



Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership – 8 April 2008

Title: Greenest Borough Strategy - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update members of the Haringey Strategic Partnership on the development of Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy, results of the consultation process, and next steps.

2. Summary

- 2.1 Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing society today. Haringey and its partners are in a unique position to shape services, improve our business operations and engage with local people to secure an environmentally sustainable future for the Borough.
- 2.2 The Greenest Borough Strategy brings together a wide range of work into a single framework under seven priorities:
- Improving the urban environment
 - Protecting the natural environment
 - Managing environmental resources efficiently
 - Leading by example
 - Sustainable design and construction
 - Promoting sustainable travel
 - Raising awareness and involvement
- 2.3 Following extensive consultation a number of revisions have been made to the strategy. These include a stronger focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, strengthening of issues in relation to bio-diversity, sustainable food, and designing out crime. Additionally the strategy has been re-drafted as an HSP strategy, reflects new corporate guidance on strategy writing, and includes close links to the emerging Local Area Agreement.
- 2.4 The strategy is due for consideration by Cabinet on 17 June 2008, followed by Full Council on 14 July 2008. A separate implementation plan in support of the strategy will be developed and progress reported through existing monitoring arrangements.

3. Recommendations

1. To note the context for developing the Greenest Borough Strategy as set out

in paragraph 5.

2. To note the results of the consultation exercise as set out in paragraph 8 and how they impact on the re-drafting process (paragraph 9).
3. Agree that the Greenest Borough Strategy be written as a strategy of the Haringey Strategic Partnership.
4. Agree that the Better Places Partnership will have a specific role in monitoring performance against key indicators that will be delivered through the strategy.

4. Lead Officer:

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5. Context

5.1 Climate change is the single biggest threat to society that will affect both the quality of place in which we live and our economic prosperity. Not only must we take action to mitigate the scale of the problem, but we must also prepare for the inevitable changes that lie ahead. Climate change will have the biggest impact on those least likely to be able to respond – so we must take extra care to ensure disadvantaged and minority groups are prioritised for help and support. Everyone has a role to play, no matter how small.

5.2 As a London Borough, we have many challenges. More and more people want to set up a home here, conduct business and get out and about. However, our busy modern lifestyles are beginning to put pressure on the environment. It's up to us to make changes now and put in place long term solutions that will protect the built and natural environment and encourage biodiversity - securing a sustainable, healthy and fulfilling future for this and future generations.

6. Overview of the strategy

6.1 The Greenest Borough Strategy highlights the key environmental issues that we need to tackle and acknowledges that it will require a co-ordinated approach between Haringey's partners and local stakeholders to deliver its outcomes. It also provides the context, breadth and background for everyone in Haringey to take an interest, understand the challenges, and get involved in becoming the first green generation.

6.2 The revised Strategy is focused around climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, arranged around seven priorities with related outcomes. These capture the breadth of the challenge and bring together into one framework a number of work areas that can contribute to greening the Borough. The vision statement and a summary of each priority are given out below:

Vision

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

Priority one: Improving the Urban Environment

Outcome: <i>Streets, buildings and urban spaces that foster a sense of local pride.</i>
What this means: This is about getting the basics right. 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.
Key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop community capacity and involvement in improving their urban environment.• Continue to strengthen an area based approach to deal with local environmental issues.• Improve the appearance and quality of the local environment.• Introduce sustainable design options where possible.• Develop a framework to better co-ordinate investment and development of the public realm.• Adaptation to flood risk due to climate change.

Priority Two: Protecting the Natural Environment

Outcome: <i>Valued and protected parks, natural habitats, and small open spaces.</i>
What this means: 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.
Key objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively managing bio-diversity• Increase awareness, appreciation and involvement in our green spaces• Develop sustainable food projects• Adapt to climate change on green and open spaces

Priority Three: Managing Environmental Resources Efficiently

<p>Outcome: <i>Reduced consumption and pollution of natural resources</i></p>
<p>What this means: The earth's resources are finite, but we are using 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 water pollution.</p>
<p>Key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a pathway to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the community • Reduce energy use • Increase facilities for participation in domestic recycling, composting and re-use schemes • Encourage businesses to reduce waste and recycle • Join up business processes to improve services and reduce waste • Reduce water use and pollution by homes, schools and businesses • Secure water provision for the future

Priority Four: Leading by Example; Managing the Public Sector Sustainably

<p>Outcome: <i>Environmentally sustainable public services</i></p>
<p>What this means: The Haringey Strategic Partnership 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.</p>
<p>Key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient use of energy and natural resources • Sustainable procurement of goods and services • Reduce waste whilst increasing re-use and recycling • Strengthen environmental sustainability in policies and strategies

Priority Five: Sustainable Design and Construction

<p>Outcome: <i>Lower carbon homes and buildings with thermal comfort</i></p>
<p>What this means:</p>

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.

