 2018 under changes made by the Localism Act 2011 to the Greater London Authority Act 1999 ('GLA Act') the Mayor of London published a London Environment Strategy. Section 351A of the GLA Act prescribes what the Environment Strategy must contain bringing together six separate environmental strategies around biodiversity, municipal waste management, climate change mitigation and energy, adaptation to climate change, air quality and ambient noise. The London Environment Strategy also contains a general assessment of London's environment. In addition, the GLA Act also requires environmental policy to be reflected in other strategies published by the Mayor such as the London Plan, the Transport Strategy and the Police and Crime Plan.
- 8.5 In relation to air quality the Council must have regard to the air quality provisions within the Mayor's Strategy when exercising its local air quality management functions under the Environment Act 1995 and related Defra guidance.
- 8.6 To address climate change mitigation and energy as a borough Planning Authority the Council is responsible for enforcing the low carbon and energy efficient building design and operation of standards of development set out in the London Plan.
- 8.7 When considering adapting to climate change the Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority with respect to surface water and groundwater flooding. The Borough Director of Public Health is responsible for implementing Public Health England's national heatwave plan in order to manage population health and well-being.

Approved by Sandra Herbert Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 9.1 There is no human resources impact arising from this report.

Approved by: Gillian Bevan, Head of Human Resources on behalf of the Director of Human Resources

10. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 10.1 There is no negative impact on groups that share protected characteristics.
- 10.2 However, creating a more sustainable environment will impact positively on health outcomes, as a result of cleaner air, sustainable employment and housing. This will contribute towards the Corporate Plan objectives of creating a fairer Croydon.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

11. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

11.1 By declaring a climate emergency, Croydon Council is committing to tackle climate change. This will have a positive environmental impact, in particular in relation to air quality and health for residents and visitors. Further details and monitoring will be undertaken by the Working Group.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

12.1 There is no crime and disorder impact arising from this report.

CONTACT OFFICER: Gavin Handford, Head of Policy and Strategy

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, October 2018. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>