

**Report for:** Full Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015

**Item number:**

**Title:** Fifth Annual Carbon Report

**Report authorised by :** Dan Hawthorn, Assistant Director for Regeneration



**Lead Officer:** Joe Baker, Head of Carbon Management,  
[joe.baker@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:joe.baker@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. As a borough, Haringey has made an ambitious commitment to reduce carbon emissions 40% from the 2005 levels by 2020; whilst delivering growth and increasing prosperity. This is referred to as Haringey 40:20. The 40:20 initiative arose from recommendations by the Carbon Commission, a team of sustainability experts, brought together to address how Haringey could reduce emissions and inequality. The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards this target. This is the fifth year we have reported on our progress.

### 1.2 The report includes:

- Official Carbon Emissions, published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in 2015, relating to emissions between April 2013 and March 2015.
- Information on key projects which have contributed to reducing emissions between April 2014 and March 2015.

- The position of National Government Policy influencing Haringey 40:20.
- Future projects and ongoing projects to reduce emissions from April 2015.

## 2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 Five years ago we committed to publish our carbon emissions every year at Full Council, to ensure our efforts to tackle climate change in the borough were given the highest levels of status and transparency. I am saddened we, to my knowledge remain the only Local Authority to do so.
- 2.2 There can be no denying that the commitment to reduce carbon emissions 40% by 2020 was ambitious, but this report makes for grim reading. Haringey cannot make further progress to reduce carbon emissions alone. Local and National Government must come together to address the impending economic, ecological and humanitarian crises that will envelop us, should temperature rises fail to be curbed to two degrees centigrade.
- 2.3 Of course, I am proud of the progress we have made this year. The success of the Smart Homes project firmly demonstrated our commitment to take carbon reduction seriously and we were recognised as the second best performing project across the UK. This is a fantastic achievement. Working in partnership with five other London boroughs, we offered grants to households wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. A total of 1136 grants were approved, and residents have benefitted from the installation of a range of measures, including solid wall insulation and new boilers. This project will help to reduce energy bills and improve the quality of housing in the borough, providing residents with warmer homes and reducing the risk of fuel poverty.
- 2.4 We have also reduced emissions caused by the Council as an organisation. We wanted to lead by example, and set a goal of reducing our own emissions 40% by 2015, five years ahead of the borough wide target. We have already exceeded our target, by a large margin, reducing emissions by an incredible 19% in the last year. However, we want to stretch ourselves further which is

why we have set another proposal, to reduce emissions a further 10% by 2018.

2.5 However, Government policy is becoming increasingly uncertain and the funding which made the Smart Homes project possible has been discontinued. There have also been changes to subsidies for the renewable energy sector, with cuts to Feed-in-Tariffs literally decimating our own £16m solar panel installation programme. Cuts are causing companies to go into administration<sup>1</sup> with consequential job losses<sup>2</sup> and slow down in innovation, as a climate of uncertainty makes it hard to secure capital investment. I believe this uncertainty can only be increased by the Government's decision to offer a referendum on EU membership.

2.6 Since we started publishing these reports, Copenhagen has come and gone, and now we are approaching the critical COP21 summit in Paris. As Stern said this month, "Whether we can live in our cities – breathe in them, move in them – all of this will be defined by the decisions we take [at Paris]." Our own Carbon Commission recognized the importance of taking action to reduce emissions, implementing local change and creating the Haringey 40:20 initiative. We need the support of national policy to drive retrofit, de-carbonise the grid and achieve our targets. On these measures the Government has been criticised, with the Committee on Climate Change blasting the changes in an open letter<sup>3</sup> and the UK struggling to meet targets on renewable energy.<sup>4</sup> Failure to increase our carbon commitment in Paris to reduce emissions at least 50% by 2030 would, in my opinion, be nothing short of negligence.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Guardian, 'Government blamed as third UK solar power installer goes bust' <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/oct/15/government-blamed-as-third-uk-solar-power-installer-goes-bust> and BBC, 'Solar energy firm Mark Group axes 900 jobs' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-34472419>

<sup>2</sup> The Telegraph, '1000 jobs lost as solar firms go into administration' <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/11919688/1000-jobs-lost-as-solar-firms-go-into-administration.html>

<sup>3</sup> Committee on Climate Change, 'Clarifying the direction for low carbon policy' <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/letter-clarifying-the-direction-for-low-carbon-policy/>

<sup>4</sup> BBC, 'Energy Secretary Amber Rudd 'misled' MPs on renewables' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-34774145>

- 2.7 Meanwhile we continue to do what we can locally, to demonstrate leadership, and to ensure the regeneration across the borough is used as an opportunity to find better ways to generate and distribute energy, starting with the Spurs development in Northumberland Park. In doing so, we want to place Haringey at the centre of the green economy, encouraging low-carbon technology and the development of skills. I hope we can make Haringey the exemplar, providing confidence to the Mayor of London to forge a plan to make us the world's first zero-carbon megacity.

