Report for: Cabinet, 22 April 2025

Item number: 15

Title: Extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund

Report authorised

by:

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key / Key

Non-Key Decision:

Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. Under the London Plan, new building developments are required to be zero carbon. Any development that fails to fully achieve this standard on site may offset its remaining carbon emissions via cash in lieu contributions. This is commonly referred to as a "Carbon Offset" and is collected via a legal agreement called a Section 106 (S106) planning obligation. The carbon offset payment is then used to deliver local carbon saving projects in the borough.
- 1.2. In February 2025, the council's Cabinet agreed to spend £2.23m of the Carbon Offset Fund from S106 agreements on seven carbon reduction projects over the next four years, including the extension of Haringey Community Carbon Fund Year 5-8. The Haringey Community Carbon Fund was allocated a budget of £0.64m over the next 4 years.
- 1.3. This report proposes a detailed programme to spend £0.64m of the allocated carbon offset contributions for the extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund over the next four years. This fund will continue to deliver community-led carbon reduction projects across the borough.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1. The Haringey Community Carbon Fund embodies what we can achieve when we truly empower our communities. The impressive array of projects that have flourished over the first four years is testament to the remarkable spirit of innovation and collaboration they represent.

- 2.2. From thermal imaging cameras allowing residents to visualise the invisible energy leaking from their homes to waste wood workshops engaging vulnerable youth to craft wildlife habitats, these projects showcase our community's ingenuity. The Ten87 Studios installation alone will save nearly 5 tonnes of carbon annually while supporting access to creative spaces for low-income musicians. The air source heat pump at Muswell Hill Methodist Church demonstrates how our faith communities are leading practical climate action.
- 2.3. What's particularly inspiring is seeing how diverse our community response has been. Schools like Willow Primary tackling food waste, Haringey Borough Women's Football Club creating recycling solutions for sports equipment, and community centres upgrading to energy-efficient lighting all reveal a borough-wide commitment to climate action that spans every sector of our community.
- 2.4. These projects represent something far more significant than simply technical installations. They're tangible expressions of our community's determination to reach net zero, creating ripples of engagement and social value far beyond their immediate carbon savings. When our schools install solar panels on their rooftops and create outdoor food gardens, they're creating living laboratories where the next generation witnesses sustainability in action. These highly visible projects serve as powerful demonstrators for all residents, revealing the art of the possible in our everyday spaces.
- 2.5. The engagement statistics speak volumes: 36 projects delivered across the borough, leveraging an additional £261,000 in match funding, and creating lasting partnerships between community organisations that might otherwise never have collaborated. The energy (renewable, of course!) of our residents is palpable, transforming environmental concern into practical action.
- 2.6. As we look toward the next four years of this programme, I'm delighted that we'll be building on these successes by increasing the annual funding pot to £100,000. The proposed enhancements directly respond to community feedback, making the fund more accessible and impactful. By shifting application deadlines away from the busy holiday period, we'll enable more groups to develop thoughtful proposals. Our stronger focus on high-impact carbon reduction projects will maximise environmental benefits, while the introduction of mandatory carbon literacy training will create a ripple effect of knowledge and advocacy throughout the borough, equipping community leaders to inspire wider climate action beyond their funded projects.
- 2.7. This fund exemplifies the Haringey Deal in action sharing power with our communities and creating genuine opportunities for residents to shape our climate response. Together, we're proving that meaningful climate action isn't just delivered through top-down policy, but through the collective creativity and commitment of a community determined to create a sustainable future.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Cabinet is asked to:

- 3.1.1. Note the Cabinet decision on 11th February 2025 to allocate £0.64m of the Carbon Offset Fund monies collected under s106 obligations for extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund and its administration. With the spend over four financial years agreed at:
 - a) £100k per funding year in community grants (total £400k)
 - b) £60k per funding year to manage and promote the fund (total £240k).
- 3.1.2. Note the current process (Section 6.8), and to agree to the changes to the Haringey Community Carbon Fund for Years 5 to 8 (Section 6.11) following internal and external engagement to improve the management of the fund and delivery of outcomes.
- 3.1.3. Agree that the decision to allocate the annual funding to specific carbon reduction bids in this period will be delegated to Assistant Director for Planning, Building Standards & Sustainability, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport, and drawing on the advice of the Programme Director Wellbeing & Climate and the Haringey Community Carbon Fund Panel. And, where funds are not fully spent at the end of each year, that unspent funds will be rolled over to the next spending year.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. Allocating the carbon offsetting funds to community schemes will continue to deliver Objective Com2 of the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan. This commits to "empower and enable community-owned projects to deliver carbon reduction", with a specific action under Com2 to set up a community energy fund. Grants to local community organisations will encourage residents, community groups and local businesses to live and operate more sustainably. Our residents and community groups are well-placed to identify, set up and run carbon reduction projects, whilst developing their skills. Funding will enable organisations to have a wider reach, with more projects to be coordinated and delivered across the borough.
- 4.2. The borough's community groups can also use this funding to access and match fund external funding streams for carbon reduction. Examples include the National Lottery, the GLA's London Community Energy Fund, the NLWA's North London Community Fund.
- 4.3. This funding strategy delivers on Haringey 2035: our vision, and the action on "Supporting greener choices" by empowering the community to tackle the climate emergency. Funding will create opportunities for community-led initiatives to mitigate climate risks and be climate resilient.

5. Alternative options considered

Do nothing – rejected

5.1. This would run counter to the Cabinet decision in February 2025 allocating £640,000 for the extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund Years 5 to 8. It would fail to

meet the objectives and outlined actions of the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan to support and empower community-based carbon reduction and undermine the council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Do same as the first 4 years - rejected

5.2. The first four years were very successful, however continuing the same would not enable community feedback and council learnings to be incorporated into the extension. This would be a missed opportunity for more beneficial outcomes regarding carbon reduction, community engagement and contribution to equalities. This would also go against the recommendations of the community engagement for the extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund, and the principles of the Haringey Deal.

Alternative ways of funding community groups: Funding community groups but excluding businesses, schools, and individuals – rejected

- 5.3. This option was ruled out for the following three reasons.
 - Schools, individuals and small and medium enterprises are an integral part of Haringey's community and excluding them will be against the plan to support and empower community-based carbon reduction.
 - The council has limited direct control or influence over borough emissions, and supporting community action and behaviour change is key to be able to deliver the borough-wide net zero carbon target of 2041. This group have a deeper reach within the community. Excluding them will mean losing the opportunity to tap into this.
 - Excluding these groups would go against the GLA guidance on Community Funds and use of Carbon Offsetting Funds.

