

## For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>CABINET 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>A Sustainable Croydon Update</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Shifa Mustafa, Executive Director of Place Gavin Handford, Director of Policy &amp; Partnerships</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>Cllr Tony Newman, Leader of the Council All Cabinet Members</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON</b> <i>The recommendations contained in this report aims to deliver against multiple priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan including but not limited to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Improved air quality, especially at or near schools</i></li><li>• <i>Croydon's recycling rate is increased and the use of plastics is reduced</i></li><li>• <i>Transport, digital and social infrastructures are effective and support economic growth</i></li><li>• <i>Less reliance on cars, more willingness to use public transport, walk and cycle</i></li></ul> <a href="#">Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022</a>	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPACT</b> The Green Croydon Fund and Citizen's Assembly will be funded from within existing revenue budgets.	
<b>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.:</b> N/A	

If the The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

### 1. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to

- 1.1 Note the contents of this report ahead of a more detailed report coming to October Cabinet in response to the declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency at July Council.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report is an update from the Sustainable Croydon Summit 2019 that took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> June where the Leader announced the intention to take a

declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency to Council, which was unanimously ratified by Full Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

- 2.2 A summary of the findings of the event is detailed below as well as some possible next steps that are proposed to be brought forward in a more detailed report to Cabinet in October.

### **3. SUSTAINABLE CROYDON SUMMIT 2019**

- 3.1 Sustainability is about balancing our lifestyles and practices with the world around us to ensure a future for all of us. Becoming more sustainable requires all of Croydon to look at the way we live and work and make changes to protect our community and ensure it prospers.
- 3.2 The Sustainable Croydon Summit provided a platform to involve residents, businesses and, most importantly the future generation, our young people in a conversation on how Croydon, as a community, can become more sustainable.
- 3.3 The Council recognises that being sustainable goes beyond simply 'going green.' Whilst the latter is important, the principles of sustainability must be considered as part of everything we do, which will include functions in relation to the building of affordable quality, energy efficient homes, to the improvement of local infrastructure and transport and to encouraging local businesses to provide living wage paying jobs for local people. It is also about the safety and health of the public who are threatened by the presence of poor air quality.
- 3.4 The work the Council is currently doing only represents a good start and it's only through the introduction of further innovative solutions, community engagement and action and ambitious target-setting that the Borough will achieve a truly sustainable Croydon. The Summit brought together local residents, businesses and organisations to share their views on what the community and Council can collectively do next to create a more sustainable borough for the future.

### **Climate Emergency**

- 3.5 At the start of the Croydon Sustainable Summit, which was opened by Shirley Rodrigues – Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy for London – Councillor Tony Newman, Leader of the Council, declared a climate emergency. This was recognition from the Council that the damage to the world's climate had reached a state of crisis requiring urgent, significant action. We are at a critical point in time, where immediate change is necessary at an international, national and local level to ensure the best possible future for our community.
- 3.6 This emergency does not merely severely impact upon our environment but our health. Councillor Newman highlighted the concern that many individuals are hospitalised by the poor air quality resulting from pollution. A radical agenda is therefore needed to create a sustainable borough to protect the people of Croydon. This agenda must be led by young people so that the needs of future generations are embedded into the borough's plans, but all of us have a responsibility.

- 3.7 In recognition of the need for ambitious and effective change the Leader made the commitment to make Croydon Council carbon neutral by 2030 to ensure we take personal responsibility and react appropriately to this severe global issue. Further, the Leader also announced Croydon's ambition to become the leading sustainable green place in London to ensure we are doing all we can at a local level to do our part.
- 3.8 In the weeks after the Summit, Cabinet considered a report which was referred to Full Council and led to the official declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency by the Council on July 15th. The report also committed to empowering businesses and residents to play their part in making Croydon the most sustainable borough in London.

### **Green Croydon Fund**

- 3.9 The Green Croydon Fund of £250k was announced at the summit by Cllr Muhammed Ali. The decision was taken by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environment, Transport & Regeneration to allocate funds from an existing budgets.
- 3.10 This annual fund provides funding support for projects, activities and initiatives that promote environmental protection, green living and a sustainable lifestyle in Croydon and link into the priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 3.11 For example:
- Reducing social isolation and creating a greater sense of community involvement
  - Creating an environment where our young people thrive and reach their full potential
  - Providing volunteering opportunities, particularly hard to reach groups
- 3.12 Funding can be applied for at any time and is available to voluntary non-profit organisations delivering either small/medium projects within Croydon that require £1,000 - £15,000, or medium/large projects within Croydon requiring £15,001 - £50,000. Funding cannot be used to pay staff.
- 3.13 Applicants should contact the Communities Team at [communities.team@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:communities.team@croydon.gov.uk) or 020 8694 7029 for information on how to apply.