Key objectives:

- Develop sustainable and renewable energy sources
- Encouraging and promoting best practice sustainable design and construction.

Priority Six: Promoting Sustainable Travel

Outcome:

Reduced traffic congestion and pollution with safe and sustainable alternatives

What this means:

We will ease congestion and reduce carbon emissions and air 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.

Key objectives:

- Reduce car and lorry movements in the borough
- Improve public and community transport
- Encourage more people to walk and cycle
- Raise the air quality of the borough

Priority seven: Raising awareness and involvement

Outcome:

Empowered local communities that create an environmentally sustainability future

What this means:

Everyone needs to play their part in tackling climate change and protecting the environment. We will enable local people to 'do their bit' by providing up to date information, advice and support that will encourage them to live greener lifestyles. Longer term, we aim to achieve a shift in behaviour so that environmental sustainability is considered in everyone's lifestyle choices.

Key objectives:

- Learn, develop and share best practice communication and engagement activities.
- Widely accessible information and self help tools for the local community.
- Targeted communications and support for minority groups.
- Develop staff and partners awareness and capacity to deliver the

Greenest Borough Strategy.

- Increase community based participation.

7. Consultation process

7.1 We used the findings of previous consultations to develop the draft Greenest Borough Strategy. These included results of the major consultation on the Sustainable Community Strategy undertaken over the summer and autumn of 2006 and consultation activities at the first ever Better Haringey Green Fair held in June 2007.

7.2 There has since been an extensive programme of consultation on the draft strategy 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 and our community and voluntary sectors are fundamental to the development and success of the strategy. We used the following processes and forums to reach and engage with them:

Stakeholder	Activity
Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web site information and web consultation questionnaire commenced 30 Nov 07 – 5 Feb 08.• Information available at Area Assemblies 28 Jan 08 – 5 Feb 08.• Publicity of consultation via feature in <i>Haringey People</i> and 'Home Zone'.• Workshops as part of Going Green Conference 26 Jan 08.• Children & Young People via presentation at Haringey's Youth Council on 13 Feb 08 and young people attendance at Going Green Conference.
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web site information and web consultation questionnaire commenced 30 Nov 07 – 5 Feb 08.• Mail out to 650 community groups w/c 8 Dec 07.• Presentations to Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) Thematic Groups – Enterprise, CYPSPB, HWBPB, SCEB, Better Places between 3 Dec 07 – 02 Feb 08.• Letters sent to MHT and PCT w/c 21 Jan 08.• Homes for Haringey's Residents' Consultative Forum on 31 Jan 08.• Businesses through Enterprise Theme Board, with

	further involvement to be built into project plan.
Staff and Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site information and web consultation questionnaire commenced 30 Nov 07 – 5 Feb 08. • Members' workshops at Nov 07, Dec 07 and Jan 08 working groups. • UE Staff consultation event gathered feedback via talking wall 5 Nov 07. • Receptions tour, distributing leaflets and business cards w/c 7 Jan 08. • Cross-council Managers' Event – Workshops on office recycling 23-24 Jan 08. • Urban Environment Senior Management Team Away Day 14 Jan 08.

8. Results of Consultation

8.1 Consultation on the Greenest Borough Strategy closed on 5 February. Headline feedback included the need to:

- Strengthen the overall emphasis of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Ensure bio-diversity issues are adequately reflected.
- Raise the profile of communications and behavioural change.
- Acknowledge that residents are keen to be involved and 'do their bit' – its not just about the Council taking action.
- Incorporate sustainable food issues into the strategy.
- Reflect 'designing out crime' principals.
- Re-draft as a partnership document.

8.2 A total of 249 views, suggestions and comments were gathered from the consultation process. There was a common consensus on why it is important to make Haringey green; concern about the environment and how this will affect our quality of life, that we have limited time to put things right, and that everyone must do their bit.

8.3 With regard to action by Haringey Council, feedback suggests that there should be; a ban on free 'disposable' plastic bags, preservation and improvement of green spaces (e.g. planting trees), and improved and well promoted recycling services.

8.4 In response to being asked how residents could help, responses fell into three areas; recycling and composting more, conserving household energy use, and using alternatives to the car, such as walking, cycling and public transport.

8.5 There was a strong consensus that achieving a green borough was as much down to individuals taking personal responsibility, rather than just

Haringey Council. Given the feedback that local people are keen to 'do their bit', there is a strong case for the Council to work closely with the local community to make this happen. Partners in the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) were keen to see more joint working with the Council and the outcomes shared with the partnership.