Alternative ways of funding community groups: Funding council projects and reducing the amount allocated to community groups from the Community Carbon Fund – rejected

5.4. This option was ruled out as this would run counter to the Cabinet decision in February 2025 allocating £640,000 for the extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund Years 5 to 8 to empower community groups and support community-led carbon reduction projects, as set out in the objectives and outlined actions of the Haringey Climate Change Action plan.

6. Background information

Legislative and Planning Policy Position

6.1. Under the London Plan, developments are required to be zero carbon (i.e. 100% carbon reduction from a notional building that is compliant with Building Regulations Part L). Any development that fails to achieve this standard on site can offset its remaining carbon emissions via cash in lieu contributions. This cash in lieu contribution is then negotiated and collected by the council Planning service through S106 agreements. S106 carbon offset contributions are collected from developers at the GLA's recommended cost of £95 per tonne of carbon calculated over 30 years (which equates to £95 x 30 years = £2,850 per tonne of carbon). This price has been

- set by the London Plan, but authorities can set a higher local price where there is evidence to demonstrate that a higher local price is reasonable. We aim to set a new, higher price when the new Local Plan is completed.
- 6.2. The carbon offset payment is then used to deliver local carbon saving projects in the borough. The offset payment may be used in accordance with purposes stipulated in the relevant Section 106 agreement. Obligations contained in a S106 agreement are usually ancillary to a planning permission sought by a developer. They are derived from the Town and Country Planning Act (1990)) and shaped by GLA carbon offsetting guidance, Haringey's Local Plan and Planning Document (SPD, 2018).
- 6.3. The GLA recommends that "Offsetting projects should deliver tangible carbon savings that will contribute to the Mayor's aim of London becoming a zero-carbon city and should usually be spent within the boundary of the LPA and directly benefit local residents or businesses" (Carbon Offset Funds, July 2022).

London Picture

- 6.4. The GLA produces annual reports on the collection and spending of carbon offset contributions. The <u>Carbon Offset Funds Monitoring Report 2023</u> (November 2024) sets out a few headlines:
 - The GLA recommends that boroughs continue to find opportunities to co-fund projects from other funding sources, or pool funds for strategic opportunities.
 - The main categories the GLA recommend should be targeted are energy
 efficiency measures, renewable energy, district energy and climate resilience.
 The GLA recommends that the first three categories should constitute the
 majority of spending. Less tangible projects like behaviour change or improving
 climate resilience projects (e.g. tree planting, greening) should not benefit from
 the majority of a fund.
 - All offset projects must be able to demonstrate that they will save carbon before receiving funding. Carbon savings should be verified post-installation through monitoring and evaluation.
- 6.5. Haringey is working with the GLA and the London Councils Climate Programme to help boroughs to increase their carbon offset fund spending. This includes sharing our best practice in setting up and delivering the first four years of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund.

Haringey's Carbon Offset Fund – Historic performance

6.6. Cabinet approved the HCCF in June 2021 for an initial allocation of £390,000 over a four-year period, with £300,000 available for grants. The HCCF grants have enabled our community to secure a further £261,000 in match funding, alongside residents' time to deliver wider community-based outcomes. 36 projects have been granted funding in Years 1-4, with an estimated carbon saving of 182 tonnes CO₂/year and successful wider community engagement with a range of groups across the borough.

- 6.7. The Cabinet Report in 2021 set out key aims for the HCCF, and these are reported on below.
 - 6.7.1. **Carbon Savings** The HCCF projects have a positive impact on the borough, with direct estimated savings of over 15 tonnes of carbon emissions (tCO₂) in the first round, 22.95 tCO₂ in the second round and 14.23 tCO₂ in the third round of funding (total of 52.2 tCO₂). These projects have emissions savings over the lifetime of the funded equipment. Behaviour change projects and wider engagement could enable further knock-on carbon savings through choices people make. Whilst feasibility studies could deliver future projects with an estimated saving of over 55.8 tCO₂ per year if implemented; this is the equivalent operational carbon savings of 28 new build 3-bedroom houses or 2,790 trees growing for a year.
 - 6.7.2. Community Engagement and Increasing Inclusivity All projects have engaged with the local community on carbon reduction in line with the secondary aim of the HCCF. Engagement plans from projects have included working with local schools (students, parents, and staff); sports players (young girls' and female football teams); local residents (children, youths, elderly); community centres, libraries, local businesses, community gardens, artists, marginalised groups, and different age-group individuals. This has supported the objectives of the Corporate Delivery Plan and the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan. It also aligns with the Haringey Deal by empowering and growing local community group networks to deliver community-led carbon reduction projects.
 - 6.7.3. Alongside this, the HCCF Panel makes a recommendation on how to allocate the funding with two community representatives on the panel. This increases community ownership and transparency of the fund.
 - 6.7.4. The programme has also supported the development of the borough's environmental networks, by bringing groups together to deliver success beyond groups that typically engage in the climate agenda. An example of this is the solar photovoltaic panel (PV) system that generates electricity on top of the Lordship Hub in Tottenham, which was supported by En10ergy, a community energy company based in Muswell Hill.
 - **6.7.5. Financially Supporting Community Groups and Businesses –** with an increase in energy prices, the HCCF has helped many community groups save money on their day-to-day operations. Muswell Hill Methodist Church were funded for a trial air source heat pump which reduced their costs from the main gas system. They were also able to link their room booking system to their heating system to reduce wasted heat when rooms are not occupied.
 - 6.7.6. **Addressing Inequalities** the HCCF has brought a positive impact on equalities and groups with protected characteristics in the borough. Tottenham business, Ten87 studios, installed a 24-kilowatt peak (kWp) solar PV system (which is the maximum amount of power that can be generated by the PV

system under ideal conditions) for their music studios. The PV system enables cheaper access to music studios for minority, disadvantaged groups and low-income musicians. Footprint for Good delivered waste wood workshops engaging with youths aged 12-19 vulnerable to crime, shifting their focus to wildlife habitat creating in urban spaces. This hands-on activity also nurtured emotional and social empowerment. A more detailed overview of the equalities impact is included in Appendix 4.

