

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> 2020

EXECUTIVE – JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2020

Report by the Chief Executive on the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability  
Strategy (WESS) Action Plan

SUMMARY

On 17th July 2019, Wandsworth Council declared a Climate Emergency, setting a target to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. At the same time the Council published its ten-year Environment and Sustainability Strategy (WESS), which set out a roadmap for achieving this ambitious target, and made a commitment that annual climate action plans would be developed and published and that progress would be also be reported annually.

This report sets out the key actions of the first of these climate action plans, with the detailed climate action plan for 2020/21 attached at Appendix One. These actions include

- allocating £5million to projects which support the achievement of the Council's 2030 target;
- embedding environmental and sustainability aims across the Council by becoming a Gold Level Carbon Literate organisation and introducing environmental comments into Committee reports;
- purchasing 100% green electricity;
- lobbying for increased powers to tackle vehicle idling; and
- moving to the next phase of an engagement and communications plan, that puts working with in partnership with residents, business and community groups at the heart of the Council's work to deliver real and sustainable carbon footprint reductions in Wandsworth.

This report acknowledges that the action plans are only the starting point.

Through real engagement with community groups, residents and businesses and through additional dedicated resources, the Council will build on this plan with further actions developed and delivered over the next ten years.

This will include challenging everyone who lives and works in Wandsworth to reduce their carbon footprint and make Wandsworth the greenest, inner London borough.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to support the recommendations in paragraph 3 below.
2. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or recommendations on the report, these will be submitted to the Executive and/or the General Purposes Committee for their consideration.
3. The Executive is recommended to:
  - a) Agree the first annual WESS action plan and the positive budget variations of £154,300 in 2019/20, £241,400 in 2020/21, £117,600 in 2021/22 and £35,000 in 2022/23 and £27,000 in 2023/24 and a full year to strengthen the capacity of the organisation and enable it to deliver the action plan;

In order to take immediate steps to implement the Action Plan the Executive is also recommended to:

- b) Endorse the proposals in Paper No. 20-21 to allocate £5 million to projects which directly support the delivery of the targets and actions in the Wandsworth Environmental and Sustainability Strategy (WESS);
- c) Agree that the Council purchases 100% green electricity under the new energy management contract in 2020, and explores the market for green gas, thereby delivering a significant step towards the Council's target to be carbon neutral by 2030;
- d) Endorse proposals aimed at removing all single-use plastic from Council premises, and to support grassroots Plastic Free Communities throughout the Borough;
- e) Review the carbon offset payments paid by developers, following adoption of the London Plan, and support the proposal to prioritise the Carbon Offset funding the Council collects towards reducing energy demand from existing Council buildings;
- f) Agree that all Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports from February 2020 onwards include a comment by the report authors on how the proposed recommendations support the WESS;
- g) Agree that the Council should become a "Gold Level" Carbon Literate Organisation by March 2022;
- h) Make the case to the Government that councils require increased powers to issue fines for drivers of idling vehicles in order to ensure enforcement is effective in making a difference to air quality;

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- i) Agree that the Council moves to the next phase of its engagement and communications plan, that puts partnership working with residents, business and community groups at the heart of our work to deliver real and sustainable carbon footprint reductions in Wandsworth, and support the ongoing development of our action plan.

## SECTION ONE - BACKGROUND

4. On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Wandsworth Council declared a *Climate Emergency*, resolving to be carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030, carbon zero by 2050 and the greenest inner-London council by 2030.
5. Recognising the need for urgency, at the same time as declaring a climate change emergency, the Council also set out its roadmap to achieve this vision in the Wandsworth Environmental and Sustainability Strategy (WESS) and committed to produce an annual action plan within six months. This sets the Council apart from most other authorities who, whilst declaring a climate emergency, are yet to produce their strategies or detailed action plans.
6. This paper sets out the work undertaken since a climate emergency was declared by the Council. It includes the Council's first annual action plan (Appendix One) and makes several recommendations to support its delivery.
7. The Council is committing to working with residents, communities and businesses in partnership to ensure we co-produce and continuously improve its actions to address this emergency. This is a core underpinning principle of this work, recognising that this is an emerging area and that the Council working alone will never have all the answers. The recommendations in this report will therefore be underpinned by engagement and openness to collaborative working.
8. The paper also sets out the latest position regarding baselining the Council's carbon footprint and the borough's carbon footprint.

