

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET 7 JUNE 2021
SUBJECT:	Recommendations from the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission
LEAD OFFICER:	Sarah Hayward, Interim Executive Director of Place Steve Iles, Director of Public Realm
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Muhammad Ali, Cabinet Member for Sustainable Croydon
WARDS:	All
COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2021-2024 The Council's suggested approach in furthering work to reduce carbon emissions is aligned with the the need for the Council to remain within budget. The work on energy efficiency in homes will help to reduce fuel poverty and work on improving air quality in the borough will help to tackle the underlying causes of environmental injustice and keep streets clean and safe.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT There is no immediate financial impact arising from the recommendations of this report.	
FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: This is not a key decision	

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

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to

- 1.1 Welcome the report and recommendations of Croydon Climate Crisis Commission and record the Council's thanks to the Commission and the New Economics Foundation for their thorough and committed work in challenging circumstances.
- 1.2 Note the actions the Council has already taken to combat climate change.
- 1.3 Note that a detailed, costed delivery plan will be developed in autumn 2021 to implement the Commission's recommendations, provided that this can be done within the Council's existing budget or utilising external funding resources.
- 1.4 Note that a copy of the Climate Crisis Commission report will be shared with the Chairs of relevant Council Committees to consider how their committee work can support the Climate Crisis work undertaken by the Council.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report presents the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission's report, the findings of online engagement on its draft recommendations, and the Commission's final recommendations to enable the borough of Croydon to become carbon neutral by 2030. The actions identified are wide-ranging, with implications for many areas of council activity including planning, housing, economic growth, commissioning and transport.
- 2.2 The Council declared a climate change and ecological emergency in July 2019. Already a wide range of actions are underway in Croydon to combat climate change, from the environmental requirements the Council makes of its suppliers, to its programmes to install 400 electric vehicle charging points and develop more cycle routes. Requirements in Croydon's current Local Plan ensure the sustainable design and construction of new buildings, and the Council gives advice and help to access grants to improve energy efficiency in existing private housing, and runs a retrofit programme for council stock. An Air Quality Action Plan is being implemented to tackle air pollution in the borough.
- 2.3 Compared to the other London boroughs, Croydon's emissions are above the median. The Council is committed to deliver as many of the Commission's recommendations as possible. There are multiple benefits to be gained from measures to reduce carbon emissions: lower energy costs, warmer homes and a lower carbon footprint can go hand in hand; measures to reduce traffic and increase active travel reduce air pollution and improve health. The Council can help to drive a green economic recovery by identifying green jobs in Croydon and enabling local people to gain the skills needed and access them, and by working with local anchor institutions, such as colleges and NHS trusts, to buy more goods and services from local suppliers. The Council can help to green our neighbourhoods by extending cycle routes and the 'school streets' programme, seeking funding to increase the number of public, residential and rapid charging points for electric vehicles, and working to increase the number of electric cars in car club fleets. Croydon's Local Plan Review will look to embed further the policy context for the vitality, viability and sustainability of District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Shopping Parades, supporting the concept of the 15-minute city. The Council can also seek funding to increase the installation of solar panels in the borough and increase the energy efficiency of council homes.
- 2.4 On its own, the Council cannot achieve the scale of change required in the borough. It will therefore build a broad alliance of partners to address the climate and ecological crisis together, involving residents, unions, businesses, civil society organisations, further education and skills providers, and other anchor organisations. The Council's financial circumstances mean that staffing and financial resources available to implement the recommendations are limited. Along with its internal available resources, and Section 106 carbon offset funding, it will seek and pursue all available opportunities from external sources at a local, regional and national level for resources available to local government and also work with partner organisations that can access funding streams not directly accessible to the public sector. The next steps therefore involve the development of a detailed and costed delivery plan and applications

for external funding to resource implementation actions. The detailed delivery plan will be presented to a future meeting of Cabinet in autumn 2021.