- 8.6 Feedback from community groups highlighted the need to strengthen the climate change aspect of the Greenest Borough Strategy, along with clear early targets for reducing carbon emissions with a pathway set until 2050, inclusion of all recommendations from consultants SEA/Renue, London 21 and the LGA Climate Change Commission. Additionally, sustainable food was highlighted as an area not adequately reflected in the strategy.
- 8.7 Elected Members were keen to see emphasis on provision of cycling infrastructure (e.g. secure cycle parking), joint working with partners and agencies (e.g. Transport for London, Homes for Haringey), more adaptation work such as flood risk management, improvement of smaller open spaces, energy efficiency measures, and communications activities to change behaviour.
- 8.8 Feedback from senior management highlighted the need to underpin actions with good data, to be clear on achievable targets that were affordable, maximised partnership working and aligned with future business planning.

9. Key Changes to Strategy

- 9.1 As a result of consultation feedback a number of key changes have been made to the original draft of the strategy. Principally, there is greater focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the inclusion of sustainable food. This is evidenced more clearly in each of the priorities and where further evaluation work is required this is indicated.
- 9.2 A new priority 'raising awareness and involvement' has been created to reflect feedback that communication and actions to change behaviours were not visible in the first draft. Actively managing bio-diversity as opposed to just improving open spaces has been more clearly defined and puts us on a pathway meeting future regulatory requirements. Additionally, links to designing out crime and making people feel safer (for example at transport interchanges) have been strengthened in the relevant priorities.
- 9.3 The emerging Local Area Agreement will strongly support the implementation of the Greenest Borough Strategy and provide a framework for close partnership working with the Haringey Strategic Partnership. Relevant performance indicators are reflected in each of the priorities. The revised strategy is now outcome focussed in line Council best practice and the values of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

10. Timetable for Decision Making

- 10.1 The schedule for the Greenest Borough Strategy has been amended to allow more time for consultation with Members, Senior Officers, and partners following the re-drafting. Those who will be responsible for delivering elements of the strategy will have the opportunity to feedback in more detail on the revisions and help insure that we have:
- Adequately reflected the key messages of the consultation in the revised drafted.
 - Considered the financial implications of the strategy and that where new projects are proposed they are costed or identified as requiring development and possible future bid development or business planning integration.
 - Verified the clustering the different areas of work under each priority.
- 10.2 The revised strategy is scheduled to be reported to the Chief Executive's Management Board (Haringey Council) on 29 April, Cabinet Advisory Board on 22 May, Cabinet on 17 June, and Full Council on 14 July.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 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 our longer term aspirations for environmental sustainability and tackling climate change are likely to have significant cost implications over and above existing budget provisions. We will therefore need to maximise existing funding by aligning the strategy with business planning frameworks to achieve the best possible and most environmentally sustainable outcomes for Haringey, including whole life costing and invest to save principles.
- 11.2 Initiatives such as the Building Schools for the Future programme and the Decent Homes investment offer an unprecedented opportunity to make sustainable choices during design, construction and ongoing maintenance.
- 11.3 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. 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. We will ensure that appropriate environmental infrastructure is included in our regeneration programmes and we will bid for this where such programmes receive external support.

12. Process for Implementation

- 12.1 The Strategy sets out our vision and priorities for action over a ten year time horizon. Some of these actions are achievable in the short term –

others will require thorough feasibility assessments before any significant investment is made. In order to track implementation during the lifetime of the Strategy, we will publish an implementation plan to be updated and republished yearly. The plan will set out actions derived from the outcomes and objectives of this Strategy and additionally set out:

- The baseline position
- Targets and how they will be measured
- Details of funding and where it comes from
- Who is responsible for completing the action
- Progress being made

The implementation plan will be a living and dynamic document and will provide an opportunity to take account of new or emerging priorities and actions and how they will be addressed.

- 12.2 Day to day monitoring of progress, tracking of risks and issues and realisation of benefits will be maintained by the existing Better Haringey Programme Board – a high level officer body within Haringey Council, under the direction of a Member working group. Highlight reports and performance outturn will be published as part of the regular programme monitoring and performance monitoring reports to the Council's Cabinet.
- 12.3 It is intended that this strategy will be adopted by the Haringey Strategy Partnership (HSP). As a partnership of the main organisations in Haringey, the HSP is well placed to tackle the priorities in this strategy collectively. The main partnership is supported by thematic partnership boards that focus on specific areas of activity. Whilst the outcomes for this strategy are pertinent to all areas of the partnership's activities, the Better Places Partnership, which focuses on a broad range of environmental issues, will fulfil the monitoring role on behalf of the HSP. This Board will have a particular focus of the relevant Local Area Agreement targets.