

Report for: Climate, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel,
28th July 2025

Title: Haringey Climate Change Action Plan

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Ward(s) affected: All

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

Describe the issue under consideration

This report has been prepared following a request from the Climate, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel to “look at the structure and content of Haringey Climate Change Action Plan (2021-2041) and progress made to date.”

Haringey Climate Change Action Plan provides a route map on the projects and programmes that the Council and Community need to deliver to a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2041. Projects and programmes are reported on through the Boroughs Annual Carbon Report, and this is the summary of all work streams within the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan.

Background.

In 2017 Haringey Council adopted the 7 recommendations of the [Net Zero Commission](#). This Report came from a group of 12 people made from industry experts and local representatives with interest in the environment. The report made seven headline recommendations for the council to consider, to ensure the future sustainability and climate resilience of the borough. One of these recommendations was to deliver a borough wide Zero Carbon Action Plan by 2050. With the aim of ensuring that key stakeholders knew and understood the level of work to deliver this globally important target.

In 2018 the Council appointed Arup Consultancy to support the council and the community in the development and delivery of this Action Plan. The Action Plan is a detailed approach including borough wide energy targets and rates of delivery. This was one of the first in the UK to go into this level of detail and has been used to shape other boroughs and London Councils work on this issue. It was developed with the Haringey Climate Forum and many borough interest groups such as En10ergy and Friends of the Earth.

The draft of the [Haringey Climate Change Action Plan](#) was adopted by the Council in March 2020. And then underwent a year of community engagement and outreach to ensure that the boroughs stakeholders had visibility and the Council had increased buy in as a result. During this process over 1000 issues from over 700 respondents, were highlighted to the Council to consider and put into the final draft. This included a heavy weighting from the boroughs Youth Advisory Board and younger people. One of the key changes that occurred as a result of this engagement was that the target for delivery was brought forward from 2050 to 2041 reflecting the local student strikes that were occurring outside the Civic Centre, and pressure groups such as Extinction Rebellion. The final version of the [Haringey Climate Change Action Plan](#) was adopted in March 2021, and Annual reporting on progress was added to the Council constitution, another UK first.

The Action Plan was designed to deliver programmes and projects up until 2041. This current version of the Action Plan focuses on known solutions and measures needed now. With the immediate actions in the Plan focused on delivery over the next 7-8 years. This means that there will be updates of the Climate Change Action Plan made by the Council and with the community. This will allow options to review progress and reshape the measures based on new technologies that may become mainstream and the level of progress made, which may require more effort in certain work areas if progress is behind schedule.

Management of the Climate Action Plan.

The Haringey Climate Change Action Plan has been managed through the Carbon Management Service. This service brought together a high level of expertise into a centre of excellence, and linking multiple service areas together to increase buy in, awareness, and co-delivery of funding streams, and projects. Several functions across the council (such as Fuel Poverty, and Air Quality) that deliver similar outcomes related to carbon reduction were brought together to increase efficiencies and support for government funding bids.

The Carbon Management Service has helped the Council deliver these projects by securing over £30 million of external funding since the plan has been adopted, to enable key actions to be delivered. This includes funding from the Heat Network Investment Fund, Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding, Public Sector Decarbonisation Funding, Fuel Poverty Funding, and Carbon Offsetting. This funding has been used to support a range of council services to deliver this low carbon ambition and reduce Council borrowing. Delivering projects such as solar panels on our school buildings, and most recently £1.5 million towards the low carbon elements of the new Civic Centre redevelopment. The team have also designed and delivered successful projects within the service such as School Streets, and the Council's Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

Since the action plan was adopted, several challenges have occurred. The main one being that the first few years of the action plan were COVID years, and as such funding reduced and multiple activities could not be delivered in the way they were envisaged. Alongside that in recent years the cost of borrowing by the public sector has increased and many of the projects have had to scale back, stop, or be pushed back as a result.

That said Government funding opportunities in this space have increased in recent years. As the government is realising the value of low carbon, and the co-benefits of action in this space. Such as Active Travel delivering air quality, public health, traffic reduction improvements, all of which deliver economic benefits to the UK. As such in the latest Spending Review (2024) the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero saw its budget go up 0.5% in real terms for day-to-day spending, and 2.6% for capital investment. One of the few departments to see a growth. Much of this is expected to be released via the

Governments Warmer Homes / Warmer Buildings Programme, expected to launch in Autumn 2025. With the aim of delivering buildings fit for the future and addressing issues such as fuel poverty, damp and mould, and a changing climate.