3 CONTEXT

- 3.1 In 2019 domestic emission sources in Croydon, notably heating and powering homes, made up approximately 46% of CO₂ emissions in Croydon – and without action, this share is expected to increase to 60%. Transport emissions made up approximately 24%, and industry and commercial emissions made up approximately 30% of the borough's CO₂ emissions. Not including consumption emissions, Croydon's current rate of carbon emissions is estimated at around 1.08 million tonnes (CO₂ equivalents) per year.
- 3.2 Croydon Council declared a climate change and ecological emergency on 15 July 2019 and set a target for the Council to become carbon neutral by 2030 (minute item 53/19). The Council commissioned the Campaign Company, to recruit, facilitate and report back on the work of Croydon Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change, and the New Economics Foundation (NEF) to set up and support an independent climate crisis commission. Croydon Climate Crisis Commission was launched in March 2020, shortly before the country entered lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and built on the work of the Citizens' Assembly that had taken place in January and February 2020.
- 3.3 The vision of the Commission is to drive rapid reductions in the carbon emissions from activities in the borough of Croydon, with the intention of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Commission aims to ensure the transition to zero carbon happens in a fair and just way, providing good quality jobs, improving wellbeing, and reducing inequality. Its short term purpose was to identify priority areas for action, developed with the people of Croydon, to show how the borough of Croydon can become carbon neutral by 2030.

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic and the Council's financial situation

- 3.4 The work of the Commission was impacted both by the COVID-19 Pandemic and by the Council's financial situation:
 - **Context of Commission's recommendations:** The context in which the Commission is making recommendations and the challenges faced have changed as a result of the pandemic. The Commission's focus has shifted slightly to recognise that it is now making recommendations in the context of a financial downturn and is considering how its recommendations can support economic recovery in a way that moves towards the carbon neutral target.
 - **Timeframe:** The Commission launched days before the national lockdown and a short period was needed to review ways of working and identify the best options to continue its work by moving meetings online. This meant that the first Commission meeting took place in May 2020 rather than at the end of March as originally intended. As a result the timetable has been extended by several months and a higher concentration of work was planned for after the public engagement.

- **Availability of resources:** Prior to the lockdown, the Council had been seeking to recruit to a role to provide additional capacity and administrative and coordination support to the Commission, as agreed with NEF as part of the proposal. A recruitment freeze removed this option and NEF has sought to provide this additional capacity at no additional cost to the Council.

New Economics Foundation

- 3.5 NEF were brought on as consultants to support the Commission and ensure that it remained independent from the Council. They provided continuous support to the Commission and working groups, and acted as the secretariat for the Commission, facilitating meetings, supporting the chairs of the working groups and providing administrative support.
- 3.6 NEF has been instrumental for this work and the Council takes this opportunity to thank them for their commitment, understanding and support during these unprecedented times.
- 3.7 Council officers participated in the working groups to provide expertise and join up with other work streams around the Council wherever possible.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Once the working groups had identified key themes and outcomes for recommendation, the Council undertook engagement with residents, businesses and young people to ensure that they were given the opportunity to input and have their voices heard consistently.
- 4.2 Initially, the Council planned engagement activities which involved a series of five workshops in November / December 2020 and an online survey. However, due to the Council's financial situation, this was reduced to an online survey only.
- 4.3 The Council conducted the survey to collect views on the Commission's initial recommendations during a two week period between January and February 2021. The survey was publicised by social media (Twitter), Council website banners, as well as the Commission's website and Twitter. It was also distributed by email to the Council's partners, and the Commission sent it to the commissioners and their working groups and their networks.
- 4.4 More than 400 people responded: 69% were residents of Croydon, with the majority of the remaining group either working in Croydon or living nearby.
- 4.5 Respondents came from most of Croydon's wards; however, 54% of respondents came from just two wards: Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood, and South Norwood. Respondents who reported their demographic data were slightly more likely to be female (60% of respondents) and most likely to be middle aged. Only 4% of respondents were aged 30 and under, and only 4% were aged 71 and over.

- 4.6 As data from 2019 suggests that 38% of Croydon's population is under the age of 30, and around 9% are aged 70 and over, the respondent sample cannot be treated as a statistically representative sample of the Croydon population.
- 4.7 Ten out of 12 recommendations received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Summary feedback is provided against the recommendations in Appendix 1. Recommendations receiving strong support included:
- Better understanding and measuring progress on emissions reduction, and embedding climate change action in Council activities,
 - Delivery of good quality green homes in the borough, tougher standards for new homes, and retrofit in existing homes,
 - Cheaper, safer and more accessible public transport and active travel facilities,
 - Roll out of public and private electric vehicles and related infrastructure,
 - Creation of green jobs in the borough, and harnessing the power of anchor institutions and community wealth building to strengthen the local economy and accelerate its green transition,
 - Tree planting and restoring local green spaces.
- 4.8 The survey also highlighted the need to get consultation and community engagement right when planning changes in local areas.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS COMMISSION