- 6.7.7. Co-benefits beyond carbon In addition to carbon reduction, projects have delivered a variety of community co-benefits to support residents, e.g.: food provision, improvement of local air quality, reduction in energy bills, skills training, employment, and money savings through repairs and upcycling. For example, Collage Arts was funded for secondary glazing, LED lighting upgrades and their engagement programme with three schools and three local businesses.
- 6.7.8. Rollover monies and reflection: Cabinet previously agreed to a rollover mechanism which allowed underspend from the yearly allocated amount to be rolled over to the subsequent funding year. Most of the funded projects have been successfully delivered. In instances when projects were not able to initiate or complete, the conditions drafted in the grant agreement allowed the council to retain the money and make unused grant money available to groups in the next funding year. This mechanism has been effective on mitigating any financial risks.

Current Process

6.8. Summary table for current process. Details in Appendix 2.

Headline	Years 1 to 4 - Community Carbon Fund
Funding available	 Pot of £90,000 in first year and £70,000 per funding year for three years (plus any rolled over money).
Timeframes	 Bid to open in November; application deadline early January.
Eligibility	 All community groups, schools or businesses are eligible subject to organisational eligibility criteria. Details in Appendix 2.
	 Feasibility assessment eligible for micro and medium grants (up to £15,000)
	 From Year 2, microgrants also eligible for indirect carbon saving projects and engagement only.
Project scoring	Effectiveness of delivering carbon reduction
criteria	 Delivery plan and ability to deliver projects within timescales
	 Value for money and assessment on relevant costs
	 Community engagement and contribution to Haringey's equality objectives
	 Requirements for permission and consents

Panel Review	•	Projects scored by a five-member panel, including 3 officers and 2 community representatives	
Application process	•	Application submitted via email or online form.	
	•	Micro grant and Medium/Large grant have separate forms.	

Feedback from Engagement

- 6.9. Feedback from community groups, stakeholders, potential, unsuccessful and successful applicants has been collated over the past four years in relation to the application process, eligibility, and the process after grants are awarded. Feedback from internal council officers and services on the due diligence process, monitoring and experience from other grant funding schemes has also informed this paper.
- 6.10. In addition, the council sought out the views of the community to improve the programme from 6 January to 2 February 2025 via the Commonplace platform. The engagement included a spread of individuals and groups, who have been successful in their bids, and those that had not been successful in their bids, and the wider community who may have considered submitting a bid. A more detailed overview of the Commonplace feedback is included in Appendix 1.

Proposed changes in the Extension of the Community Carbon Fund – 2025 to 2029

6.11. In summary, the table below sets out the key changes to the HCCF programme for Years 5-8 based on the learnings and feedback received. Appendix 3 sets out the full details, including the elements that will remain the same. The section below the table provides more detail on some of the proposed changes.

Headline	Changes within the scheme Years 5 to 8
Timeframes	 Bid period to open in September rather than November; with application deadlines for November.
Funding available and guideline thresholds	 Pot of £100,000 per funding year, increased from £70,000. Guideline to allocate minimum 60% of funding to top priority categories: Renewable Energy Generation, Energy Efficiency Measures, Low Carbon Heating Systems. Guideline to allocate maximum 40% of funding on other categories: transport, engagement, circular economy, climate resilience.
Eligibility	 Climate resilience projects that deliver carbon savings will now be eligible.
	 Feasibility assessment RIBA stage 2/3 eligible for up to £15,000.
Project scoring criteria	 Additional criterion in Years 5 and 6: demonstrate how projects contribute to the London Borough of Culture objectives. Additional criterion: demonstrate how projects increase local
	climate resilience.Amendment to the carbon reduction criterion:

	 Greater weighting in scoring to enable delivery of higher carbon saving projects. Emphasis on the effectiveness of delivering long-term tangible carbon reduction. All bids need to demonstrate additionality in their carbon savings, meaning that projects would not happen without the funding. Projects should also leverage community resources (time, resources or assets), or other funding streams to support the delivery.
Carbon Literacy	Organisations receiving over £1,000 in funding will be required to send 2-3 of their community group leaders to undertake mandatory Carbon Literacy training organised by the council within the year of receiving funding.
Panel	 Yearly expression of interest to invite two community representatives of the five-member HCCF Panel. One council member will be replaced by a cross-borough community network representative. Shortlisted projects to be invited to present in front of the HCCF Panel to clarify, celebrate and promote their proposed projects.
Application process	Separate application forms will be developed for feasibility projects and climate resilience projects. These will provide more specific guidance on items such as calculating the carbon savings, prior to any (detailed) calculations taking place for feasibility projects. Applications still need to demonstrate how they can achieve carbon savings.

Bid period

- 6.12. To encourage interest from the community across the borough for this funding, it is vital that the council publicises this fund opportunity, particularly prior to the bid submission deadline. Based on community feedback we have brought forward the deadlines by two months so as not to clash with annual leave taken during the Christmas and New Year's period when it might be more difficult for groups to obtain quotes for works and items. Key milestones will now be (with a full timetable in Appendix 3):
 - September: launch of grant scheme, with an 8-week bid period to submit.
 - · November: officer due diligence and feedback support
 - December: HCCF Panel scoring and meeting
 - April: award funding to successful projects

Funding thresholds

6.13. The introduction of a maximum and minimum threshold for different project categories is based on feedback from the community, where priorities could be set for project types. As a result, the majority of the HCCF will fund the higher priority, tangible carbon-saving projects such as the installation of energy efficiency measures, solar panels, low carbon heating systems. An upper threshold will be introduced for lower

priority, intangible carbon-saving projects, like behaviour change projects in waste reduction, circular economy, climate resilience, as their carbon reduction impact is more difficult to estimate.

Climate Resilience

- 6.14. Applicants will now need to demonstrate within their application forms how their project can help the local area and/or community increase its resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g. overheating, flooding, droughts, etc). This new scoring criterion will enable applicants to think beyond climate mitigation (i.e. carbon reduction) and increase the scope of their engagement.
- 6.15. Expanding the eligibility to Climate Resilience projects that deliver carbon savings will align with the <u>London Climate Resilience Review</u> the GLA's <u>Carbon Offset Funds</u> <u>Monitoring Report 2023</u> recommendations to fund climate resilience projects. Projects could apply to increase the resilience of buildings where this can be demonstrated to reduce heating or cooling demands or otherwise save carbon (e.g. living roofs, shading, lighter materials). Projects should demonstrate how a known local climate risk will be addressed in the project.