### **The Event**

- 3.14 The event was started with both the Leader and the Deputy Mayor for Energy and Environment, Shirley Rodrigues speaking on the work that has been done in Croydon and then recognising how much further we, as a community, will have to go to make Croydon truly sustainable.
- 3.15 There were multiple speakers that followed as part of the three sessions that followed the opening including Krept from Krept and Konan and Joan Runcorn from Norwood Grove Pre-school.

- 3.16 Two of the sessions were panels where attendees were able to ask panellists questions. The themes were on:
- Creating a Sustainable Place -  
This panel was in place to discuss the current work being done to develop Croydon's sustainability and what opportunities there are for further progress. The discussions were mainly focussed on housing and employment.
  - Working Together for a More Sustainable Future -  
This panel was in place to discuss how all residents of Croydon and its organisations can work together better to deliver a sustainable future. The discussions were focussed on young people in the community and working with local organisations.
- 3.17 An interactive session was also held where attendees were given an introduction to the operation of the Green Fund and then asked to consider three questions;
- What can we do to be the leading sustainable green place in London?
  - What can Croydon's Green Fund be used for?
  - What can I do to make a difference?
- 3.18 Responses were varied but were mostly centred on the following themes:
- Breaking old habits
  - Community cohesion
  - Green spaces
  - Sustainable transport
  - Events focussed on sustainability
  - Using less single use plastics
- 3.19 More details of the day and breakdown of information can be found in the attached Sustainable Summit 2019 Report, Appendix 1 hereto.

#### **4. TO DATE**

- 4.1 Measures which the Council has already put in place which support the sustainability agenda include:
- An increase in the recycling rate borough-wide by 9%;
  - A published five-year Air Quality Action Plan 2017 – 22;
  - More than 1,500 new bin installations all across the borough to revamp the system for waste collection;
  - The School Street Scheme which prohibits most vehicular transport at the start and end of the school day to improve air quality around schools in the scheme and protect children from the harms of air pollution;
  - The award-winning "Don't Mess with Croydon" campaign
  - A commitment to planting at least 3,500 trees between 2018 – 2023;

- 4.2 The Council has committed to taking actions to ensure that the borough is carbon neutral by 2030, one of which is to ensure that all future reports measure the Sustainable Impact of any recommendations made to any of the Council's decision making bodies much in the way the environmental impact is noted in all reports.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

### **Citizen's Assembly**

- 5.1 A report will be presented to October Cabinet proposing the launch of a Citizen's Assembly this autumn, of which the first theme discussed will be targeting Climate Change.
- 5.2 A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. Using this method would ensure that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change would be heavily influenced by the voice of residents.
- 5.3 The Council will ensure a representative sample that reflects Croydon's diverse population and includes all age groups at these meetings to be sure that a range of opinions and stances will be considered in the recommendations put forward as a result of the assembly.
- 5.4 The outcome of the Citizen's Assembly will be both reported to a future Cabinet and help inform the work of the commission.
- 5.5 The detailed report on the Citizen's Assembly will go to October Cabinet for approval.

### **Commission**

- 5.6 The report to Cabinet in October will be proposing an independent commission on sustainability to gather evidence, assess the current situation and make recommendations back to Cabinet.
- 5.7 This method will be supported by an independent advisors to ensure that the commission is independent and appropriately supported to fulfil its purpose.
- 5.8 By giving evidence to the commission, young people, residents, voluntary and community sector organisations and businesses will have the opportunity to directly affect the recommendations to Council on what actions to take.
- 5.9 The Terms of reference on the commission will go to October Cabinet and further details will be provided.

## **6. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The Green Croydon Fund of £250k and the costs associated with the Citizen's Assembly will be funded from within existing budgets.
- 6.2 The Green Croydon Fund will be available to voluntary non-profit organisations. Small or medium projects in Croydon can bid for funding from £1,000 - £15,000, and medium to large projects in Croydon can bid for funding of £15,001 to £50,000. Funding cannot be used to fund staff costs.
- 6.3 The allocation of funding and the outcomes of the projects and the Citizen's Assembly will be monitored regularly.

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

## **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report. Any legal implications arising in relation to individual actions will be dealt with as projects and decisions come forward for approval.

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

## **8. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

- 8.1 There are no immediate HR implications arising for the initial report but a further assessment will be undertaken on the fuller October report.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1 The October report will detail the relevant considerations in relation to equalities as highlighted in the Equalities Assessment which will be appended to the report.
- 9.2 The proposed initiatives will seek to get more young people involved in taking part in local democracy and in tackling the issues that matter most to them
- 9.3 The Sustainable Croydon Summit provided a platform to involve residents, businesses and, most importantly the future generation, our young people in a conversation on how Croydon, as a community, can become more sustainable.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

## **10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

10.1 No expected impact from this report; the October report will contain more details.

## **11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

11.1 No expected impact.

## **12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION**

12.1 This report is to note only.

## **13. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

13.1 This report is to note only.

## **14. DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 **WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?**

No

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None

### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 - The Sustainable Summit Report