- 5.1 The recommendations from the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission are grouped into five priority areas for action:

1. Getting the groundwork right:

- Rebuild trust with residents, community groups, trade unions and businesses.
- Develop an alliance of partners to drive a green economic recovery
- Establish oversight and accountability
- Tackle climate adaptation risks
- Establish measures to chart progress
- Embed climate adaptation and carbon reduction actions in the plans of the Council and its partners
- Contribute to a broader knowledge exchange.

2. Driving a green economic recovery - through [community wealth building](#), which aims to cultivate local businesses that are generative creators of social value, reinvesting their wealth back into the communities they serve:

- Promote green jobs and skills
- Strengthen the local and foundational economy, working with anchor organisations
- Continue progress towards a circular economy.

3. Greening our Neighbourhoods:

- Increase renewable energy production and demand
- Develop a pipeline of retrofit projects to decarbonise and improve the energy efficiency of commercial and residential buildings
- Develop local retrofit delivery capacity

- Adopt the 15-minute city model, and embed it into the Local Plan to localise Croydon
- Promote public transport and active travel to become the natural first choice – including pilot approaches to Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Provide the infrastructure to promote the use of electric cars.

4. Getting people and businesses involved:

- Develop a positive borough-wide campaign – with high profile school campaigning
- Promote action at scale.

5. Achieving the scale of change - lobby GLA and central government on:

- Appropriate long-term funding to support delivery of climate adaption and Net Zero actions
- Extending the Ultra-low Emissions Zone
- Affordable public transport
- Distance-based road pricing.

5.2 Further detail of the recommendations can be found in Appendix 2.

6 CURRENT COUNCIL PROGRAMMES TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE CRISIS

6.1 Croydon Council already runs several programmes to tackle the climate crisis, both to adapt to the climate crisis and reduce emissions.

6.2 In some areas the Commission's recommendations build on the Council's current activity and future plans. Examples of current actions are set out under the relevant priority area for action identified by the Commission.

1. Getting the groundwork right

- [Social value framework](#) seeks benefits from the Council's procurement expenditure, including reduced air pollution and carbon footprint, and increased biodiversity.
- Actions supporting climate adaptation include:
 - The introduction of climate control to council-run passenger vehicles for temperature reduction in hot weather
 - The Council has started to actively collect rainwater to remedy the ecological risk of periods of drought and dry weather
 - The Council's highways team are training more drivers of gritting vehicles and introducing a three shift system to increase standby capability and flexibility
 - Where appropriate, planning conditions can be attached to planning consents to ensure sustainable development, including appropriate soft landscaping and provision of green roofs.

- All new council stock incorporates climate change adaption features, for example flood resilience
- Promotion of the use of heat wave action plans for businesses and communities.

2. Driving a green economic recovery:

- An obligation is placed on the Council, when tendering, to make provision in the relevant tendering and contract documents to require contractors to pay the London Living Wage. Local businesses are encouraged to commit to paying the London Living Wage, and the Council will promote the Mayor's Good Work Standard.
- Strategic partnerships are being built with housing associations and developers to identify future green jobs.
- Workers are offered opportunities to upskill and retrain to access growing work sectors.
- An employment and skills forum, comprising universities, colleges, private providers and users, is mapping existing provision and working together to source external funding – this can help to reduce green skills gaps.
- There is support for local groups to access external funding.
- £20,000 business recovery and innovation grants are conditional on businesses meeting community wealth building priorities of buying and employing local, and reducing their carbon footprint.
- The South London Waste Plan (2019) sets out the boroughs' approach to reduce waste and create a circular economy, with options to reuse, repair or re-manufacture the things we buy. One of the Council's Household, Reuse and Recycling centres will have a ReUse shop later this year.