## **SECTION TWO - ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL OF THE WANDSWORTH ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

9. While the development of the action plan has been a priority to organise the Council's work in addressing the ongoing climate emergency, the Council has not waited for the plan in order to take action. Since the declaration of the climate emergency on 17<sup>th</sup> July last year, the Council has:
- a. Set out the Council's approach and programme for the Full Review of the Wandsworth Local Plan, including the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment update, Habitats Regulation Assessment, Flood Risk Sequential Test Report and District Heat Mapping. The Local Plan will be one of the key tools in ensuring that low and zero carbon approaches are embedded across the borough.
  - b. Published the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document which ensures that the Council's planning and development approach is robust on planning obligations around climate change and environmental issues so that development in the borough is low carbon, sustainable and does not negatively impact on the environment.
  - c. Agreed a contract extension for the street cleansing services which includes a new fleet of low emission vehicles and commitments to environmental performance improvements.
  - d. Launched and held the first meeting of the Healthy Streets Forum, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transportation and attended by groups including Wandsworth Living Streets and Wandsworth Cycling Campaign.
  - e. Updated the Council's approach to bikehangars and committed to consulting on 20 new proposed locations by February 2020 and agreed a dockless e-bikeshare scheme that will operate in the borough for a 12-month pilot scheme.
  - f. Launched a consultation on a new pocket park on Mellison Road, which would create a new green community space for residents
  - g. Launched a consultation to introduce school streets in Wandsworth with initial proposals starting with five initial School Street Schemes, which if supported, will go live in the current academic year;
  - h. Supported 35 streets to participate in car free day in September 2019.
  - i. Successfully bid for £260,000 of Go Ultra Low Cities Scheme Funding to provide a further phase of lamp post electric vehicle charging in 2020, separate to the phase already planned for 2020.

- j. Launched an internal staff engagement programme on climate change, including a staff personal pledges scheme and a staff suggestion scheme. This work was launched at the Senior Management Conference in December 2019 which was attended by over 150 senior officers who heard from Leo Murray from Possible (a climate change action group) on the impact of climate change and the actions local authorities can take and from officers across the Council leading on work in relation to planning, transport and energy management. At the conference officers worked across Directorates to identify actions the Council can take in the short and also longer term to become carbon neutral.
10. The WESS committed the Council to building environmental considerations into its procurement by adopting Social Value in its procurement processes. This work has been completed as set out in Paper No. 20-19 elsewhere on this agenda. This report is clear that procurement will need to play a vital role in achieving the Council's carbon neutral target and sets out how this will be built into the procurement process. To ensure that the strategy is fundamental to the procurement of contracts, future procurement exercises reviewed by the Procurement Board will have to set out how the WESS and its ambitions have been considered as part of the initial scoping process. Specification guidance is being prepared to support commissioners with this.
11. The WESS committed the Council to establishing a Climate Change Steering Group comprising of senior officers, mostly at Assistant Director level, to drive forward action. This Group has been established and has met three times since September to develop priorities and actions to deliver the WESS. A further meeting is scheduled for February 10th.
12. The Council recognises that learning from the experience and expertise of other local authorities and organisations will inform its annual action plans and achieve best practice. Since July the Policy and Review Team have either called or met officer leads from councils in Bristol, Stroud, Manchester and Edinburgh. These councils have been highlighted nationally as leading the way in terms of their approach to climate change.
13. In order to get a London perspective, the team has also met or spoken to officers in other London Boroughs, including Camden, Ealing, Hackney, Hounslow, Kingston and Redbridge. Officers have also attended London-wide officer network events, including the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) Climate Change Group, the LEDNET policy group and the London Policy and Strategy Network. As well as seeking advice from others the Policy and Review Team has been approached to lead sessions on this area and share the work already done with those authorities who are yet to develop strategies or action plans.