Scoring Criterion: London Borough of Culture

6.16. Year 5 and 6 of the Community Carbon Fund will include a focus on cultural projects. Projects will need to demonstrate how it brings arts and culture to the heart of local communities through carbon reduction and community engagement. This will align with the "London Borough of Culture" in 2027.

Carbon Literacy

6.17. Projects that are awarded funding over £1,000 will be expected to send two or three of the senior leaders in their project team to undertake a full day of Carbon Literacy Training. For example, a member of the senior leadership of any school bid, or religious organisation can benefit from the training when engaging with their regular audiences. This will increase the tools available to community groups to deliver the engagement required as part of the fund on the importance of carbon reduction within our community and more effectively raise awareness of climate change. This will run by council officers and community leaders with a suitable date agreed each summer.

HCCF Panel

6.18. The HCCF Panel will be made up of 2 council officers, 2 community leaders from the environmental sector, and a representative from a cross-borough community network (such as the Haringey Community Collaborative. The panel review the shortlisted project bids, discuss and make a recommendation on which projects should receive funding based on the project criteria. Several community representatives have shown interest in being involved in the HCCF Panel. Therefore, each funding year a call for interest will be initiated amongst the interested parties to be invited to be a part of the panel and the council will ensure impartiality. While representativeness may not be

- possible due to the small number of panel members, efforts will be made to aim for diverse representation.
- 6.19. Based on feedback from the community, a new element to the scoring process will be the introduction of an "in-person presentation" for all shortlisted bids over £10,000. Applicants will have the opportunity to present and promote their projects and answer questions on their proposal. This also allows the HCCF Panel to challenge and strengthen project and engagement plans with their experience as community representatives. Panels members and prospective panel members will also be offered to join the Carbon Literacy training.

Communication Strategy

- 6.20. With the aim to improve communication, the HCCF will prioritise partner-generated content. This will include development of a comprehensive toolkit and a collaborative communication strategy. This toolkit will empower all recipients of the fund to create their own content, showcasing their valuable work and highlighting the positive impacts the HCCF have had on their projects and achievements.
- 6.21. By mapping out communication channels and opportunities, and providing clear guidelines and resources, HCCF can incentivise partners to share their stories across a broader range of platforms.

This approach offers several key benefits:

- Increased Content Flow: Community-generated content will provide a consistent stream of authentic and engaging material, keeping the communication around the fund fresh and relevant.
- **Expanded Reach:** Community-focused content will tap into new audiences and networks, extending the fund's message beyond our existing channels. This will include proactive campaigns in wards that have previously not had any applicants, such as Northumberland Park.
- **Improved Credibility:** Hearing directly from community projects about their successes builds credibility and demonstrates the real-world value of the fund, which is more impactful than messages solely from the council.
- 6.22. This strategy is aimed to amplify the message of HCCF and to foster a stronger sense of community ownership and engagement with the council.

Project auditing and monitoring of impacts

6.23. Successful projects will be required to provide regular and agreed updates on their deliverables. Funding higher than £1,000 may be released in instalments in accordance with conditions in the grant agreement to demonstrate part-delivery of the project. Following the project completion, the community groups must fill in a project monitoring form providing evidence for LBH officers to verify the outcomes on carbon

reduction and engagement. These outcomes will be published in the borough's Annual Carbon Report.

Administration, advertisement and management costs

- 6.24. The approved allocation by Cabinet includes £240,000 over the four years for the administration, advertisement and management of the fund. It will cover producing communications materials, printing, distribution, advertising the fund, and preparing the bid paperwork. Information will be provided in the form of easy-to-understand guides about how to submit a bid including case studies of carbon reduction projects. It will also allow officers to provide support to community groups in developing their projects and provide guidance.
- 6.25. Spending this administrative-related money is essential in reaching community groups that are not, or less, familiar with carbon reduction and to demonstrate opportunities for groups to put forward projects. It will also inspire the delivery of higher quality and a more diverse range of projects that will benefit different community groups.
- 6.26. Community feedback specifically proposed attending in-person events within the community to raise awareness of the funding opportunity, such as markets (full list in Appendix 2). The detailed application process and a communications and engagement plan will be prepared in summer 2025. The engagement objectives will be:
 - to raise awareness of the funding scheme,
 - to inspire groups to develop project ideas,
 - to reach a wide range of groups across the borough and
 - to support groups in submitting high quality bids.
- 6.27. One or two sessions will be organised for community groups to enable collaboration and co-design of projects between groups. Further capacity building will be delivered during this period to support community groups to submit bids and deliver their projects. We will work to link this in with other existing council programmes, such as the Haringey Climate Partnership and the community wealth building programme (Haringey Community Collaborative, and/or any green skills initiatives).

7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 High level Strategic outcomes

- 7.1. The Haringey Community Carbon Fund directly contributes to the council's Corporate Delivery Plan (2024-26) under the following themes:
 - Theme 1 Resident experience, collaboration and participation: To empower community groups, individuals and businesses to deliver projects which will reduce carbon emissions and engage the wider community around carbon reduction and climate change.
 - Theme 2 Responding to the Climate Emergency: To directly support the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan in delivering a net zero carbon borough by 2041 through sustainable buildings, transport, greening, increased

- awareness and empowerment, community participation, reduction in waste and water use.
- Theme 4 Adults, health and welfare: To support the delivery of and access to additional green space in Wood Green and help support the running of existing welfare services.
- Theme 8 Placemaking and economy: To support businesses and skills in the green economy, to support improved public realm and community buildings.
- 7.2. The HCCF also delivers on Haringey 2035 Our Vision, and in particular the aim of "Supporting greener choices" by supporting community ownership and empowerment around the environment.
- 7.3. The HCCF directly contributes to the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan target of becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2041 and meets objective Com2.
- 7.4. The HCCF supports the outcomes of the Haringey Deal, particularly the commitments in the Deal to "Share power" by creating new and genuine opportunities to have a say in decisions that affect the community, help design services and work with the council to solve long-standing and difficult problems.

8. Carbon and Climate Change

- 8.1. The HCCF has delivered 52.2 tCO₂ of carbon savings in the first three years and will continue delivering more carbon savings in the subsequent years. The HCCF delivers direct carbon savings through capital carbon reduction projects in the community and indirect carbon savings through the strong community engagement element of the programme, by raising awareness about climate change and encouraging behaviour change to reduce emissions.
- 8.2. It will also increase climate resilience within the community by demonstrating what measures can reduce risk due to a changing climate.

9. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

Finance

- 9.1. In February 2025, the Council's Cabinet agreed to spend £2.23m of the Carbon Offset Fund from the S106 agreements on seven projects to reduce carbon omissions over the next four years. £640,000 was allocated to the Haringey Community Carbon Fund for the same period.
- 9.2. This report seeks to provide further information on the administration and the allocation of funding from the Community Carbon Fund.
- 9.3. The allocation from this fund includes £400k for community grants and £240k for management and promoting the fund over the four years.

9.4. The approved projects will be monitored periodically to establish spend against budget. Any overspend will be mitigated from seeking alternative funding arrangements or scaled back to avoid any financial risks to the Council.

Strategic Procurement

- 9.5. Strategic Procurement have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 9.6. Strategic Procurement note the recommendations of the report are not procurement related decisions but relate to allocation of funding and delegation of the decision to allocate the annual funding to specific carbon reduction by the Assistant Director for Planning, Building Standards & Sustainability, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Action, Environment, and Transport, and drawing on the advice of the Programme Director Wellbeing & Climate and the Community Carbon Fund Allocation Panel.
- 9.7. Strategic Procurement have no objections to the recommendations in section 3 of this report.

Head/Assistant Director Legal & Governance

- 9.8. Legal has reviewed and noted this report.
- 9.9. Planning obligations are legal obligations to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal which are entered into through a legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Obligations are used to help fund the infrastructure necessary to support the growth of the borough and provide affordable housing to meet identified needs. These take the form of financial contributions that help fund projects and non-financial obligations that ensure developers provide infrastructure in kind.
- 9.10. Planning obligations can be used to compensate for any loss or damage resulting from a development (for example the loss of open space), and mitigate the impact of a development (for example through increased public transport provision). Planning obligations must meet three statutory tests that are set out in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) for S106 Agreements: a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; b) directly related to the development; and c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 9.11. The Council enters into Section 106 agreements with developers to secure carbon offsetting contributions on the basis that they are to be spent on "the implementation of projects to reduce carbon emissions in its area to offset the proposed shortfall in meeting London Plan targets". The proposals set out for the expenditure of those carbon offsetting contributions secured through the section 106 process are in compliance with the terms of the council's Section 106 agreements.
- 9.12. The terms of the Section 106 agreements between the council and developers also ensures that a 10% management fee is applicable in respect of carbon offsetting

contributions which will permit the Council to spend that proportion of carbon offsetting contributions on the administrative costs associated with managing the spending and monitoring of carbon offsetting contributions and this is also compliant with the provisions set out within this report.

Equality

- 9.13. The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 9.14. The three parts of the duty apply 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.
- 9.15. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 9.16. The HCCF has considered equalities throughout the design, application and scoring processes as set out in section 6.11 of this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken for the four-year HCCF programme for the June 2021 Cabinet Report. Building on this, an updated assessment on equalities has been undertaken (Appendix 4). The paper sets out the positive impacts from the HCCF Years 1-4 within the community, and which groups have been empowered and supported. It is expected that Years 5-8 will create an opportunity to broaden the beneficiaries within the community and improve access to the grants.
- 9.17. The updated EqIA for Years 5-8 demonstrates the proposal to empower and fund community groups to deliver carbon reduction projects has brought an overall positive impact on our community groups and protected characteristics. However, inequalities exist within Haringey and differ across its wards which may have an influence over what types of projects are delivered, where and who will benefit. Therefore, the HCCF will continue to ensure any groups are not subject to discrimination, harassments, and/or victimisation due to their protected characteristics during the assessment of the bids.

10. Use of Appendices

- 10.1. Appendix 1: Engagement Summary
- 10.2. Appendix 2: Current Community Carbon Fund Criteria and Timeframes

- 10.3. Appendix 3: Revised Community Carbon Fund Criteria and Timeframes
- 10.4. Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment for the Extension of the HCCF (EqIA)

11. Background papers

- 11.1. Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (2017) Link: https://new.haringey.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan/supplementary-planning-documents-spds/planning-obligations-spd
- 11.2. Haringey Climate Change Action Plan (2021) Link to PDF (54 pages, 2.33 MB): https://new.haringey.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/climate change action plan march 2021.pdf
- 11.3. Community Carbon Fund Cabinet Paper (June 2021). Link to Cabinet report and appendices:

 https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?lld=75509&PlanId=0&Opt=3

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- 11.4. GLA <u>Carbon Offset Funds (July 2022</u>). Link to report PDF (39 pages): https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gla_carbon_offsetting_guidance_2022.pdf
- 11.5. GLA Carbon Offset Funds Report, published annually. Link to 2023 report:
 https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/environment-and-climate-change-publications/carbon-offset-funds-report-2023
- 11.6. Carbon Offset Fund Allocation Strategy 2025-2029 Cabinet Paper (February 2025). Link to Cabinet report: https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s149709/Carbon%20Offset%20Fund%20Allocation%20Strategy%202025-2029.pdf
- 11.7. 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 the time and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.

Appendix 1: Engagement Summary

I. Introduction

Between November 2024 and February 2025, the council undertook engagement to gather community feedback on the four-year extension of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund (HCCF) which would involve continuation of the HCCF for the positive impacts created in the first four years and a few changes for improvements.

This section provides an overview of the engagement process conducted by the council and summarises the results and outcomes of the engagement.

II. <u>Engagement Process</u>

Engagement took place during the first four-year HCCF programme with:

- Officers
- Prospective applicants during Question-and-Answer events online and in-person during bid periods
- Applicants during the due diligence process
- Successful applications during the implementation stage of their projects

On 24 October 2024, an in-person engagement event took place to discuss the Year 4 application process and to provide feedback to shape the forthcoming four years.

Between 5 January and 2 February 2025, a dedicated webpage hosted a survey aimed to gather insights from groups and individuals to co-shape the next four years of the Haringey Community Carbon Fund. The respondents consisted of those who had heard of, or applied to the fund before, and also those who were not familiar with the fund.

The engagement survey was advertised through the previous network of HCCF applicants, subscribers of the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan, the Haringey Community Collaborative newsletters, Haringey School and business newsletters, and through Haringey People Extra newsletters.

A total of 67 responses were received. Respondents included a diverse mix of residents, community groups, and businesses, offering valuable recommendation to improve the fund's effectiveness and reach.