Monitoring and Progress of the Action Plan.

The Climate Change Action Plan has been used to formulate the Carbon Management Service workplan with work streams being allocated to staff based on the projects and programmes within the Action Plan. And staff funded by these grants from Government. Programmes and Projects are co-ordinated through the Service and progress is reported to the Well-being and Climate Board. The highlights of these projects and programmes are then published in the Annual Carbon Report which goes to full Council every March in line with the Council's constitution. While individual projects and programmes are reported the overall progress of the action plan is monitored locally and not publicly reported.

As part of the Scrutiny Panel questions all 159 actions within the Action Plan have been reviewed. Please see Appendix A that shows a comment on all 159 actions.

Table 1. Shows the 6 chapters of the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan and the number of projects and programmes rated Red / Amber / Green in terms of delivery and progress to date.

Chapter and work focus.	Red	Amber	Green
Reducing the Council's Carbon: this sets out how the Council can move to become a net zero carbon organisation, addressing carbon associated with service delivery and operational front-line buildings.	3	11	14
Reducing Carbon from Housing: over 50% of the borough's emissions come from its housing stock. This part of the Action Plan delivers actions on the borough's household energy efficiency projects addressing emissions from public and private sector homes	1	9	21
Addressing Business Emissions: 30% of the borough's emissions come from the business sector, many of which are small businesses with marginal profits which will need investment to reduce their energy consumption	6	17	4
Tackling Carbon from Transport: 20% of the borough's emissions come from vehicles across the borough. Actions include promoting and delivering increased public transport, cycling campaigns, and improved public realm to encourage walking, while reducing the dependency on the private vehicles, and if needed using only electric vehicles;	1	4	24
Increasing Renewable Energy Generation: this aims to increase the number of renewable technologies across all buildings in the borough, and opportunities for large scale infrastructure such as Heat Networks. investigate large	2	4	12
Engaging and Empowering the Borough's Community: this describes how the Council will communicate and work with its residents and businesses in the borough, to enable more residential, business, and partner-led projects to come forward.	2	5	19

Out of the actions within the Climate Change Action Plan, please see below the actions that are not delivering at expected pace or have been delayed / paused (rated Red). For comments and details on the RAG rating, please see Appendix A.

Reducing the Council's Carbon

- For the Council's core operational buildings and all transport-related activities for service delivery to be net zero carbon by 2027.
- To continue the delivery of a cleaner and a zero-emission fleet for all in-house vehicles. Support staff who use vehicles for service delivery to transition to zero-carbon vehicles as soon as possible.
- To develop and deliver a Council waste management plan. To focus staff and council systems to follow the waste hierarchy: to reduce, reuse, repurpose, repair resources before

Reducing Carbon from Housing

- Update the cost of carbon to a price that incentivises on-site reduction and review every 2 years.

Addressing Business Emissions

- Embed carbon reduction requirements within all Council engagement with businesses.
- Group types of Council supply chain contracts and set out new carbon reduction clauses.
- Update the cost of carbon to a price that incentivises on-site reduction and review every 2 years.
- Set up a cargo bike or e-cargo bike delivery service trial for local businesses.
- Increase education to encourage the adoption of a circular economy approach to their business model.
- For businesses to promote their low carbon credentials.

Tackling Carbon from Transport

- Investigate and deliver a borough-wide freight and last mile delivery strategy, focusing on hot spots in retail centres, with the aim to consolidate freight and delivery journeys.

Increasing Renewable Energy Generation

- Completion of commercialisation for set-up of Wood Green and Tottenham Hale Heat Networks.
- Completion of construction of first phases of Tottenham Hale and Wood Green Heat Networks.

Engaging and Empowering the Borough's Community

- Explore the delivery of a 'Green Hub' to accommodate retrofit installers, provide training on a large scale for young people, re-training for people entering into the green sector, and training for people who can specialise in retrofitting heritage buildings. Enabling Haringey to be at the front of the new green economy and re-skilling jobs that will decline (car mechanics, boiler engineers etc).
- Develop a low-carbon volunteer network to promote retrofitting in public and private sector, with volunteers receiving training.