

Report for: Full Council

Date of decision: 19 March 2020

Report title: 9th Annual Carbon Report (2019)

Lead Officer: Aaron Scorse – Climate Change Officer, 020 8489 1648,
aaron.scorse@haringey.gov.uk

Report

authorised by: Dan Hawthorn – Director of Housing, Regeneration, and Planning

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non-Key Decision: Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1.** As a borough, Haringey has made an ambitious commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 40% from a 2005 baseline by 2020, whilst delivering growth and increasing prosperity. This is referred to as Haringey 40:20. The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards this target. This is the ninth year we have reported on our progress.
- 1.2.** The report includes:
- A. The position of National Government Policy influencing Haringey 40:20.
 - B. Official Carbon Emissions, published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in 2019, covering emissions trends between the years 2005 and 2017.
 - C. Information on key projects which have contributed to reducing emissions between October 2018 and December 2019.
 - D. Future projects to reduce emissions from December 2019, onwards.
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- 1.3. This report seeks approval from Full Council to publish the Ninth Annual Carbon Report.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. This is our ninth Annual Carbon Report, and the second that I am leading on. This report was created to monitor our progress at reducing our carbon emissions, celebrate our successes, and set out our ambitions for the future. It continues to demonstrate our commitment to being accountable.
- 2.2. I have long been passionate about environmental issues, and this has been evident in my activism throughout my life. Crucially, we must recognise that climate change is a social justice issue and those most impacted are often the voices given the least opportunity to speak. Therefore, I am committed to ensuring that the voices of all our community are heard and communicated throughout any and all actions the Council takes in addressing climate change and its impacts in Haringey.
- 2.3. To demonstrate this, after the publication of the upcoming Haringey Climate Action Plan we will engage with environmental groups and work hard to talk with groups not usually engaged on this issue to address how the borough can deliver our ambition.
- 2.4. 2019 was a year where we once again saw the devastating impacts of extreme weather conditions both in the UK and around the world – from flooding to forest fires, the message is clear: we must act now. Key to tackling the climate emergency is recognising that it is a socio-economic issue – with the most vulnerable feeling the most severe effects of a changing climate.
- 2.5. If we fail to tackle the climate emergency, we will see it impact upon our resources, diverting resources from areas that desperately need it. Our public health system would be put under even more pressure whilst inequalities in our communities are exacerbated. This is why I believe it is so important for us to tackle climate change head on – making social, institutional, technological and behavioural changes to lesson the impact and create a fairer society.
- 2.6. In 2020 we will publish and then adopt the boroughs Climate Change Action Plan. This will set out the actions and timeframe to deliver a Zero Carbon Borough. As a borough community we will need to come together to work towards its delivery. In tackling climate emissions, we can also help improve our poor air quality which disproportionately impacts children, elderly people and

Haringey's most vulnerable communities. As this report highlights, action on carbon emissions can also help us create a greener, cleaner borough where there are spaces to walk, play and cycle freely.

- 2.7. Between 2016 and 2017 we saw a 6.1% decrease in carbon emissions in Haringey. This puts us on track to achieve our 40:20 ambition two years ahead of schedule. However, we recognise more work needs to be done so that we can become a zero-carbon borough at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 2.8. I am proud of our achievements throughout 2019, and thank all staff, community groups and residents who have contributed to this. I look forward to pushing forward with even more determination in 2020.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 3.1. The Annual Report is made publically available, to engage residents in the Haringey 40:20 and Zero Carbon Haringey initiatives.
- 3.2. Councillors engage with the initiative and lead action in their community, promoting the importance of reducing carbon emissions whilst increasing prosperity.
- 3.3. The future projects outlined at the end of the report are implemented and further opportunities are identified, subject to the availability of external funding and grants.
- 3.4. Haringey continues to report annually on our progress to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020 and towards zero carbon.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. In 2009, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Carbon Commission, which were to:
 - 4.1.1. Create business models which reinvest wealth back into the borough through community energy and a retrofit cooperative network.
 - 4.1.2. Build a low carbon economy, establishing a green enterprise hub and creating training opportunities.
 - 4.1.3. Boost innovation in the borough through cutting-edge low carbon technological, social and financial solutions.

- 4.1.4. Invest in low-carbon transport, including Dutch style cycling provision and alternative fuel vehicles.
- 4.1.5. Strengthen community organisations, supporting the transition to a sustainable way of living, by sharing best practice and working together to deliver Haringey 40:20.
- 4.2 The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards the Achievement of the recommendations, and the wider aim to reduce emissions by 40% by 2020, whilst increasing prosperity in the borough.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1. Do Nothing

- 5.2. To not publish the ninth Annual Carbon Report. This would lead to the Council failing to meet its commitment on publishing Annual Carbon Reports, as well as reducing transparency on our progress. Furthermore, it would neglect the successes made by local community groups and not showcase how they help the Council to meet our ambitions.