III. <u>Consultation Responses</u>

A breakdown of the engagement responses is outlined below:

Overall engagement audience	Number of responses	Number of groups	Number of individuals
817	67	5	63

The table below outlines a summary of the feedback received, and how the council took this feedback forward. Responses from individuals and groups were collated as the number of community groups was not significant enough to report separately.

Community Feedback	Council response	Proposed change within	
Objectives of the HOOF		programme	
Objectives of the HCCF The next four years should focus on reducing carbon emissions significantly, enhance community energy projects, prioritise community engagement, and increase awareness of climate crisis.	HCCF was set to provide increased opportunities to empower the community to deliver radical and innovative carbon reduction projects, and wider community engagement.	HCCF will continue prioritising carbon reduction as well as community engagement as its key objectives. Microgrants will continue to fund climate engagement projects and project team members of grants above £1,000 will be required to take mandatory carbon literacy session.	
Project Scoring criteria		<u> </u>	
HCCF should support projects that deliver long-term carbon reduction.	One of the key scoring criteria is delivering carbon reduction and the HCCF will continue supporting projects with high carbon savings.	Project criteria revised to effective long-term tangible carbon reduction with higher weight.	
Promote community education and engagement on sustainability.	Another key scoring criteria is delivering wider engagement as a co-benefit to carbon reduction. HCCF will continue this and will also include a mandatory carbon literacy session.	Mandatory carbon literacy training introduced to senior project team members of grants above £1,000.	
Improving Engagement with		ps	
Deliver co-led engagement with community organisations and more inperson engagement	HCCF has delivered in- person and on-line engagement sessions in both the east and west	Microgrants continue to support engagement and climate awareness projects.	
sessions.	part of the borough with a focus on inclusivity and accessibility. HCCF will continue to deliver in-person sessions and will improve the number of engagement sessions.	Revised engagement strategy will increase the number of inperson engagements and coled engagement sessions with community groups such as Haringey Community Collaborative, and local sustainability groups etc.	
Additional themes for projects			
Fund projects that improve the natural environment via urban greening, biodiversity enhancement and community gardening.	HCCF has focused on carbon mitigation projects in the first four years while the next four years will also include greening projects.	Climate resilience projects such as urban greening, biodiversity enhancement, and gardening is proposed to be eligible for the funding.	
Allocation of funding to different project themes			

Allocate more funding (70%) to projects delivering energy efficiency improvements (26.8%), renewable energy generation (26.9%), and low carbon heating (16.3%).	HCCF has supported tangible carbon reduction projects and will continue delivering this as a key priority theme. For this, a minimum funding cap will be introduced.	Aim to allocate minimum of 60% funding to projects delivering energy efficiency improvements renewable energy generation and low carbon heating.
Allocate 30% to projects delivering active travel (14.3%), waste reduction (10.1%), and climate awareness (5.7%).	HCCF has supported a number of small soft measure projects and will continue to delivery with a lower funding cap.	Aim to allocate a maximum of 40% funding to projects delivering active travel, waste reduction and climate awareness.

Objectives for the fund over the next few years

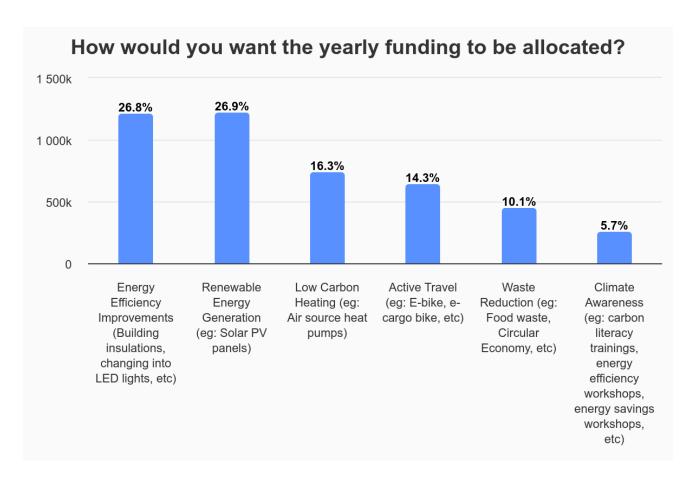
Respondents outlined several priorities for the future of the HCCF, emphasising the need to:

- Support projects that deliver significant and long-term carbon reduction.
- Promote community education and engagement climate crisis.
- Enhance community energy projects.
- Promote sustainable transportation options.
- Improve access for smaller and underrepresented groups.

Yearly funding allocation preferences

Survey respondents displayed a range of priorities for allocating the £100,000 yearly funding, with the following insights:

- <u>Top priorities:</u> Projects such as renewable energy generation, energy efficiency improvements including building insulations and changing into LED lights, and low carbon heating like air source heat pump consistently received the highest allocations of the yearly funding. The average allocation for each of these three-category ranged from £17,600 to £26,100 which is about 70% of the available yearly funding.
- Low priorities: Projects related to waste reduction food waste, circular economy, active travel (e-bikes and e-cargo bikes), and Climate Awareness (e.g.: carbon literacy trainings, energy savings workshops, etc) received the low allocations of the yearly funding. The average allocation for each category ranged from £5,900 to £12,400 which is about 30% of the available yearly funding.



Additional project themes

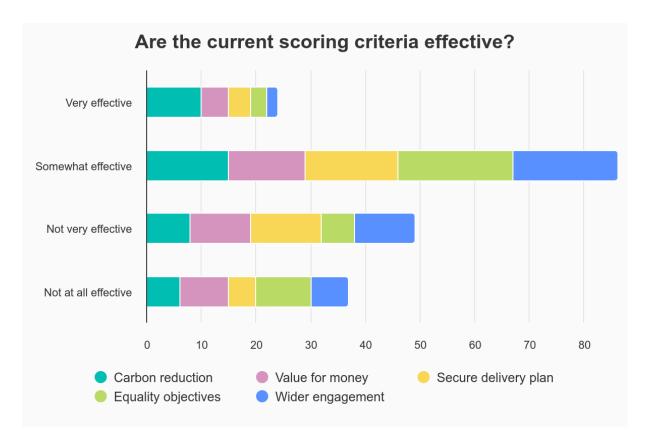
Respondents suggested expanding the fund's focus to include:

- Improvement in natural environment in Haringey to achieve greater carbon removal by trees, plants and healthy soils.
- Biodiversity improvement, urban greening and nature-based solutions
- Greener schools, playgrounds and public realms.
- Climate justice and social equity
- Sustainable transportation projects including training for primary children on bikes.
- Youth engagement and education on climate crisis.

