



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Cabinet

On 17 June 2008

Report Title: **Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy**

Report of: **Director of Urban Environment**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key Decision**

1. Purpose

1.1 To agree a strategy to tackle climate change and create an environmentally sustainable future that will make Haringey one of London's greenest boroughs.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

2.1 Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy sets out the Haringey Strategic Partnership's shared vision to tackle climate change and create an environmentally sustainable future for Haringey. The strategy brings together a broad and complex area of work, backed up by extensive consultation, to identify seven key priorities for action over the next ten years.

2.2 We recognise the Council's role of leading by example. We will start by embedding a culture of environmental sustainability within our own organisation and will work closely with partners and local stakeholders to help them play their full part in making Haringey one of the greenest boroughs in London.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the context for the development of Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy is noted.

3.2 That the vision and key priorities for Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy as summarised in paragraph 7 are agreed.


3.3 That Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy (as set out in appendix A) is recommended to Full Council for adoption at their meeting in July.

3.4 That any minor amendments to the strategy be agreed in consultation with the

Cabinet Member for Environment & Conservation and Director of Urban Environment.

3.5 That following adoption of the strategy by Full Council, a detailed implementation plan is prepared.

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4. Chief Financial Officer 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).
- 4.2 The creation of a new Frontline Services division within the Urban Environment directorate has seen the realignment of management posts and the creation of a new team to help deliver the Greenest Borough Strategy. New Heads of Sustainable Transport and Environmental Resources have been appointed and an investment of £200k to create a new Environmental Resources Team has also been agreed with recruitment and appointments underway. A corporate sustainable investment fund has also been created (£0.5m) to fund relevant projects, which is intended to operate on a self financing basis with savings generated by projects being re-invested to finance further projects.
- 4.3 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.

4.4 Wherever possible a joined up approach should be developed within the Council and with our external partners so that resources are most effectively utilised. The implementation plan will need to take into account the potential costs and availability of resources and 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 (GAF3) and Decent Homes investment.

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 Climate of Change (Climate Change Commission), Sustainable Procurement Policy & Strategy. A detailed listed 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, scientific, and public concern that urgent action must be taken to protect the environment and address global climate change at a local level.

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

“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.”

7.3 The strategy comprises seven key priorities for action over a ten year time horizon. This is underpinned by throughout by two cross cutting themes:

- Taking action to mitigate and to adapt to climate change.
- Providing excellent frontline services as a pre-requisite for behavioural change.

The key priorities and outcomes 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 people want to use and that celebrate a dynamic and diverse borough where there is a real sense of belonging and pride.

Priority two: Protecting the natural environment

We will protect Haringey's natural environment by working with local people and other partners to ensure that we preserve, improve, and increase green spaces and their biodiversity 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 change behaviour and choices on a number of fronts: reducing waste; increasing reuse and recycling waste; conserving water and energy use; minimising water pollution; sustainable food; and reducing air and land 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 minimise 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 walking, cycling, and public transport.

Priority seven: Raising awareness and involvement

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.

7.4 The Greenest Borough Strategy (appendix A) sets out in detail the policy context, objectives, high level actions, and desired outcomes for each of the priorities. Although the strategy has a ten year horizon, it is recognised that the majority of actions are to take place in the next five years. This reflects the urgent need to take action, and that emerging technologies will impact on future long term actions. It is intended therefore that the strategy will be reviewed in two years to take account of the latest science and emerging priorities. A detailed implementation plan setting out SMART targets, costs and responsibilities will be prepared following adoption by the Council of the strategy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 In the short to medium 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. Additionally, the realignment of key management posts and creation of an Environmental Resources team within Urban Environment directorate will ensure a

focus on delivering the strategy. 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 most environmentally sustainable outcomes for Haringey, including whole life costing and invest to save principals. This will be achieved by aligning the Greenest Borough Strategy with the business planning cycle and through joining up with partners to maximise resources.

8.2 Initiatives such as the £178 million Building Schools for the Future programme and the £200 million 'decent homes' investment, and major regeneration programmes such as Tottenham Hale 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 An impact assessment has been undertaken as part of the development of the Greenest Borough Strategy. The assessment was undertaken at a strategic level examining the overarching priorities. The assessment demonstrates a broadly positive outcome for most equalities and low income groups. As the implementation plan is developed we will need to ensure that those facing challenge and disadvantage are able to make more sustainable choices in their day to day lives in a way that will not put them at further disadvantage. For example, making 'green' choices can be a costly business – recycling requires space, and charges affecting car use can have a disproportionately adverse effect on those groups clustered in low income bands. The development of an implementation plan and ongoing monitoring of equalities impacts will ensure these issues are addressed.

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. An earlier scoping paper was also submitted to the Executive Advisory Board (December 2006), 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 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 were fundamental to the development and success of the strategy.

10.4 The programme of consultation included an on-line and paper based questionnaire, a mail out to the community database, events and workshops for Council staff and managers, workshops for leading Better Haringey members, presentations to all the Haringey Strategic Partnership boards and Haringey Youth Council, and a landmark public conference.

10.5 There was a strong consensus that achieving a green borough was as much down to individuals taking personal responsibility, rather than just Haringey Council. Partners in the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) were keen to see more joint working with the Council and that outcomes are shared with the partnership. Feedback from community groups highlighted the need to strengthen the climate change aspect and to include sustainable food in the Greenest Borough Strategy. Members were keen to see emphasis on provision of cycling infrastructure, joint working with partners and agencies, more adaptation work such as flood risk management, improvement of smaller open spaces, energy efficiency measures, and communications activities to change behaviour. Feedback from senior management highlighted the need to underpin actions with good data, to be clear on achievable targets that were affordable, maximise partnership working and to align prioritisation of actions with future business planning.

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 recently commissioned a study to set out baseline information (2003) on Haringey's carbon emissions to assist with developing a climate change action plan. The study illustrated that Haringey emitted CO₂ at 968ktpa (kilotons per annum) with 49% from dwellings, 33% from non-domestic buildings and 18% from transport. To achieve a 60% reduction in emissions by 2050 (Draft Climate Change Bill), this implies a reduction of some 580ktpa on 2003 levels. Accounting for expected growth in the borough, the reduction target for CO₂ rises to 776ktpa.

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 Councils internal Better Haringey Programme Board and externally through the Better Places Partnership Board.

12. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

12.1 Greenest Borough Strategy – appendix A