3. Greening our Neighbourhoods

- [The Croydon Local Plan 2018](#) has measures to tackle the climate crisis. Most notably, Policy SP6 Environment and Climate Change seeks to ensure energy efficiency and emission reductions through sustainable design and construction. The policy also contains provisions for flood risk management and sustainable waste management. The Local Plan is applied in tandem with the London Plan 2021, in particular Chapter 9, which addresses sustainable infrastructure. The Local Plan supports the concept of the 15-minute city with policy encouraging and preserving the vitality, viability and sustainability of the borough's District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Shopping Parades.
- The Council's Healthy Homes Scheme provides energy advice and help for vulnerable and fuel poor households to access grants to improve the energy efficiency of their private sector homes.

- Decarbonisation of social housing is underway, with a retrofit programme and heat pump installation. A feasibility study of installation of solar photo-voltaic panels on council homes was completed – third party capital funding is needed.
- Local colleges are already working with employers and planning how to provide retrofit training.
- The Mayor’s construction academy in Croydon College is providing training and upskilling of current construction workers.
- Installation of 400 electric vehicle charging points by 2022 is underway.
- Scaling the cost of parking permits and pay and display parking, providing discounts for less polluting and greener vehicles.
- Increasing the proportion of electric, hydrogen and ultra-low emission vehicles in car clubs.
- A programme to develop cycle routes is underway.
- A pilot Low-Traffic Neighbourhood in Crystal Palace to promote active travel.
- A School Streets initiative encourages the use of cycling and walking by placing restrictions on road travel during pick-up and drop-off times on streets near certain schools.
- Commitment to plant 3,500 trees by 2023, including installing 60 new planting bays alongside roads in the borough’s neighbourhoods.
- Producing an Air Quality Action Plan to tackle air pollution in the borough.
- Changes to waste collections services in 2018 increased the amount of household waste being recycled from 38% to 50%, putting Croydon in the top quartile in London.

4. Getting People and Businesses involved

- A Business Low Emission Neighbourhood in London Road, West Croydon, is working with local businesses to reduce emissions.
- Cleaner Air Champions - volunteer programme empowers local people to raise awareness and understanding of problems around air quality and promote activities for people to do to help improve their local air quality.
- Air quality monitoring at all schools, with air quality audits being carried out at schools in 2021/22.

7 COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Council's current financial situation limits the funding and staffing resources available to implement several of the recommendations. Nevertheless, it is strongly committed to reducing carbon emissions as much as possible and some recommendations build on existing council programmes to reduce emissions. The Council can help to drive a green economic recovery by identifying current and future green jobs in Croydon and enabling local people to gain the necessary skills and access them, and by working with local anchor institutions, such as colleges and NHS trusts, to buy more goods and services from local suppliers. The Council will help to green our neighbourhoods by extending the 'school streets' programme, by seeking funding to extend cycle routes and increase the number of public, residential and rapid charging points for electric vehicles, and by working to increase the number of electric cars in car club fleets. The Council will also seek funding to increase the installation of solar panels in the borough and increase the energy efficiency of council homes. A single webpage will be developed providing all the details on the Council's response to the Climate Emergency.
- 7.2 What is needed going forward is to forge alliances with a diverse range of groups and stakeholders across the borough: education, skills providers, and wider public sector organisations, businesses, employees and trade unions, the community and voluntary sector, and local residents. The Commission's recommendations are for Croydon as a whole and the Council as a local leader will convene partners to co-design activities to achieve the common purpose of becoming a sustainable borough by 2030. It will also explore partnership with local authorities in the South London Partnership, who share a commitment to sustainability and tackling climate change, and the Greater London Authority.
- 7.3 The recommendations will inform the development of plans in areas such as Croydon's economic renewal, housing and transport. A copy of the Climate Crisis Commission report will be shared with the Chairs of relevant Council Committees to consider how their committee work can support the climate crisis work undertaken by the Council. With regard to planning, the important role the borough's District Centres, Neighbourhood Centres and Shopping Parades can play in a sustainable future for the borough has become more important and understood since the adoption of the Local Plan 2018. Therefore, the Local Plan Review will look to embed further the policy context for the vitality, viability and sustainability of these centres, which aligns with the 15-minute city concept.
- 7.4 Some recommendations will influence the shape and delivery of existing council programmes and plans, such as commissioning, and have few financial implications in themselves. However, other recommendations do have financial implications, and will therefore only be implemented if the resources required are accessed externally. Given its financial position, the Council will not be able to support measures that reduce its own rental or parking income, or increase spending or risk, for example by developing a council owned energy company or providing new funding for initiatives from its own resources, although it can review the eligibility criteria for its existing programmes or obtain support from external sources.