Feedback on scoring criteria

The current scoring criteria were rated as moderately effective, with respondents calling for more clarity on how applications are assessed. Suggestions included:

- Adding metrics for social equity, project longevity, and replicable designs.
- Prioritising significant and long-term carbon savings.
- Strengthening the focus on community engagement and co-benefits.

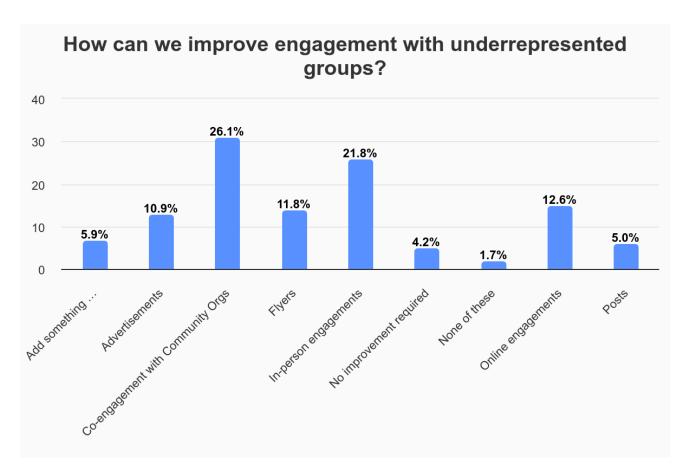


Improve engagement with underrepresented groups

Community engagement was a key area of focus. Recommendations for improving outreach included:

- Increase the number of online and in-person engagement sessions.
- Partnering with local organisations to co-deliver HCCF engagement events.
- Focusing more on organisations that may have not committed to sustainability.
- Hosting workshops in accessible locations and offering materials in multiple languages.
- Increasing the use of visual and audio materials to enhance inclusivity.

Respondents also proposed attending farmers markets, road markets, school events, community festivals, Resident's Network meetings, and sustainable fairs to showcase the fund and its projects.



IV. <u>Demographic breakdown of respondents</u>

The summary below demonstrates what the demographic breakdown of individual respondents is, where they chose to answer the questions.

- Individual responses
 - Age: Majority of the respondents (35.3%) belong to the age group 60-74 years, while there was a gradual spread across other age groups (30s, 40s, 50s and 75+)
 - Gender: Male (41%), Female (30.7%), Preferred not to say (28.3%)
 - Other diversity questions asked
 - Location, N2, N4, N5, N6, N8, N9, N10, N 11, N15, N16, N17, N22.
- Connection to Haringey: 79.1% respondents live, 14% work, 4.7% commute through Haringey, and 2.3% study in Haringey. Multiple responses possible.

V. Survey Questions

The full survey questions are outlined below.

- 1. Are you responding on behalf of a community group, school or business in the Borough?
 - i. Yes (Branching to group questionnaire)
 - ii. No, I am responding as resident/individual (Branching to individual questionnaire)

Community groups	Individuals
To which category does your organisation	If you belong to any Community groups
belong?	please let us know.
Registered Charity	
Community and Voluntary Group	
Co-operative	
Faith and Religious Group	
 Social Enterprise 	
Community Interest Company	
Local Business	
Add something else Where is your group active? Please provide.	
Where is your group active? Please provide your postcode and/or ward	
What is the main purpose of your	
organisation(s)/group(s)?	
Does your group represent any minority	
groups?	
Have you applied to the Haringey	Have you applied to the Haringey
Community Carbon Fund before?	Community Carbon Fund before?
Yes (received funding)	Yes (received funding)
Yes (did not receive funding)	Yes (did not receive funding)
 No (we knew about the fund but did 	No (we knew about the fund but did
not apply)	not apply)
No (we did not know about the fund)	
	 No (we did not know about the fund) No (but want to apply)
No (but want to apply)Not sure	Not sure
	If applicable, which funding year(s) did you
If applicable, which funding year(s) did you apply to? Please tick all that apply.	apply to? Please tick all that apply.
 Year 1 (2022/23) 	Year 1 (2022/23)
• Year 2 (2023/24)	, ,
,	Year 2 (2023/24)Year 3 (2024/25)
• Year 3 (2024/25)	, ,
• Year 4 (2025/26)	• Year 4 (2025/26)
Not sure What should be the main objectives for the	Not sure What should be the main objectives for the
What should be the main objectives for the fund over the next few years?	What should be the main objectives for the fund over the next few years?
The fund aims to cultivate innovative	The fund aims to cultivate innovative
carbon cutting ideas and delivery of	carbon cutting ideas and delivery of
projects at the grassroots level.	projects at the grassroots level.
How would you allocate funding to different	How would you allocate funding to different
themes?	themes?
Slide to allocate funding to different project	Slide to allocate funding to different project
themes. This is important to us, as we want	themes. This is important to us, as we want
fair spread of projects covering different	fair spread of projects covering different
themes, and we want to prioritise funding	themes, and we want to prioritise funding
accordingly.	accordingly.
Energy Efficiency Improvements	Energy Efficiency Improvements
(Building insulations, changing into	(Building insulations, changing into
LED lights, etc)	LED lights, etc)

Renewable Energy Generation (eg: Renewable Energy Generation (eg: Solar PV panels) Solar PV panels) Low Carbon Heating (eg: Air source Low Carbon Heating (eg: Air source heat pumps) heat pumps) • Active Travel (eg: E-bike, e-cargo Active Travel (eg: E-bike, e-cargo bike, etc) bike, etc) Waste Reduction (eg: Food waste, Waste Reduction (eg: Food waste, Circular Economy, etc) Circular Economy, etc) Climate Awareness (eg: carbon Climate Awareness (eg: carbon literacy trainings, energy efficiency literacy trainings, energy efficiency workshops, energy savings workshops, energy savings workshops, etc) workshops, etc) Do you want to see any other themes and Do you want to see any other themes and Are the current scoring criteria effective? Are the current scoring criteria effective? [Matrix selection tool: Very effective, [Matrix selection tool: Very effective. Somewhat effective, Not very effective, Not Somewhat effective, Not very effective, Not at all effective] at all effective] Carbon reduction Carbon reduction Wider engagement Wider engagement Secure delivery plan Secure delivery plan Value for money Value for money Equality objectives Equality objectives Are there any scoring criteria you'd like to Are there any scoring criteria you'd like to see? see? Are you interested in being on the Are you interested in being on the Community Carbon Fund Panel? This Community Carbon Fund Panel? This includes two community members and includes two community members and three officers. three officers. Yes Yes No No Not sure Not sure If you want to be in the panel, please If you want to be in the panel, please provide us your email address for our provide us your email address for our record. record. We are considering changing the deadline We are considering changing the deadline for applications. When would you prefer the for applications. When would you prefer the yearly 8-week bid period to be? yearly 8-week bid period to be? Sep-Oct Sep-Oct Oct-Nov Oct-Nov • Nov – Dec/Jan (Current) Nov – Dec/Jan (Current) Add something else Add something else Where have you seen the carbon fund Where have you seen the carbon fund advertised in the last 4 years? advertised in the last 4 years? Multiple Options: Multiple Options: Haringey Social Media Accounts Haringey Social Media Accounts (Instagram, X, Facebook, LinkedIn) (Instagram, X, Facebook, LinkedIn) Haringey Website Haringey Website