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14. In order to understand the work of leading climate change charities and organisations and identify how the best practice they have identified can be applied in Wandsworth meetings and calls have been held with UK100, Climate Outreach, Possible and the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Officers have also attended conferences and events organised by groups such as Friends of the Earth, Nesta, Carbon Literacy Trust, Royal Geographical Society and Localis.
15. The findings from research on best practice, conversations with other councils and leading climate change organisations have been used to challenge officers involved in the action planning process and has informed the Council's first action plan and will inform future action plans.
16. A meeting was also held with the Local Government Association (LGA) to identify other leading authorities for further external engagement and to understand whether they had developed any toolkits or programmes to lead local authority work in this area. Unfortunately, as this is an emerging area the LGA were unable to identify authorities for this purpose and did not have a toolkit or case studies which could be used. It is apparent that they and other sector organisations like London Councils are themselves still learning about what Climate Emergency means for councils.

### SECTION THREE - BASELINING AND MEASURING CARBON EMISSIONS

17. Residents and community groups have highlighted that it is important for us to produce a baseline for the Council's carbon emissions so that we can show what our organisational emissions are, where they are generated from within the organisation and also to set ourselves targets for their reduction. This will enable us to plot a course for achieving our target of being carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. Baselineing encompasses two areas. The first is Scope 1 and 2 emissions, which are the Council's direct and indirect emissions. The second area is Scope 3 emissions which are services that are contracted by the Council.
18. Work has already started and is well developed in relation to baselining the Council's Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. This work has been co-ordinated by the Policy and Review Team, as part of their work on climate change, working with the Energy Management Team. The definitions and approach to baselining Scope 1 and 2 emissions are based on previous nationally defined and collected indicators used to measure this type of emissions. Work with London Councils and conversations with other councils indicates that this approach is being adopted across by many authorities.
19. In order to ensure the Council has a robust baseline the Policy and Review Team have developed a template which is used by all services to record carbon emissions from their department. They have also have met with services to talk them through the approach and how to complete the template. The Team have also developed a calculation tool. This is based on the tool previously used to report on emissions but has been expanded so that there is more detail on what is included so the baseline is robust and auditable. This work will be completed by the end of March 2020 and will allow the Council to identify the areas where action is required. The outcome of this work will be reported to Finance and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2020.
20. The next step in the process will be measuring Scope 3 emissions. This is a complex area as this requires contracted providers to supply data and it is unlikely that currently this will be a contractual requirement. As yet there is no uniform agreed approach amongst local authorities on how to measure these organisational carbon emissions. Work is being undertaken by London Councils as well as UK100 on developing approaches to this. The approach from London Councils is looking at developing a London-wide measurement tool, based on previous reporting requirements such as the Carbon Reduction Commitment, that will give a better way of measuring emissions on an organisational and borough-wide level. The advantage of this approach is that all London authorities would be using a shared methodology, allowing for comparisons between boroughs and also between sub-regions within London, as well as offering costs savings through efficiencies in scale in commissioning such a complex piece of work. This work is still in discussion stages. Following a meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> Council officers are helping to lead on this work in conjunction with London Councils.

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21. Whilst an agreed London-wide approach is preferred if this work does not move at pace the Council will commission specialist consultants to carry out work looking at our carbon emissions and establishing baselines for the organisation and the borough. This paper contains a budget variation to enable this approach to be implemented, if required.
22. The Council will fully document its approach to baselining both its Scope 1 and 2 emissions and its Scope 3 emissions and will maintain an audit trail of figures used. If a national or London approach is not introduced the Council will look to obtain external validation of its approach and the results.
23. As well as measuring the emissions that the Council makes as an organisation, it is also important for the Council's wider approach in addressing the climate emergency that there is a clear picture on where carbon emissions are coming from across the borough. Analysis of borough-wide data using the SCATTER tool (developed by Anthesis, a sustainability consulting company and the Tyndall Centre, a world leader in climate change and emissions measurement) allows local authorities to identify the main sources of emissions locally. The findings from this tool for Wandsworth are set out in Appendix Two. They highlight that the biggest area of emissions is that from stationary energy (emissions from the combustion of fuel in buildings, manufacturing industries, construction processes and power plants) at 69.4%, followed by transportation (combustion of fuel or use of electricity during journeys travelled by road, rail, air or water for inter-city and international travel) at 28.9%. For stationary energy, the largest area of emissions is from residential buildings at 60%, with the rest spread between Institutional, Industrial and Commercial buildings and facilities.