**Councillor Joe Goldberg**

**Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Sustainability**

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- 3.1 The Annual Report is made publically available, to engage residents in the Haringey 40:20 initiative.
- 3.2 Councillors engage with the initiative and lead action in their community, promoting the importance of reducing carbon emissions whilst increasing prosperity.
- 3.3 The future projects outlined on pages 43 to 45 are implemented and further opportunities are identified, subject to the availability of external funding and grants.
- 3.4 Haringey continues to report annually on our progress to reduce emissions 40% by 2020, and increase prosperity.

### **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 In 2009, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the Carbon Commission, which are to:

- 4.1.1 Create business models which reinvest wealth back into the borough through community energy and a retrofit cooperative network.
  - 4.1.2 Build a low carbon economy, establishing a green enterprise hub and creating training opportunities.
  - 4.1.3 Boost innovation in the borough through cutting-edge low carbon technological, social and financial solutions.
  - 4.1.4 Invest in low-carbon transport, including Dutch style cycling provision and alternative fuel vehicles.
  - 4.1.5 Strengthen community organisations, supporting the transition to a sustainable way of living, by sharing best practice and working together to deliver Haringey 40:20.
- 4.2 The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards the achievement of the recommendations, and the wider aim to reduce emissions 40% by 2020, whilst increasing prosperity in the borough.
- 5. Alternative options considered**
- 5.1 No other options were considered.
- 6. Background information**
- 6.1 In 2009, Haringey Council set an ambitious target to reduce carbon emissions in the borough, 40% by 2020, referred to as Haringey 40:20. To achieve this goal, the 'Carbon Commission', a team of sustainability experts, examined how Haringey could achieve the reduction in emissions, whilst increasing prosperity and reducing inequality within the borough. The Annual Carbon Report provides year on year progress towards Haringey 40:20.
- 6.2 Reducing carbon emissions in the borough also works towards achievement of the wider London and National climate change targets:
- 6.1.1 Section 5 of the London Plan 'London's Response to Climate Change' commits to achieving a 60% reduction in London's CO<sub>2</sub> by

2025 and ensuring 25% of London's energy is delivered through decentralised energy networks by 2025.

6.1.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 established a legally binding target to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (from the baseline of 1990 levels) by 2050.

6.1.3 The European Union's (EU) Climate and Energy Policy Framework aims to make the EU's economy and energy systems more competitive, secure and sustainable. The framework incorporates binding targets to reduce EU greenhouse gas emissions at least 40% (based on 1990 levels) by 2030, and to increase the share of renewable energy to at least 27% of the EU's energy consumption by 2030.

## 7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 The Haringey 40:20 initiative forms part of Priority 4. This is to drive growth and employment from which everyone can benefit. The Annual Carbon Report falls into the fourth objective detailed in the Corporate Plan 2015-18 under Priority 4. This states:

*"We will manage the impact of growth, by reducing carbon emissions across the borough with the aim of meeting our 40:20 goal, while growing the green economy."*

7.3 The role of the Council within this objective is to take active steps to reduce the Council's own emissions, lead efforts to reduce emissions across the borough, and support green business. The Annual Carbon Report provides information on projects which have supported these priorities.

## 8. Statutory Officers comments

### Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and Financial Implications

8.1 The costs of preparing this report and undertaking the completed projects contained within it have been met from existing budgets, which includes both

Council funded budget allocations and grants received from external organisations, especially Central Government Departments such as the Department of Energy and Climate Change. In looking forward the Council needs to be aware of the changing funding landscape, with both the Council's own resources reducing and the level of external grants likely to be limited in the future. Therefore the Council will need to ensure funding is in place before it can commence projects.

*Comments of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Legal Implications*

- 8.2 There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report. All initiatives and projects carried out as part of the Carbon Plan will need to comply with domestic and European legislation.

*Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments*

- 8.3 Haringey 40:20 is not just about reducing emissions, it is about increasing prosperity in the borough and reducing inequality. The projects outlined in the report aim to help vulnerable residents, providing access to affordable energy and reducing fuel poverty. Projects which focus on the installation of energy efficiency measures in domestic properties, such as the Smart Homes project and Decent Homes programme, help to improve the quality of housing for residents, increasing efficiency and reducing energy bills. Encouraging green technology and skills provides local job opportunities, with local installers used to complete Council led projects, where possible.

**9. Use of Appendices**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - The Fifth Annual Carbon Report

**10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- 9.2 Background documents:

- 9.2.1 The Carbon Commission Report  
[http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/about4020/carbon\\_commission/report.htm](http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/about4020/carbon_commission/report.htm)
- 9.2.2 The Annual Carbon Reports (First, Second, Third and Fourth)  
[http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/about4020/annual\\_carbon\\_report.htm](http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/about4020/annual_carbon_report.htm)
- 9.2.3 Statistics from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the “subset dataset” <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2013>.