Newsletters

Newsletters

 Haringey People's Extra Haringey People Magazine Newspaper articles Word of mouth Add something else Are there any events we should attend to showcase about the community carbon fund and projects?	 Haringey People's Extra Haringey People Magazine Newspaper articles Word of mouth Add something else Are there any events we should attend to showcase about the community carbon fund and projects?
What can we do to make the application process more inclusive and accessible? What are the barriers to you on delivering	
carbon projects?	
How can we improve engagement with underrepresented groups? In-person engagements Online engagements Flyers Posts Co-engagement with community orgs Advertisements None of these No improvement required Add something else	How can we improve engagement with underrepresented groups? In-person engagements Online engagements Flyers Posts Co-engagement with community orgs Advertisements None of these No improvement required Add something else
Please share any final thoughts you might have. You can do this by typing or by leaving a voice message.	Please share any final thoughts you might have. You can do this by typing or by leaving a voice message.

Appendix 2: Current Community Carbon Fund Criteria and Timeframes Years 1-4

The Haringey Community Carbon Fund (HCCF) supports the delivery of community-led decarbonisation projects that benefit Haringey residents. A total pot of £300,000 is available as part of this 4-year community funding programme.

The HCCF is funded by <u>Section 106 planning contributions from new developments</u>. Where developers prove they cannot meet the necessary standards on site, they must make a 'carbon offset' payment. This payment helps fund off-site projects, such as the Haringey Community Carbon Fund.

Size of funding

There are 3 sizes of funding:

- large grants up to £50,000
- medium grants up to £15,000
- small grants up to £3,000 (removed from Year 2 following feedback from Year 1 applicants and officers, more detailed in HCCF Year 1 DA report)
- micro grants— up to £1,000 (increased from £500, and projects delivering indirect carbon savings and engagement were made eligible)

Eligibility

All community groups, schools or businesses who want to apply for a grant must show they are:

- constituted have a written set of rules and guidelines
- working for the public benefit
- based in and/or mostly active in Haringey.

Further eligibility criteria are based on the size of the grant. Any individual or community group can apply for a micro grant. They do not have to be constituted.

Scoring Criteria

Applications are scored on a range of criteria including:

- carbon reduction
- community engagement
- project delivery
- value for money

Timeline

- Comms and advertisement: October January
- Bid period: November January
- Bid review process: January
- Panel review meeting and recommendations: February
- Final eligibility checks: February
- DA Report sign-off: March

- Grant agreement: March/April
 Announcement of successful projects: March/April
 Comms and site visit to grantee: April/May
- Monitoring: October-December

Appendix 3: Updated Community Carbon Fund Criteria and Timeframes Years 5-8

The annual pot of funding is increased from £70,000 to £100,000 for the next four years. This will be divided into a range of micro to large grant amounts depending upon the received bids in that funding year. The funds which are not fully spent at the end of each funding year will be rolled over to the next funding years to fund more projects.

The annual funding of £100k is expected to be split as follows:

- large grant up to £50,000
- medium grants up to £15,000
- micro grants up to £1,000

Organisational Eligibility

All community groups will be required to demonstrate:

- Their organisation's constituted or incorporated status (this differs based on the size of the grant that community groups are applying for; full criteria are listed in Appendix 1);
- Their organisation and project's location, ensuring that they are based in, and / or predominantly active in Haringey;
- That their organisation works for the public benefit and not for profit, and that companies can demonstrate that profits are reinvested locally and their wider community wealth building and community engagement benefits;

Micro grants will be accessible to individuals or non-constituted community groups too. Individuals who can apply for up to £1,000 will need to provide account details, demonstrate their project will be delivered in Haringey, and demonstrate an understanding of the carbon savings that could be achieved.

Project Eligibility

- Tangible carbon-saving projects: E.g. retrofitting insulation, replacing a heating system, installing solar panels and battery storage
- Intangible carbon-saving projects: E.g. feasibility studies to deliver carbon savings, climate resilience projects that deliver carbon savings (e.g. reducing cooling demand through external shading, or tree planting), or reducing consumption-based emissions through circular economy projects.
- Microgrants can be used for engagement-only projects.

Project criteria

- All bids will be scored based on a range of criteria. Over a four-year period, an even distribution of grants across the borough and community groups should be demonstrated.
- All bids need to demonstrate additionality with either community resources (time, resources or assets), or other funding streams to support the delivery.

Scoring criteria

- Effectiveness of delivering carbon reduction (with a new greater weighting towards retrofit projects)
- Climate Resilience
- Detailed delivery plan and ability to delivery projects within timescales
- Value for money and assessment on relevant costs
- Contribution to Haringey's equality objectives and delivery of objectives under the Corporate Delivery Plan
- Contribution to the London Borough of Culture (applicable for years 5 and 6)

Application forms

- Microgrants
- Medium / large grants:
 - o Retrofit projects / other
 - Climate resilience
 - Feasibility studies

Timeline

- Comms, engagement and advertisement: September December
- Bid period: September/October November/December
- Bid review process: December January
- Panel review meeting and recommendations: January
- Final eligibility checks: January
- DA Report sign-off: February
- Grant agreement: March
- Announcement of successful projects: April
- Grant payment: April
- Comms and site visit to grantee: April/May
- Carbon Literacy Training for successful applicants and prospective panel members: June/July
- Monitoring: October/December and April/May

Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment for the Extension of the HCCF (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)