## **SECTION FOUR - DELIVERING CHANGE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS.**

24. The Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Action Plan is attached at Appendix One. The Action Plan sets out the specific actions that the Council will take over the next 12-18 months to start on its journey towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and deliver on its commitments, as well as actions it will take to support and encourage the borough as a whole to reduce its carbon emissions. The Action Plan is separated into two sections:
- Section One – Getting our own house in order – becoming carbon neutral as an organisation by 2030. This is pages 1 to 6 in Appendix One
  - Section Two – Reducing the borough’s emissions and preparing for climate changes, pages 8 to 29.
25. This plan has been developed in the six months since the Council declared a climate change emergency as the Council recognises that action needs to be taken now. It is therefore a starting point and basis for our urgent work, but will evolve and change in pursuit of our 2030 objective.
26. The Council is committed to engaging with residents, community groups and businesses and through this engagement will identify areas where action needs to be taken which will either be brought forward to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or will be incorporated into the 2020/21 action plan. An annual report on the progress of the action plan alongside an action plan for 2020/21 will be submitted to FCROSC in February 2021 for scrutiny. These will be public documents so that residents, businesses, community groups and partners can scrutinise the Council’s progress and future plans. Key actions from the plan will be incorporated into the Council’s Key Issues so that progress is reported bi-annually to committee
27. The Action Plan has been developed with input from many different sources:
- Priorities and targets identified in the WESS.
  - A series of climate change action workshops with council officers, which involved 30 officers.
  - Examples of best practice and innovation from other local authorities.
  - Suggestions and evidence from climate change related charities, thinktanks and groups
  - Suggestions from local community groups.
28. The Action Plan has distilled the specific feedback received and best practice identified into 170 actions. In some cases, proposals from residents and local groups have overlapped or reflected a variation on a similar alternative. In order to have a workable action plan, which delivers change and sets the direction for the achievement of the 2030 target, overarching actions have been developed which reflect the objectives behind individual suggestions.

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For example specific points raised on parking costs for Zip cars, differential car parking charges, charges based on emissions, numbers of car parking spaces and dropped kerbs have been brought together into two overarching actions - “ Exploring increased differential parking permit charges to discourage higher polluting and carbon emitting vehicles” and “Review policies surrounding parking to encourage a modal shift in transport from cars to alternative options (including exploring reducing the number of dropped kerbs) going forward”. All feedback received has been logged and will continue to inform the WESS and future annual action plans.

29. The plan addresses the actions that will be taken to reduce the Council’s carbon emissions in line with its 2030 carbon neutral target, the actions that will be taken to reduce the borough’s emissions as a whole and prepare for climate change (aligned to the 8 priorities that were identified in the WESS) as well as specific actions around communication and engagement. The key actions set in the action plan include:
- a. Committing to purchasing 100% green electricity for council buildings and exploring moving to purchasing green gas.
  - b. Committing to remove single use plastic from Facilities Management Operations, including single use plastic previously used in the catering of meetings, and implementing a Single Use Plastic Action Plan to minimise single use plastic across council buildings. Our ambition is to remove all single use plastic from Council premises
  - c. Supporting plastic free initiatives in the Borough
  - d. Examining approaches to discourage the destruction of biodiversity in gardens, such as the paving of front gardens and launching a garden competition and celebrating the borough’s gardens.
  - e. Lobbying central government to increase powers for local authorities to issue fines for drivers of idling vehicles
  - f. Reviewing policies to encourage a modal shift in transport from cars to alternative options, including work to explore reducing the number of dropped kerbs going forward.
  - g. Exploring differential parking permit charges and other approaches to discourage higher polluting and carbon emitting vehicles.
  - h. Working closely with schools around increasing their awareness of climate change and actions they can take, including promoting sustainable travel, expanding school streets and energy efficiency in their estates. This includes developing a toolkit for schools.
  - i. Increasing funding accessed from grants and other climate/environmental funds and promoting grants to residents and community groups.

