

**Report for:** Climate, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel, 17 December 2024

**Item number:**

**Title:** Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report (2024)

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key / Non Key Decision:** Non-Key Decision

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report has been prepared following a request from the Climate, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel to “look at the structure and content of the Annual Carbon Report and to make some recommendations on changes.”
- 1.2 The Annual Carbon Report (ACR) provides a transparent year-on-year account of progress made to reduce carbon emissions from the Council’s operations, and the borough as a whole. It also reports on progress made against the carbon reduction targets. In line with the Council’s Constitution (Part 4 Section A, 3.1 (xiv)), and subsequently, the agreements set out in the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan (HCCAP), the Council has published an Annual Carbon Report each year since 2011.
- 1.3 The forthcoming ACR is the fourteenth report. An indicative table of contents is included in Appendix A.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Climate, Community Safety and Environment Panel is asked:
  - a) To note the previous Annual Carbon Report structure.
  - b) To consider the draft table of contents of the Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report, and make any comments or proposed recommendations to the report authors on the content or structure.

### 3. Background information

#### Objectives of the Annual Carbon Reports

- 3.1 Monitoring progress and highlighting shortfalls are one of the key components of the process to achieve net zero. Positive progress emphasises the benefits of taking climate change actions and the emission shortfall highlights the urgency of taking action.
- 3.2 The first ACR set out one of the first carbon reduction targets as a major authority: to deliver a 40% carbon reduction by 2020 from its 2005 baseline (in short, the 40:20 target). This coincided with the launch of the Carbon Commission 40:20<sup>1</sup>, a membership organisation for all residents, businesses and organisations contributing to the Carbon Management Plan for Haringey. One of the key recommendations from this was to monitor progress of carbon reduction across the borough and to publicise community and Council carbon reduction projects. The 12<sup>th</sup> ACR concluded that Haringey had exceeded the target set by the 40:20 by delivering a reduction in emissions of 43%.
- 3.3 Since 2017, this reporting process has also been included within the Council's constitution.
- 3.4 Following the Climate Emergency Declaration by Haringey's Full Council in March 2019, the HCCAP was adopted in March 2021. The action plan sets out the actions and the timeline required to enable Haringey to become a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2041, and a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2027.
- 3.5 One of the key requests from the Climate Emergency Campaign led by Extinction Rebellion across its national campaign, was for all local authorities to annually publish performance on carbon reduction. This was also reflected in the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) meeting of March 2020, which asked for all London Councils to collect and monitor data, and publish performance against the borough's climate action plan.

#### Structure and Overview of Content of the Annual Carbon Report

- 3.6 Appendix A provides a detailed overview of the indicative sections that will be included in the 14<sup>th</sup> ACR. In summary, the following sections are included:
  - Executive Summary, Member Introduction and Summary.
  - An overview of the global, regional, and local climate change landscape, highlighting policy and legislative changes, financial context, and recent national or regional surveys on public sentiments. This sets out the context of policy landscape from which the following sections can be understood.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/4cbbc5b78668f89032\\_utm6vr961.pdf](https://neweconomics.org/uploads/files/4cbbc5b78668f89032_utm6vr961.pdf)

- Data on the borough's carbon emissions and our progress against reduction targets. This provides an insight into the emission trend in comparison to neighbouring boroughs, London and nationally.
- An overview of the actions taken, aligned with the HCCAP's six focus areas — Council, Housing, Workplace, Transport, Energy, and Community. This section spotlights key projects by the Council and community stakeholders. It also highlights the wider co-benefits of reducing emissions, such as improved air quality, health, and reduction in fuel poverty.
- A section on Climate Adaptation and Resilience setting out how the borough is responding to the impacts of climate change.
- A forward-looking section on planned projects for the following year.
- Glossary and emissions data sources.

### Process of preparing the ACR

- 3.7 Every year during the Autumn, updates are compiled from stakeholders to report progress at Full Council around March:
- Carbon emissions datasets are available with a two-year reporting lag (this is due to the process that National Government goes through to collect and verify the data);
  - Carbon emissions datasets for the Council's carbon footprint are available for the last financial year;
  - Any carbon reduction projects and initiatives delivered by different directorates within the Council and community stakeholders are reported on using the relevant calendar year.
- 3.8 We analyse carbon emissions datasets from external sources such as London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI) for borough-wide emissions (Scope 1 and 2). A separate dataset has also been produced to include consumption-based emissions for London and Haringey (Scope 3 emissions), but this is outside the scope of the Net Zero Carbon Target for 2041. This includes emissions embodied in goods and services consumed within the borough.
- 3.9 The data on Council emissions has been gathered through meter readings and energy bills from the Council buildings, street lighting and highways infrastructure. For example, the ACR 2024 will include information from April 2023 to March 2024.
- 3.10 We collate all relevant carbon reduction projects from Council officers based on the calendar year 2024. We also invite local sustainability-focused community groups to report their carbon initiatives voluntarily. The community section also includes an

update on how the Community Carbon Fund what the measurable benefits have been of the funded projects.

#### Review of the ACR content - Community engagement

- 3.11 In preparation for the 2023 ACR, the Council engaged with the Haringey Climate Forum on the report's aims, content and structure. This meeting provided a steer on areas that the forum felt could include more detail, such as the pensions, green skills initiatives, biodiversity, and the scope of emissions data. As a result, the 2023 report included new sections to improve accessibility, such as the Executive Summary (separate file) and Glossary. A new chapter on Climate Resilience also provides a more focused overview of adaptation initiatives.

#### Publication and promotion of the Annual Carbon Report

- 3.12 The report is published annually every March at Full Council. The Council creates a public-facing version, and it is uploaded onto the Council web pages. Historic data figures show that the report is a well-downloaded document, but since the new website, these figures are not available. The borough's community groups, such as Sustainable Haringey and the Haringey Climate Forum, ask the Council for community meetings on the report and discussion on our progress. These groups also often host, and / or promote the report on their websites.

#### Impact of the ACR

- 3.13 The report brings together many strands of work, and provides a snapshot of current policy, projects within the borough, of Haringey's current position along the net zero pathway. This allows the community to understand the breadth of work the Council undertakes alongside stakeholders to tackle climate change.
- 3.14 Concrete data on website views or downloads of the Annual Carbon Report cannot be provided to provide an indication on the level of interest in the report publicly.
- 3.15 It also increases awareness and empowers Council staff to take positive carbon reduction decisions. An amendment to the Council's constitution was adopted to require carbon and climate change impacts to be considered and impacts reduced as part of the decision-making process. Therefore, all Full Council or Cabinet decision reports must now include a dedicated section on carbon emissions. The reports therefore provide evidence to inform decisions on policy making and priority setting. The information also provides evidence to support the in-house carbon literacy training and corporate inductions for new staff members.
- 3.16 Thanks to its consistent and long-running publication, the reports have supported and shaped annual carbon reports across London Councils as they report on their emissions, and many are using a similar template. It also features as a [UK:100 case study in the Knowledge Hub](#).

## **4. Use of Appendices**

- 4.1 Appendix A: Indicative Table of Contents for the Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report (2024)

## **5. Background papers**

- 5.1 [Twelfth Annual Carbon Report \(2022\)](#)
- 5.2 [Thirteenth Annual Carbon Report \(2023\)](#)
- 5.3 [Executive Summary of Thirteen Annual Carbon Report \(2023\)](#)

# Appendix A – Indicative table of contents for the Fourteenth Annual Carbon Report (2024)

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