- 7.5 While the Commission recommends that the Council ensure that its pension investment strategies are in line with their declaration of a climate emergency, it should be noted that the Council acts as the Pension Fund's administering authority (a separate statutory entity from the Council). The current Pension Investment Strategy states at paragraph 6.3: 'The Fund will only invest in investments with a strong environmental [policy]... The Fund will disinvest from existing fossil fuel investments in a prudent and sensible way that reflects the fiduciary responsibility due to stakeholders. Furthermore, where this is consistent with the agreed investment strategy, the Fund will invest in assets that positively address these issues. Examples of this approach include investing in renewable energy projects...' The Pensions Committee is reviewing the Pension Investment Strategy Statement to ensure that it is compliant with the latest guidance and regulations and considering how to respond to the Task Force on Climate Related Disclosures and targets set by the 2015 Paris Agreement. The outcome of this review is expected in September 2021. In due course, the Committee will also consider targets emerging from the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Glasgow in November 2021.
- 7.6 The Council is directly responsible for between 2 and 5% of the borough's carbon emissions, depending on how the Council's emissions are defined. The Council's carbon emissions baseline will be defined and established, against which to measure reductions.
- 7.7 A detailed and costed delivery plan will be developed to implement with local and regional partners as many of the Commission's recommendations as practicable and affordable. As part of this work, potential future external funding to support implementation will be identified. Development work will also note Government measures set out in the Energy White Paper (December 2020) for heat pumps, addressing fuel poverty, raising standards for new homes and enabling savings on bills and the provisions of the Environment Bill that proposes a framework for legally-binding environmental targets and measures for recycling, tackling air pollution, securing water supplies and wastewater services, and protecting nature and biodiversity through the planning system. The Council will also consider forthcoming sector strategies, including Heat and Buildings, the Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and the comprehensive Net Zero Strategy for transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050.
- 7.8 A range of national and regional funding programmes are available, some of which the Council has already accessed, that could potentially support the implementation of recommendations from this report. Department for Education funding for adult education and Department for Work and Pensions funding for upskilling and retraining, may be supplemented by companies with apprenticeship levy funds available. Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy provides funding for business grants and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provides the Future High Streets fund. There is also funding from the Mayor of London's Office, for example the London Recovery Board and the Mayor's Air Quality Funding, and from Transport for London's Local Implementation Plan for active travel initiatives. Electric vehicle charging points are funded by the Department of Transport and Innovate UK, Transport for London. Charging points and other initiatives are also funded by developers through Section 106 carbon offset funding.

- 7.9 The 2020 Spending Review made a number of announcements in this regard: £1.9bn of investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and grants for zero and ultra-low emission vehicles until 2024-25, including £275m for charge point installation at homes, workplaces and on-street locations, and a commitment to spend £3bn on building decarbonisation, including retrofitting homes and public buildings with energy efficiency upgrades and making them cheaper to heat with low-carbon energy, and support for the creation of clean heat networks. Budget 2021 announced the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund, though it is noted that Croydon is, respectively, in category 2, and is not regarded as a 'priority place'.
- 7.10 Following closure of both the Green Homes Grant voucher scheme for homeowners and landlords and the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive in March 2021, the government announced £300m of extra funding for energy efficiency and low carbon heating schemes for low income households, to be distributed via local authorities.
- 7.11 We will also explore how our partners may contribute to the borough-wide effort to address the climate and ecological crisis by attracting funding from other sources not available to the Council, such as sponsorship, loans from the UK Infrastructure Bank, or ethical green financing. VCS organisations can access government funding specifically for the sector, such as the Community Ownership Fund announced in the budget. Long-term sustainable external funding will be essential to enable the Council to help achieve our carbon neutral target.

8 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 8.1 The Leader of the Council submitted a report on Croydon Climate Crisis Commission to the Scrutiny Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee on [29 September 2020](#). The committee's recommendations for the Commission focused on:
- Ensuring officers gave consideration as to how to measure success in order to ensure that the Council was on target to meet commitments to be Carbon neutral by 2030
 - The Commission and officers making sure that engagement on the Climate Action Plan and recommendations was managed well using existing council resources, such as the Citizens' Assembly if possible
 - The Council embedding sustainability in all its processes and major decisions including engaging with the Commission on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

- 9.2 The Commission's recommendations will be costed and a detailed implementation plan will be developed to deliver them within existing resources. Where additional resources are required to implement them, it will be obtained through bids via external sources of funding.