- Completing an energy audit of Council buildings to establish their performance and improvement measures that are required.
- Specific projects to support cycling in Wandsworth– including further increasing e-bike availability, provision of countdowns at crossings and cycling provisions at junctions priority areas and new cycle hubs.
- Delivering a further programme of EV Charging points.
- Delivering an initial set of low emission fleet vehicles.
- Planning to make sure that the new waste contract starting in 2024 is low carbon and helps reduce the waste generated.
- Upgrading all estate lamp columns to LED.
- Exploring options for alternative heating methods, including, but not limited to, ground source heating in council owned and new blocks.

## **SECTION FIVE - RESOURCES TO DELIVER AMBITIOUS CHANGE**

30. A clear message from community groups was that additional resources are required to deliver ambitious change. Specific reference was made to the need for extra officer capacity to drive change and consideration of the use of SCIL funding to deliver environmental and sustainability projects.
31. The development of the WESS and feedback from community groups identified priority areas where significant projects could be brought forward if additional funding was available. These include:
- Supporting a modal shift to sustainable transport by investing in the borough's cycling and EV charging infrastructure and making neighbourhoods more pedestrian friendly.
  - Reducing the Council's emissions by rolling out an initial set of low emission fleet vehicles.
  - Building on the borough's urban greening by significantly increasing the Council's tree planting programme.
  - Improving flooding resilience by carrying out a programme of flood works (SUDS).
32. Projects which address these WESS priorities are outlined in Paper No. 20-21 elsewhere on this agenda and are included in the WESS action plan at Appendix One. In addition, Paper No. 20-21 contains a commitment of £5 million to projects that will be developed in the future allowing the Council to take into account further suggestions from resident and community groups and respond swiftly to emerging areas in this fast moving environment.
33. As regards capacity to drive change the action plan proposes establishing four full time, additional roles dedicated to work on climate change:
- A Climate Change Campaign Officer who will work as part of the Wandsworth Communication's Team and will lead on climate change communications, including digital and behaviour change campaigns. The programme of work developed by the Communications Team and led by this post will reflect the feedback from community groups that communications should be open, transparent and continuous.
  - A Partnership and Resident Engagement Officer dedicated to working with Wandsworth residents and partners, including businesses and community groups, ensuring they are supported to engage and influence the work of the Council on climate change and are supported to make positive changes which reduce the Borough's footprint .This post will work closely with the Climate Change Campaign Officer and the Programme and Policy Officers to embed engagement and a partnership approach to addressing climate change in Wandsworth, including the facilitation of events and engagement with residents.

- Two senior, full time Programme and Policy Officers for Climate Change. These posts together with the wider Policy and Review Team will drive forward the Council's work on climate change and will work with officers across the Council to deliver agreed actions and identify new areas of focus to enable the Council to achieve its 2030 target.

## **SECTION SIX - SUPPORTING OUR RESIDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES TO MAKE AMBITIOUS CHANGES**

*Communicating, engaging and working with our residents.*

34. The Council has committed to delivering an in-depth, innovative engagement and behaviour change programme. To achieve this there is an acknowledged desire to work and build links with residents, community groups and businesses to help encourage new patterns of thinking, behaviour change and to deliver on the aspirations of the borough to reduce its emissions and combat climate change.
35. An initial meeting was held with representatives from local community groups in September. This meeting discussed areas of focus for the Council and also provided important feedback on the future direction for the Council's engagement plan. The meeting spurred coordinated action and continues to offer constructive feedback to the Council. It established an important cornerstone to the Council's approach to climate change and the way that it will communicate what it is doing in that regard. That approach must be clear, honest, open and transparent with all communications continuous and consistent.
36. There was also an agreement for the Council to use modern, different approaches to communicating with residents and community groups, working closely with them on both sharing information, getting their views and the drive to change behaviours in a positive way, for example idling.
37. While there has been a positive start to engagement around climate change, the Council is committed to receiving community feedback on its approach, as well as demonstrating that it is listening to and learning from any criticisms, working closely with residents to help shape policy decisions. A longer term communications and engagement plan will be delivered by the new, dedicated, post of the Climate Change Campaign Officer. This plan will be a priority for this new officer. A six month outline plan for this plan includes:
  - A specific meeting with partner organisations, such as St George's Hospital, will be held to discuss actions that can be taken on a boroughwide level both individually and together to mobilise resources to drive positive change
  - An event will be organised to bring local voluntary, community and interest groups together, along with climate change experts, to discuss strategies and actions going forward at a borough level and plan a resident focused event;
  - An event will be held for residents on climate change to raise awareness, ownership and encourage involvement.
38. These events will raise awareness of the actions that can be taken to address climate change and will lead to an agreed approach for on-going engagement in climate change action for Wandsworth.

