

Report for: Cabinet – 9 December 2025

Item number: 15

Title: Adopting a new Haringey's Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Action (CCARA) Plan

Report authorised by : Barry Francis, Corporate Director Environment & Resident Experience

Lead Officer: Dr Will Maimaris, Director of Public Health

Ward(s) affected: All

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report seeks Cabinet approval for 'Haringey's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan (CCARA)', attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 The plan sets out Haringey Council's strategic response to the ongoing climate change-related challenges, complementing our mitigation and net zero commitments, but focusing on adaptation—providing assurance for how we prepare for and respond to climate impacts that are becoming more frequent and severe. The plan serves to consolidate and coordinate many actions already being progressed by relevant teams across the Council, as part of existing statutory duties and service delivery.
- 1.3 New actions in the plan have been developed from workshops with residents, activists and system partners, conversations with council experts and teams, and further refined through discussions at Place Board, with the Chief Leadership Team and the Council's Cabinet Members.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 Climate change is not a distant threat. The 26 excess deaths in our borough during the 2022 heatwaves and the loss of life during Storm Eunice remind us that the impacts are being felt now by our residents. These tragedies underscore why Haringey Council has developed this Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan. This is about strategic solutions meeting operational implementation. The Adaptation Reporting Power will become mandatory in 2028. We are using this crucial moment to ensure our borough is prepared and our most vulnerable residents are protected. This plan goes beyond traditional environmental planning. We recognise that climate adaptation is fundamentally about addressing inequality.

- 2.2 Our approach is distinctive because we frame climate adaptation as a primary public health intervention. The plan has been led and co-developed by Public Health professionals, draws on data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and sits under the oversight of our Wellbeing & Climate Board. By investing in measures that protect residents from heat stress and flooding, the borough's greatest risks, we are acting as a preventative strategy to reduce future demand on the NHS and social care systems. This represents a long-term investment in community wellbeing.
- 2.3 The Health in All Policies approach provides the operational framework for this plan. Climate change is a threat that cannot be solved by one department working in isolation. This plan involves actions across planning applications, housing retrofit programmes, procurement policies, community engagement and public communications. By applying a health lens to all these areas, we ensure that our actions to adapt to climate change also contribute to creating a healthier, more equitable borough.
- 2.4 The plan rests on four interconnected pillars that work as a dynamic system rather than isolated projects. Intelligence gathered through risk audits provides the evidence base for targeted investment. Greener, cooler public spaces created through physical upgrades support public health goals by providing safer, more habitable streets and safe refuges during heatwaves. Communication campaigns ensure that partners such as care homes are aware of risks and response protocols. Collaboration with partners like the NHS provides crucial health data that refines future risk assessments. This systemic approach creates a holistic and resilient strategy.
- 2.5 Successful adaptation requires carefully integrated interventions. Physical changes to the environment must be combined with changes in knowledge, behaviour and social organisation. Creating neighbourhood emergency response networks has limited value if residents are not aware of who the vulnerable people in their street are or do not understand their role in checking on isolated neighbours during heatwaves or storms. An awareness campaign is ineffective if there are no physical safe spaces or protective infrastructure for people to utilise. Our plan's strength lies in its dual focus on simultaneously investing in the physical borough and the social capacity of our people.
- 2.6 This is designed as a live and iterative strategy, not a static document. Our robust governance and monitoring framework ensures that adaptation is a continuous process of action, evaluation and improvement. The climate crisis requires this borough to act decisively, and through this plan we are doing exactly that.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to:

- 3.1.1 Approve the draft 'Haringey Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan' to come into effect from January 2026 (Appendix A) which will accompany Haringey's Climate Change Action Plan.
- 3.1.2 Note the progress that Haringey has made in tackling the climate emergency, as detailed in the published Climate Change Action Plan and annual carbon reports.
- 3.1.3 Note the Council's varied and collaborative work consolidated by this plan, driven by committed Council officers across departments, which is either already underway, or which will be implemented through the approval of this plan, that aims to deliver a borough that is more resilient to the worsening effects of climate change. There is however a need for further cross-sector collaboration moving forwards, to ensure that we remain accountable and committed to the delivery of actions in the plan, and that this issue remains a priority.
- 3.1.4 Note the current available and agreed funding for adaptation and retrofit projects to build the boroughs future resilience comes from a variety of funding streams/grants, with funding from the Section 106 Carbon Offsetting Fund (Haringey Community Carbon Fund, Overheating), UK Shared Prosperity Funding, Major Works Fund, Capital Programme Fund, Rough sleeping prevention and recovery grant and Public Health grant.
- 3.1.5 Note the still significant cost of addressing climate change adaptation & resilience, the even bigger cost of inaction, and the current shortfall of current available funding and resources to deliver climate adaptation measures to effectively protect the borough and its residents from climate-related impacts.

4 Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), The London Climate Resilience Review and other national/regional initiatives recommend that local authorities develop and implement adaptation plans to respond to current and future climate risks and enhance resilience.
- 4.2 The real and local events involving flash-flooding in 2021, and effects of Summer 2022, compiled in Haringey's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapter, highlighted the impact of a changing climate on our residents and recommended actions for the council to take forwards. 'Flooding', 'Drought' and 'Heatwave' risks are rated "Very High" on the Haringey Borough Risk Register.
- 4.3 We know that there are significant costs associated with inaction, specifically due to the economic losses caused by extreme weather events. This can be through damage to infrastructure needing repairs, increased health and care associated costs, and increased resources required to respond to such urgent events. Furthermore, lost output from heat-related reductions in productivity are already

significant in London, valued at £577 million per year¹. Pro-active investment in climate adaptation and resilience is significantly more cost-effective, with every pound spent saving between 2 and 10 pounds due to inaction².

4.4 The delivery of a borough action plan to manage overheating risk is an activity in Haringey's Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026, as part of the 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' theme. This report and plan seek to complete this activity.

4.5 During 'The Great Big Green Week UK' (a week dedicated to support for action to protect the planet) and London's Climate Week in 2024, the Carbon Management Team, with support from Public Health, Greater London Authority (GLA) and Bloomberg Associates, organised a workshop which focused on 'Adapting to a Changing Climate', inviting local residents and activists to take part, share their concerns and recommendations. One of the key takeaways from this workshop was that residents recommended the council having a plan that focused on adaptation.

5 Alternative options considered

5.1 The impacts of climate change are happening now, demonstrated by the increased intensity and frequency of severe weather events. Therefore, we need to ensure our residents, partners, services and staff are better prepared for and can respond effectively to future events which are inevitable. Not having a dedicated plan would put Haringey and its residents at further risk.

5.2 Adopting an overheating action plan, a required activity in the Council's Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026, would support improvements in the borough's preparedness and response to heat, but would lack focus on other climate-related impacts such as flooding (which is already causing local incidents and impacting infrastructure and residents health & wellbeing).

6 Background information

6.1 Why is a plan focused on climate change adaptation and resilience necessary?

6.1.1 Climate change poses significant threats to public health, and local councils play a pivotal role in making sure their local areas are better prepared and able to respond appropriately to the impacts of climate change. The independent London Climate Resilience Review highlighted that London is currently unprepared for future climate shocks, stressing the urgent need for borough-level action.

6.1.2 Rising temperatures cause increased and prolonged severe weather events, such as heatwaves, increased frequency of natural hazards, poorer air quality, increased food insecurity, which have largely negative effects on people's health and wellbeing, both directly and indirectly. Since the 1980s, there has

¹ https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-07/The_London_Climate_Resilience_Review_July_2024_FA.pdf

² [The London Climate Resilience Review – July 2024](#)

been a 6-fold increase in heatwaves worldwide and average global temperatures could be expected to rise 4 degrees by 2065. The impacts of severe weather events (heatwaves and flooding) have been associated with acute increases in hospital admissions and can sadly lead to deaths.