Approved by Geetha Blood, Interim Head of Finance, Place and Resources on behalf of Director of Finance, Investment and Risk, S151 Officer

10 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments that 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.
- 10.2 The European Union Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC has been transposed into English law as the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010.
- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 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 provides that the Strategy must contain provisions dealing with the Mayor's policies and proposals in relation to each of the following matters in relation to Greater London — 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.
- 10.5 In relation to air quality the Council must have regard to the air quality provisions within the Mayor's London Environment Strategy when exercising its local air quality management functions. .
- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 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

11 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

11.1 There is no human resources impact arising directly from this report.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

12 EQUALITIES IMPACT

12.1 While climate change will impact everyone, people who are more socially vulnerable could potentially experience a greater impact from its effects. Relevant factors include age and health, the quality of housing and proximity to green space, and social and institutional factors, such as inequality, social capital and social cohesion. People with limited mobility, older people, people with poor health, people living in disadvantaged areas and from black, asian and ethnic minority groups are therefore likely to be more impacted.

12.2 Commissioners for the Climate Crisis Commission were appointed from diverse backgrounds to ensure that the needs of Croydon's diverse population were adequately considered in recommending any action the Council should take regarding climate change and sustainability.

12.3 The recommendations of Croydon Climate Crisis Commission aim to assist the adaptation to climate change as well as reduce carbon emissions. They are designed to ensure that the transition to zero carbon happens in a fair and just way, improving wellbeing, reducing inequality and providing good quality jobs. They support a green economic recovery from the impact of the Covid lockdown. The measures contained in this report should therefore have a positive impact on all residents, including those who share protected characteristics.

12.4 An improvement in air quality will benefit all ages but especially those suffering with childhood and lifelong asthma. Croydon has more than 17,000 fuel poor households. Measures to improve the energy efficiency of homes will enable more people to live in warm homes, reducing fuel poverty, and particularly benefit those older people, people with disabilities and people in poor health who spend more time at home and live on lower incomes, as well as people who live in disadvantaged areas.

12.5 Commission recommendations advocate less travel by car through a reduction of parking spaces (as well as more public transport and active travel). While this could have negatively impacted some people with a disability who need to use a car, the Council will not make any further reduction in car parking spaces,

but will instead encourage people to get low emission vehicles and car clubs to use electrical vehicles through pricing policy.

- 12.6 The Equality Analysis of the recommendations summarized above is attached at Appendix 3.

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

13 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 13.1 All works carried out to date are expected to have a beneficial impact on the Council's carbon footprint as well as on the greening of our borough and the air quality.
- 13.2 This report sets out the next steps for implementing the recommendations of Croydon Climate Crisis Commission. The recommendations themselves range over many areas of activity, including planning, housing, transport, economic growth and skills.

14 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

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

15 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

- 15.1 To welcome the report and recommendations of Croydon Climate Crisis Commission, thank NEF for its role in supporting and facilitating the work of the Commission, and set out the next steps to plan and resource actions that will enable the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

16 OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 16.1 The Council considered cancelling the Commission due to the current financial situation. This option was rejected as the Council recognises that the climate emergency still needs to be tackled wherever and whenever possible. Moreover, the work was nearing completion and it would have been wasteful to leave this project unfinished with the amount of interest and engagement from residents.

17 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

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

NO

- 17.2 **HAS A DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT (DPIA) BEEN**

COMPLETED?

NO

The Director of Public Realm comments that the council's information management team have advised that there is not a high risk to the participants in the engagement survey and their data and confirmed that a DPIA would not be required in this instance.

Approved by: Steve Iles, Director of Public Realm

CONTACT OFFICER:

John Montes, Senior Strategy Officer, 020
8726 6000 Ext 61613

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

Appendix 1 – Croydon Climate Crisis Commission Draft Recommendations Feedback
Appendix 2 – Croydon Climate Crisis Commission Report and Recommendations
Appendix 3 – Equality analysis

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None