39. In order to make decisions which positively impact on the environment residents need to have quick access to information, case studies and support. The following actions are planned to start to deliver this:
- A digital campaign specifically relating to climate change will be launched. As part of this the Council's webpages will be refreshed and a dedicated webpage will be launched to ensure that all residents and businesses can access information that supports them to make positive choices in relation to climate change;
  - This will be supported by a full-scale social media programme including regular activity and advice, encouraging people to share what they have done, such as tree planting etc, as well as podcasts/videos from councillors with members of the community highlighting shared ambition and achievements and also the impact of actions such as idling outside schools;
  - A gardens competition will be launched to recognise residents who have increased and supported biodiversity and showcase best practice;
  - Literature for residents will be reviewed and refreshed to make sure information is clearly accessible to residents who are keen to take action. This will start with a refresh of the information for residents on tree planting.
40. The social media programme will also help develop themes and messages that will reiterate the Council's commitment to combating climate change in partnership with residents while also driving forward behaviour change.

*Communicating, engaging and working with our Young people*

41. As part of its work with residents the Council will actively engage with young people, through a variety of approaches, to ensure they shape approaches going forward. This will include advising the Council on the most appropriate engagement approaches, areas of focus and taking a higher profile role in the communications and work of the Council.
42. Engagement is already underway with our Youth Council, who are being supported to hold a youth summit on climate change in February. Following the summit the Council will work with them to support further engagement and achievement of their manifesto commitment to raise young people's awareness on why and how climate change affects them and help them to be more environmentally friendly.
43. Engagement has also taken place with schools to identify the types of events young people prefer to engage with and timings of events. Planned events include a Model United Nations General Assembly on Sustainability in the summer term and specific arts related work with schools planned to coincide with the Wandsworth Arts Festival. These events should be seen as the start of longer term engagement with young people on this important area.

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*Communicating, engaging and working with our businesses.*

44. Wandsworth businesses will also play an important role in reducing both the Borough's footprint and also in leading the way in terms of new technologies and new approaches. In the next 12 months the Council will actively engage with local businesses and local business groups, including Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce, on this agenda in terms of supplying them with information to support them to reduce their footprint and become more sustainable, identifying local champions who are already leading the way and can provide a roadmap for others on making changes and supporting local businesses to start and grow in this fast paced, emerging area of commerce. This work will include an event with businesses on climate change which will be shaped by what local businesses tell us they need and would find useful.

## **SECTION SEVEN - SUPPORTING OUR STAFF TO DELIVER AMBITIOUS CHANGE – CARBON LITERACY**

45. In September the Chief Officer meeting focussed on climate change. An external speaker from 10:10 Climate Action, a climate change charity who work on projects with community groups and the public sector, spoke at the event in order to raise officers' awareness of the issues of climate change and also projects and partnership work in other areas. A similar approach was adopted with the quarterly senior managers' conference, which was held in December and attended by over 150 senior officers.
46. In order to further raise awareness with staff an internal climate change communications campaign started in November which highlights the work already undertaken and planned. This work includes the launch of a scheme to capture team and individual pledges on how they will work differently to reduce the council's carbon footprint. Pledges are being shared across Directorates to inspire others to make changes. Alongside this staff across the Council are being encouraged to suggest ways in which the Council or individual services can make changes to reduce its carbon footprint.
47. Staff are already engaged and are thinking about what more they can do. Recent staff led initiatives include:
- The Customer Services team getting rid of single use plastics in the main receptions and Contact Centre as well as promoting electronic meetings.
  - The Public Health, Community Safety and Policy, Performance and Analysis teams working together to use local refill shops for shared kitchen supplies.
  - The Youth Offending Team planting trees in their garden and increasing the numbers of plants and flowers to encourage wildlife;
  - Kimber skatepark reducing waste by recycling old skateboards into new items, most recently cutting them down and shaping into Christmas tree decorations
48. It is recognised that in order for staff across the Council to identify how the Council can reduce its carbon footprint and that of the borough that they need to be carbon literate. Officers in the Policy and Review Team have reviewed the training currently on offer and have identified an approach developed by the Carbon Literacy Project, a Manchester based charity, which would enable all staff, and councillors, to receive tailored carbon literacy training. This approach has already been rolled out in Manchester as well as Leicester's De Montfort University, Calderdale Council, Shropshire Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council.