- 6.1.3 In 2022, the UK Government estimated that 2,803 people aged 65 and over died due to the heat, and it is predicted that the number of heat-related deaths per year may triple by 2050. In Haringey, during the summer of 2022 (one of the hottest on record), Haringey experienced 21% more deaths, compared with the 5-year average. The largest increase in deaths occurred in care homes and more deaths were recorded amongst rough sleepers during summer compared to winter.
- 6.1.4 In July 2021, due to extremely heavy rainfall, there was widespread severe flash-flooding across Haringey, directly affecting residents and their homes, in 3 geographic areas of Wood Green, Hornsey/Crouch End and South Tottenham
- 6.1.5 Moreover, Climate change does not affect all residents and parts of the borough equally. There are clear disparities in exposure, vulnerability, and capacity to adapt- meaning some communities face greater risks and have fewer resources to build resilience.
- 6.1.6 This demonstrates that there is a need to focus on adaptation and resilience, alongside mitigation, to ensure that the borough and its residents are prepared for the impacts of climate change, and the health and wellbeing of our residents can be protected.

6.2 Strategic Context & Current Policies

- 6.2.1 Haringey's existing policies—such as the Climate Change Action Plan, Corporate Delivery Plan, Housing Strategy, and Health and Wellbeing Strategy—acknowledge the climate emergency and include commitments to net zero and placemaking focusing more on mitigation. However, policies that focus on adaptation have historically been underrepresented. The borough's Risk Register identifies flooding, drought, and heatwaves as “very high risks,” supporting the urgency of a dedicated adaptation strategy.

6.3 Collaborative Working

- 6.3.1 Haringey is already taking steps to build climate adaptation and resilience through cross-sector collaboration. This includes improving public communications, expanding flood-reducing infrastructure like SuDS, integrating climate data into strategic planning, and engaging communities through Green Week, the Community Carbon Fund and Haringey Health Champions. A Severe Weather Preparedness Group coordinates cross-sector preparedness action, while planning policies, procurement decisions, and housing programmes now actively consider climate risks and adaptation. Though

progress is underway, continued action across all departments is essential to strengthen borough-wide adaptation.

6.4 Main Policy Changes & Future Commitments (2026-2031)

6.4.1 Haringey's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan builds on achievements that the council is already making in this area and introduces realistic actions for Haringey council to embed climate adaptation and resilience across council services and local infrastructure. The strategic action plan is structured around meeting 4 objectives:

- (1) intelligence/capacity-building.
- (2) protecting vulnerable groups and staff from health impacts of severe weather.
- (3) supporting local partners, organisations and services to better adapt.
- (4) managing local overheating/flood risks to local assets and infrastructure.

6.5 National Policy & Comparison with Other Councils

6.5.1 Haringey's approach aligns with national and regional guidance, including:

- DEFRA's Third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)
- UKHSA Adverse Weather and Health Plan
- London Climate Resilience Review (2024)
- North Central London NHS Green Plan (recent edition has new chapter on adaptation)

6.5.2 Some councils have published Climate Change Adaptation plans or specific chapters in their Climate Change Action Plans, while many other London councils are still developing their adaptation strategies/plans. There is a London-wide consensus that every borough should have an Adaptation plan in place, alongside mitigation plans.

6.6 Views of residents/service users

6.6.1 We have engaged with residents on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience during London Climate Week. Key takeaways from these events included the need for a dedicated plan focusing on adaptation, data and information on heat and flood risk, and communicating risk in a sensitive, but effective way.

6.6.2 Actions within this plan, where possible, will be co-produced with residents (i.e., improving resources that communicate risk).

6.7 Views of partners/stakeholders

6.7.1 Draft actions in the plan have been formulated from:

- Consultation and discussion with council staff across various departments (Emergency Planning, Corporate Landlord, Capital Projects, Parks & Leisure, HR, Communications, Health & Safety, Public Health, Climate Change, Schools & Learning)
- Consultation at strategic group/board level (i.e., Wellbeing & Climate Board, Chief Leadership Team)

- Consultation with all cabinet members at Cabinet Advisory Board

6.8 Accountability

6.8.1 Action lead teams will be required to organise individual action leads/groups and mechanisms for progressing their actions. They will also report progress on actions to other strategic boards/groups, as relevant, for example the Resilience and Emergency Planning Board, Health & Wellbeing Board, and Corporate Leadership Team.

6.8.2 Progress against the action plan will be reviewed annually at Haringey's Wellbeing and Climate Board which will seek assurance that this plan is being enacted and progressing appropriately.