6. Background information

- 6.1. Reducing carbon emissions in the borough works towards achievement of the wider London and national climate change targets:
 - 6.1.1. The Mayor of London's Environment Strategy 2018 which commits London to being a zero carbon city and at least 50 per cent green by 2050.
 - 6.1.2. The Climate Change Act 2008 established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (from the baseline of 1990 levels) by 2050.
 - 6.1.3. The European Union's (EU) Climate and Energy Policy Framework aims to make the EU's economy and energy systems more competitive, secure and sustainable. The framework incorporates binding targets to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% (based on 1990 levels) by 2030, and to increase the share of renewable energy to at least 27% of the EU's energy consumption by 2030.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1. The Haringey 40:20 initiative forms part of Priority 3: Place of the Council's Borough Plan for 2019-2023. The Annual Carbon Report falls into Outcome 9:

Objective D under Priority 3. This states: Reduce CO2 by 40% before 2020 and begin the journey to reduce to zero by 2050.

- 7.2. The role of the Council within this Outcome is to take active steps to reduce the Council's own emissions, lead efforts to reduce emissions across the borough, and support green business. The Annual Carbon Report provides information on projects which have supported these priorities.

8. Statutory Officers comments

8.1. Comments from Finance

- 8.1.1. The costs of preparing this report and undertaking the completed projects contained within it have been met from existing budgets, which includes both Council funded budget allocations and grants received from external organisations, such as the Mayor's Air Quality Fund and the Liveable Neighbourhoods Fund.
- 8.1.2. In looking forward the Council needs to be aware of the changing funding landscape, with both the Council's own resources reducing and the level of external grants likely to be limited in the future.
- 8.1.3. Where new projects and policies are identified in the future, a business case will need to be produced where funding will have to be allocated from existing budgets and external sources according to the merit of the specific projects.
- 8.1.4. Financial implications will be considered as part of the assessment and formal adoption process for each proposal.

8.2. Comments from Legal

- 8.2.1. There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report. All initiatives and projects carried out as part of the Carbon Plan will need to comply with domestic and European legislation.

8.3. Comments from Equalities

- 8.3.1. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- A. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
 - C. Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.3.2. The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 8.3.3. The Annual Carbon Report sets out the progress made in Haringey towards the Council's strategic goal to be a zero-emission borough by 2050. The report recognises that local action to tackle the causes of climate change can improve quality of life for the resident population of the borough while also helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- 8.3.4. There are significant inequalities in Haringey that relate to the causes and effects of climate change. For instance, we know that emissions from motor vehicles both contribute to climate change and have a negative effect on public health by contributing to respiratory diseases, which disproportionately affect children, older people, and those with other long-term health conditions. Similarly, we know that energy inefficient homes and associated fuel poverty can contribute to higher emissions and make residents more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Those living in fuel poverty are most likely to be on low or fixed incomes, among whom lone parents and those with disabilities are overrepresented. The projects outlined in the report aim to help vulnerable residents in these areas and others, thereby having a positive impact in relation to addressing inequalities.
- 8.3.5. We will continue to analyse and monitor the impact of the Haringey projects on reducing carbon emissions, thereby improving health outcomes and reducing fuel poverty across the whole population and tackling issues affecting specific groups.
- 8.3.6. The report notes a number of initiatives that aim to reduce carbon emissions in Haringey. Where appropriate, these are individually subject to equalities impact assessment before approval. Equalities Impact Assessments are published on the Council website.

8.4. Comments from procurement

- 8.5. Strategic Procurement note the contents of the report; however there is no requirement for procurements to be undertaken by this report.
- 8.6. Strategic Procurement will support Haringey Council's commitment to reducing the borough's emissions by 40% by 2020 however procurements will be subject to Public Contract Regulations 2015.

9. Use of Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix 1 - The Ninth Annual Carbon Report

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1. Background documents:

- 10.2. The Carbon Commission Report

http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/about4020/carbon_commission/report.htm

- 10.3. Previous years' Annual Carbon Reports (First to Eighth)

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/going-green/reducing-co2-emissions>

- 10.4. Statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, "2017 UK greenhouse gas emissions: Final figures"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-2017>

- 10.5. Statistics from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, "UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2017"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics#2019>

- 10.6. External links – Haringey Council is not responsible for the contents or reliability of linked web sites and does not necessarily endorse any views expressed within them. Listing should not be taken as endorsement of any kind. It is your responsibility to check the terms and conditions of any other web sites you may visit. We cannot guarantee that these links will work all of the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.