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49. The Carbon Literacy Training is not delivered by the Carbon Literacy Trust rather a cohort of individuals across an organisation are trained using a “train the trainer” approach and then work to develop and deliver a tailored training programme which they then deliver across the organisation. The training course they develop is then accredited by the Carbon Literacy Trust. Training would typically last a day and covers key elements including knowledge of climate change and the role of carbon and greenhouse gases, the role of individuals, organisations and society as a whole in climate change and identifying actions that individuals and organisations can take to lower greenhouse gases. Learners who have completed a days’ worth of approved Carbon Literacy learning can be certified as Carbon Literate. This approach means that the training is tailored, the Council would not be reliant on an external body to rollout the training and officers with an interest in the environment would have an opportunity to develop their skills.
50. The Carbon Literacy Trust accredit organisations who embed the training across their workforce as being a “Carbon Literate Organisation”. There are four levels of Carbon Literate Organisation, Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum, each with a set of assessment criteria that must be met to achieve that level. It is proposed that Wandsworth Council becomes a Bronze rated Carbon Literate Organisation by May 2020, Silver by April 2021 and Gold by April 2022. To achieve bronze accreditation 150 individuals need to have been trained. Achieving gold requires half of all staff to have been trained.

## **SECTION EIGHT - MOVING TO GREEN ENERGY.**

51. The Council is committed to being carbon neutral by 2030. As part of this commitment it instructed its energy broker (LASER) to investigate the feasibility of moving to green electricity for its Town Hall complex, leisure centres, street lighting and housing communal areas. LASER have advised that the Council can move to 100% green electricity purchasing from April 2020. LASER will purchase energy using the Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGO) Scheme, which certifies that energy is green. As such it is proposed that the Council move to green electricity from April 2020, which will eliminate the Council's carbon emissions from electricity
52. Alongside this move to green electricity the Council will continue to actively lobby LASER to pursue all options for green energy (including green gas) so that the Council is at the forefront of a move to green energy and will work with the other local authorities who use LASER to ensure that the best options for all are achieved.
53. As well as working with its energy providers the Council will also look to reduce the amount of energy it uses and explore the energy it can generate. The first stage of this work will be an energy audit of all buildings to establish their performance, which will be completed by the end of June 2020. Individual improvement measures will then be developed and implemented based on these audits.

## **SECTION NINE – TO REDUCE ENERGY DEMAND IN COUNCIL BUILDINGS USING THE WANDSWORTH CARBON OFFSET FUND**

54. Since 1 October 2016, the London Plan has required major residential developments to achieve zero carbon standards. The Council has established a dedicated Carbon Offset Fund with contributions secured through the Section 106 planning obligations process. To date £2,290,000 has been secured and £22,300 has been collected, with the trigger for payment of the Carbon Off-Setting Contribution at prior to First Occupation. 10 of the 19 developments with a Contribution are currently under construction.
55. Carbon Offset Funding must be used to pay for measures which tangibly and verifiably reduce CO2 emissions. Guidance from the GLA recommends prioritising projects that reduce energy demand in existing buildings. Before funding a carbon offset project, local authorities are advised to consider the carbon cost effectiveness of the project and combine Carbon Offset Funds with other sources of funding (projects eligible for CIL cannot be funded).
56. As identified by the WESS, and through actions attached at Appendix One, reducing energy demand in existing Council buildings is a priority in reaching the Council's carbon neutral target and it is recommended that the Carbon Offset Fund is used to fund projects reducing energy demand in Council buildings.
57. The annual General Fund capital bids process has an established process for obtaining Member approval to add new schemes to the approved capital programme. It is recommended that proposed carbon offset projects are considered through the capital bids process. This will also facilitate consideration of schemes which can be funded from a combination of funding sources. Property Services will co-ordinate any bids proposing projects that will reduce energy demand in existing buildings, funded wholly or in part by carbon offset funding.
58. In addition to the other factors considered when assessing capital bid submissions, if a project is to be funded from Carbon Offset funding the following additional factors will need to be considered:
  - Does the project contribute to reduced energy demand in existing buildings (i.e. it meets the local identified priority for carbon offset funding)?
  - Does the project offer carbon cost effectiveness (i.e. the capital cost per tonne of CO2 saved over its lifetime)?
  - Does the project offer additionality (i.e. carbon savings beyond business as usual)?
59. Progress reporting on delivery of the projects would be undertaken within existing reporting mechanisms on the capital programme i.e. within quarterly capital & revenue reporting, with annual reporting to the GLA on the amount of payments collected, amount spent, types of projects being funded, benefits and cost per tCO2 saved.