6.8.3 We will publish a report on progress against this plan on an annual basis.

7 Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026 High level Strategic outcomes'

7.1 The recommendations in this report support theme 'Responding to the Climate Emergency' and it's commitment to deliver a 'zero carbon and climate resilient Haringey'.

7.2 The Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan demonstrates that the activity 'Deliver a borough Action Plan to manage overheating risk' within the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-2024 will be met.

8 Carbon and Climate Change

8.1 As this report focuses on the approval of a Council-wide action plan to adapt to a changing climate and improve the borough's resilience to climate-related impacts, it directly aligns with the Council's Carbon Reduction plan and Net Zero Carbon Target Commitments and addresses the issues of climate adaptation.

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

9.1 Finance

9.1.1 Appendix A sets out the action plan and identifies where financial resources are required to realise delivery of individual action. The financial resources identified will be met from existing grant funding or the existing capital programme, so there are no new financial implications arising from implementing form the action plan. If because of completing a feasibility study new additional costs are identified, these will be subject to individual bids for funding.

9.2 Procurement

- 9.2.1 Procurement has been consulted on and notes the contents of this report There are no immediate procurement implications.

9.3 Director of Legal & Governance [Principal Lawyer, Michael Alexander Gordon]

- 9.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report. The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change ("the Act"). The Act provides the legal basis for the UK's approach to adapting to climate change and requires the government to produce a climate change risk assessment every five years. The climate adaptation plan mandated the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The Act also includes provisions for carbon budgeting, risk assessments, and adaptation programs.
- 9.3.2 There is no statutory duty placed on local authorities to deliver net zero targets in line with the Climate Change Act 2008. However, in London section 351A of the Greater London Act 1999, places a duty on the Mayor of London to prepare and publish a London Environment Strategy setting out the Mayor's policies and proposals in relation to specific environment matters in relation to Greater London Local authorities enabling them to use their own powers to take actions. The relevant powers are likely to include the wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows local authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.
- 9.3.3 The Council must have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 when adopting this revised plan. This requires all public bodies, including local authorities, to have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 9.3.4 The recommendations proposed at paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.2 of this report are consistent with the Council's duties.

9.4 Equality

- 9.4.1 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.

- 9.4.2 The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 9.4.3 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.
- 9.4.4 A full Equality Impact Assessment (alongside a Health Impact Assessment) was undertaken for this plan, to thoroughly evaluate each component action on an individual basis to identify equalities impacts, and impacts on health, and include changes and/or mitigations wherever possible.
- 9.4.5 Overall, this plan will have a positive impact on residents with protected characteristics. This is because many who share the protected characteristics are disproportionately impacted by climate change.
- 9.4.6 Young children, older people and disabled residents are at higher risk during heatwaves and extreme weather due to health and physiological vulnerabilities, and/or mobility challenges. Ethnic minority communities are more likely to live in areas with poor air quality and limited green space, increasing exposure to heat and pollution. Some ethnic groups may have a first language other than English which can impact how information and instructions on severe weather impacts are received. Low-income households, including many with young children, often reside in poorly insulated homes, making them more susceptible to overheating and damp-related health issues. People diagnosed with severe mental illness are more likely to experience negative impacts during severe weather events.
- 9.4.7 Following the EQIA, some objectives (2) and specific actions (2.01, 2.04, 2.06, 2.07) have been amended to ensure that those with protected characteristics that may be disproportionately affected are considered and included in the co-development of these actions/activities.
- 9.4.8 We will continue to engage with relevant groups as we develop actions i.e. communications, to ensure that what is developed is appropriate and accessible (both in use and reach).

10 Use of Appendices

Appendix A- Haringey's Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan
Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

11 Background papers

- 11.1 Haringey's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Heatwaves- [JSNA: Focus on heatwaves](#)
- 11.2 Haringey's Climate Change Action Plan- [Haringey Climate Change Action Plan – a route map for a Net Zero Carbon Haringey](#)
- 11.3 Haringey's Annual Carbon Report- <https://haringey.gov.uk/environment/climate/net-zero-carbon-haringey/annual-carbon-report>