



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item:

**Cabinet**

**On 16 October 2007**

Report Title: **Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy (Draft)**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **N/A**

Report of: **Director of Urban Environment**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To note the context for the development of Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy and to agree a draft vision, key priorities and proposed arrangements for consultation.

### **2. Introduction by Cabinet Member**

2.1 Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy (Draft) sets out a vision and identifies six priorities for action over the next ten years by bringing together a broad and complex area of work to tackle climate change and embed environmental sustainability into everything we do.

2.2 The Council will use its leadership role to encourage all local stakeholders to play their part to make a positive contribution, starting with a comprehensive consultation process during the winter months.

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 That the context for the development of Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy (Draft) be noted.

3.2 That the vision and scope of the key priorities for Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy (Draft) as summarised in paragraph 7 be agreed.

3.3 That proposals to go out to full consultation on the strategy (appended), as set out in paragraph 10.3, be agreed.

3.4 That following conclusion of consultation, the final strategy is re-submitted together with an action plan to Cabinet for approval, prior to submission to Full Council for adoption in the spring 2008.

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#### **4. Director of Finance Comments**

- 4.1 The Greenest Borough Strategy sets out a vision and way forward to deliver the Council's aspiration for Haringey to become one of the greenest boroughs in London. The Council already has a number of existing policies in place which can contribute to helping green the borough. These projects are currently funded from a mix of approved Council and external resources. Examples of Council funding include investment in parks and open spaces and recycling. External funding includes TfL (school travel plans, cycle lanes and walking) and SSCF (energy efficiency in the home). A sustainable investment fund has also been created (£0.5m) to fund relevant projects, which is intended to operate on a rolling basis with savings generated by projects being re-invested into the fund to finance further projects.
- 4.2 However, some of the measures needed to achieve the longer term climate change agenda are likely to have significant cost implications over and above existing budget provisions. These will need to be fully assessed, as and when new projects are being developed, and reported to Members for approval prior to implementation. The strategy should be aligned with the Council's financial and business planning framework, so that any emerging actions can be considered as part of these processes. Identifying and maximising external funding for greening the borough must be a priority.
- 4.3 Wherever possible a joined up approach should be developed within the Council and with our external partners in progressing any agreed actions so that resources are most effectively utilised. The target setting framework will need to bear in mind the potential costs and availability of resources and need to link into existing opportunities to further the aims of greening the borough through existing or new major investment programmes such as Building Schools for the Future (BSF), Growth Area Funding (GAF2/3) and, potentially, Decent Homes investment when approved.

#### **5. Head of Legal Services Comments**

- 5.1 The Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act requires all Councils when exercising any of their functions to have regard to the most recently published energy

measures reports from central government.

## **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

6.1 Published works: The Stern Review – The Economics of Climate Change, Draft Climate Change Bill, Building a Greener Future – Towards Zero Carbon, Waste Strategy 2007. A detailed list of further information (with hyperlinks) and associated strategies is listed in appendix A.

## **7. Strategic Implications**

7.1 Action to tackle climate change, *green* the borough and improve the sustainability of Council services and functions are key drivers behind the Greenest Borough Strategy. This is set against a national context of increased political and public concern that action must be taken to protect the environment and address global climate change at a local level.

7.2 A draft vision statement has been devised to frame the proposed priorities and actions:

“We will work together to secure a clean, safe and environmentally sustainable future for everyone living, working, visiting or studying in Haringey.”

7.3 The strategy comprises six key priorities for action over a ten year time horizon. This is underpinned by throughout with two cross cutting themes; ‘tackling climate change’, and ‘raising awareness, involvement and participation’. The key priorities are summarised below.

### ***Priority one: Improving the urban environment***

We will create well designed, attractive, clean and safe streets, public spaces and gateways to Haringey that celebrate a dynamic and diverse borough where there is a real sense of belonging and pride among local people.

### ***Priority two: Protecting the natural environment***

We will protect Haringey’s natural environment by working with local people to ensure that we preserve, improve, and increase green spaces and their use through improved maintenance, accessibility and sustainable practices.

### ***Priority three: Managing environmental resources efficiently***

The earth’s resources are finite, but we are using and polluting them as if they were not. We will work with everyone in the borough to take forward action to change behaviour and choices on a number of fronts: reducing waste; increasing reuse and recycling waste; conserving water and energy use; and minimising air and water pollution.