## SECTION TEN - DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES COMMENT

60. The proposals in this report outline additional resources to support the delivery of the WESS including extra staff resources, training, consultancy costs and the purchase of green electricity from its energy broker. The majority of these are for a two-three year period except energy which will form an ongoing cost.
61. These proposals require positive revenue budget variations as follows:

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 and a full year
£154,300	£241,400	£117,600	£35,000	£27,000

62. The annual additional cost of £27,000 in a full year for green energy is equivalent to an additional £0.20 at band D council tax.

## SECTION ELEVEN - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (CORPORATE SERVICES) COMMENT

63. The limited staffing proposals made within this report will be progressed using established SSA HR practices.
64. The HR service will work to ensure that climate change and the Council's actions on it are embedded in our recruitment and induction processes. Within the same Division we will also be reviewing the carbon impact of our IT provision as set out in the action plan.

## SECTION TWELVE - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

65. The Equality Act 2010 requires that the Council when exercising its functions must have "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. An Equality Impact Needs Analysis (EINA) was completed as part of the Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy that was published in July 2019 and still applies to this paper and the action plan. Separate project and service specific EINAs will be developed as individual projects are developed and taken for decision.

## SECTION THIRTEEN - NEXT STEPS

66. The actions in the annual plan will now be taken forward with delivery monitored tightly through the Council's Key Issues and by the senior officer Climate Change Steering Group. However, this is just the start. These actions represent the starting point for the Council who will seek to build upon them through extensive and on-going engagement with residents, community groups, businesses and partners over the coming months and years.

**Wandsworth Environmental and Sustainability Action Plan****SECTION FOURTEEN - COMMENT FROM THE CABINET MEMBER (FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES)**

67. A little over 6 months ago, the Council took the hugely significant step in unanimously declaring a Climate Emergency and at the same time agreeing its first Environment and Sustainability Strategy, committing us to being carbon neutral by 2030.
68. We agreed to develop firm action plans to meet these targets and, at the same time, set about taking immediate action within the Council to start reducing our own Carbon impact. It shows how seriously this Administration's commitment is to delivering for our residents and future generations. Our plans will deliver investment, nurture innovation and encourage ourselves and others at home, at work, in our schools and our community groups, to adapt to new ways of doing things.
69. In developing these plans, we have also learned from others, including other councils and thought leaders in this developing field. We will continue to be open, curious and receptive to challenge in order to evolve our approach and ensure it reflects the very best advice, technology and measurement techniques that are available to us. We also want to build on the work this council has already invested in to deliver a greener borough - we are at the forefront in areas like Electric Charging Points and car clubs, but want to achieve more.
70. The Council doesn't have all the answers, nor will it pretend it does. I want every part of the organisation to understand this challenge and the importance of meeting it together. We want to engage with our residents, to develop approaches within our communities, as well as offer advice and support. Our young people and their future will provide accountability that we must embrace, with our fantastic Youth Council leading the way together with our excellent schools.
71. We'll be reporting progress annually to this Committee. We know this won't be an easy journey. There will be bumps in the road and inevitably some tough decisions that will seek to balance the needs of service users, financial challenges and carbon targets. However, working together we can make sure Wandsworth will become carbon neutral and the greenest inner London Borough.

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The Town Hall,  
PAUL MARTIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
Wandsworth,  
SW18 2PU

15<sup>TH</sup> July 2019

## **Background papers**

There are no background papers to this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov)) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Democratic Services Manager can supply it if required.