### ***Priority four: Leading by example – managing the Council sustainably***

Haringey Council is committed to improving the quality of life for everyone in the borough and must lead by example and act as a role model, to our residents and to our business community. We will adopt best practice environmental management standards and procurement principles in our own operations.

**Priority five: Sustainable design and construction**

We will encourage developers and home owners to adopt the highest possible standards and innovative solutions to sustainable design and construction, whilst driving forward our own best practice projects through current investments in schools and social housing.

**Priority six: Promoting sustainable travel**

We will ease congestion and reduce carbon emissions and pollutants in Haringey. Our aim is to reduce car based journeys and encourage workers, residents and businesses to switch to cycling, walking, public transport and other low carbon alternatives.

7.4 The attached draft strategy contains further detail identifying what progress has been made so far in each of these priority areas and scopes further potential actions for the future. It also starts to identify the targets and measurements that will be used to track progress and monitor success. A detailed action plan will also be developed, setting out key targets and milestones, following further consultation.

**8. Financial Implications**

8.1 In the short term, the Council already has a number of existing policies in place which can contribute to helping green the borough, with relevant funding already in place. However, some of the measures needed to achieve the longer term sustainability and climate change agenda are likely to have significant cost implications. We will therefore need to maximise existing funding to achieve the best possible and most environmentally sustainable outcomes for Haringey, including whole life costing and invest to save principals.

8.2 Initiatives such as the £178 million Building Schools for the Future programme and the potential Decent Homes investment offer an unprecedented opportunity to make sustainable choices during design, construction and ongoing maintenance.

8.3 Identifying and maximising external funding for greening the borough must be a priority. We will therefore use this strategy to help us bid for additional external funds.

**9. Equalities Implications**

9.1 A joint equalities and sustainability impact assessment will be carried out as part of the overall development of this strategy. We will need to consider the impact of the levels of deprivation in the east of the borough, high levels of transience and the wide variety of languages spoken locally. We must be mindful to provide equality in the level of service offered to local people. The sustainability impact implied by this strategy will also be assessed to gauge social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Many of the proposed actions will help improve local air quality which will be especially beneficial for people who suffer from respiratory conditions such as asthma.

**10. Consultation**

10.1 Internal consultation has been undertaken within Haringey Council with both Members and Officers via the Better Haringey Member Working Group and Better

Haringey Stream Board respectively. Earlier scoping papers were also submitted to the Executive Advisory Board (December 2006) and Majority Group (January 2007), whilst senior officers have held working group meetings to drive forward the early development of the strategy. A special workshop event was held for officers from across the Council in June 2007 to assist with developing the vision and priorities.

10.2 The findings from other consultations have also been used to inform and shape the draft strategy. This includes the extensive consultation undertaken during the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and a further consultation exercise undertaken earlier this summer at the Better Haringey Green Fair.

10.3 The next step in this process will be an extensive external consultation process to give all local stakeholders the opportunity to contribute their ideas, identify common goals and contribute their views on how we will together take forward actions to protect and improve the environment. Residents, businesses, our community and voluntary sectors are critical to the development, delivery and success of the strategy. We will use the following processes and forums to reach and engage with them:

- An article in Haringey People – this goes out to all households in Haringey
- Web based consultation
- A mail out to the community organisations database
- Direct consultation with businesses
- A public consultation event
- Haringey Strategic Partnership theme boards
- Area Assemblies
- Events and discussions in schools

## **11. Background**

11.1 Members have expressed an aspiration for Haringey to be one of the Greenest Borough's in London. This aspiration is threaded throughout the new Sustainable Community Strategy, which aims to create the first green generation, and has crystallised in two of the Council's key priorities:

- To make Haringey one of London's greenest boroughs.
- To create a Better Haringey: cleaner, greener and safer.

11.2 The Council has recently commissioned a study to set out baseline information on Haringey's carbon emissions to assist with developing a climate change action plan. The study illustrated that community heating and combined heat and power (CHP) networks provide the most cost-effective way for Haringey to achieve its carbon reduction targets - 60% reduction by 2050.

11.3 The Greenest Borough Strategy will bring together carbon reduction scenarios and a number of different areas of work to provide an ambitious, joined-up, and outcome focussed programme that will help the Council with its partners to secure an environmentally sustainable future for all. The strategy will be led, managed and delivered through the Better Haringey stream board.

## **12. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs**

12.1 Greenest Borough Strategy (Draft)

12.2 Greenest Borough Strategy – appendix A [Further Information]