

**Report for:** Full Council

**Title:** Zero by 2050 Commission: The Council's response to an independent sustainability review of the Council's regeneration programme

**Report authorised by :** Lyn Garner - Strategic Director of Reeneration, Planning & Development

**Lead Officer:** Joe Baker – Head of Carbon Management  
(x3976) [joe.baker@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:joe.baker@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/**

**Non Key Decision:** Non-key decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 The Zero by 2050 Commission was an independent group of experts established to review the regeneration schemes of the borough to ensure that key environmental objectives and best practice were being delivered.
- 1.2 The outcome of this work is the Zero by 2050 Commission Report, published in September 2017, which makes 7 headline recommendations to the Council to improve the sustainability of the regeneration of the borough, with a total of 71 recommended actions under those headings.
- 1.3 The full list of recommendations and actions have been considered by officers from across the Council. This report describes the recommendations and actions and sets out the Council's response to them. It describes whether the Council proposes to accept the actions (and therefore work towards their implementation), partially accept the action (work towards the objective but deliver through other means or work with partner organisations), or cannot accept the action. This is all set out in Appendix 2.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction (Councillor Joe Goldberg, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Sustainability)**

- 2.1 Haringey is now well established as a leading local authority in delivering sustainability and in particular carbon reduction. This is a position we are determined to maintain, reflecting both the Council's and the community's ambition for the borough. That's why I am particularly proud that the Council has invited the robust and wide-ranging challenge presented by our Zero by 2050 Commission, to help us set a direction for our own borough and offer a template for others who have ambitions similar to our own.
- 2.2 I am also proud that we are proposing to accept the challenge of delivering on the large majority of the Commission's recommendations – 49 out of 71. Work is already underway to incorporate many of them into emerging policy and

projects. Where the Council already has the policy in place, we will confidently promote it, using this work to highlight the case studies and best practice examples. And where necessary we will now start the work of building the case for further action and intervention.

- 2.3 A further sixteen recommendations have been partially accepted, as the Council has similar processes already in place, or cannot deliver them without the support of others, which means taking a slightly different approach than that recommended by the Commission, but with the same goals in mind. There are sadly six recommendations which right now the Council cannot accept. This is not because we disagree with the Commission's overarching ambition and vision, but rather because the Council cannot deliver on its own and depends on larger scale action, changes in national policy, or resources which are simply unavailable at this time.
- 2.4 This bold step forward in Haringey's sustainability ambition would not have been possible without the leadership of Councillor Natan Doron, the skilled chairmanship of Andrew Gould, and the generous efforts of our expert commissioners. Their work has left us not simply with a list of challenges, but with detailed constructive advice to the Council on how we can support our residents to live healthier lives, tackle issues like fuel poverty, grow a greener economy, and reduce both our contribution to climate change and its impact on us. Without these leaders advising us, and without our community leaders who champion and deliver so much of our efforts in this field, we could never deliver this shared ambition for the borough. I thank them for their support and involvement, and I know that future generations will do the same.

### **3. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Full Council:

- 3.1 notes the response to recommendations made by the Zero by 2050 Commission; and
- 3.2 notes the initial proposals to integrate 49 of them into Council work plans.

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

- 4.1 Environmental sustainability – and in particular the reduction of carbon emissions – is a key element of the Council's strategy as defined in the Corporate Plan. By responding positively to the report of the Commission, the Council has the opportunity to use the advice of industry experts to improve the environmental performance of the its regeneration programme and a range of other operational practices across the Council.
- 4.2 It is appropriate for Full Council to note the Council's response at the same time as it considers the Annual Carbon Report.

### **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 *Accept none of the recommendations* – this was discounted as by not accepting the Commission report we would not be support the Council’s and the community’s aspirations.
- 5.2 *Highlight key recommendations and only respond to those* – this was discounted as the recommendations overlap and have not been presented in a hierarchy or prioritised. Therefore, the Council would have to prioritise these, which would mean leaving several key issues behind.

## **6. Background information – The Commission and the Council’s Response**

### The Commission

- 6.1 The Zero by 2050 Commission was an independent review of the regeneration schemes of the borough to ensure that key environmental objectives and best practice were being delivered.
- 6.2 The objective of this work was to bring together an independent panel of environmental and regeneration experts, gathered from London and European developers, environmental experts (such as Health and Transport), and a local environmental champion. The panel was asked to review Haringey’s regeneration programmes and assess how they would impact on the borough’s future environment. The Commissioners then made a set of forward-thinking recommendations to address the environmental challenges of the borough, which could be implemented through Haringey’s regeneration and environmental policies and programmes. These are presented alongside case studies that had delivered similar outcomes to demonstrate deliverability. The study involved site visits and conversations with members, officers and the community.
- 6.3 The Zero by 2050 Commission Report (attached at Appendix 1) was launched on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, with developers, community and GLA present. This report makes 7 headline recommendations under which there are 71 actions. The headline recommendations are:
- 1) Improve the health and well-being of the community by creating a natural environment through greening of outdoor spaces
  - 2) Create a climate change adaptation and resilience plan to future-proof and reduce vulnerability
  - 3) Deliver a Zero Carbon & Net Energy Positive Haringey by 2050
  - 4) With the North London Waste Authority reduce waste to landfill to zero and increase recycling rates
  - 5) Drive the uptake of clean technology across Haringey's built environment targeting new development
  - 6) Ensure that low and zero carbon buildings are delivered
  - 7) Deliver a clear strategy for connecting communities, work places, and high streets through walking and cycle paths, reducing transport emissions

The full list of 71 actions – grouped under these seven headings – is set out in the Commission’s report (at Appendix 1) and also in the Council’s response (at Appendix 2).

### The Council’s response

- 6.4 Following the finalisation of the Commission’s report, a range of Council officers gave advice and responded to recommendations and actions put forward by the Commission. This included feedback from teams in: Carbon Management; Planning and Transportation; Regeneration; Economic Development; Parks Commissioning; Waste Services; Smarter Travel; Sustainable Transport; Air Quality; Public Health; and the Council’s central Policy Team.
- 6.5 Of the 71 actions put to the Council, it is proposed that 49 be accepted, 16 partially accepted, and 6 not accepted. It is important to stress that this breakdown – and the detailed response that underpins it as set out in Appendix 2 – represents the Council’s initial proposed response to the Commission’s recommendations. Significant further work and decisions – including some decisions for Cabinet – would be necessary before some of these proposed responses can be fully implemented, either through incorporation into formal Council policy or through the delivery of specific projects and programmes. Detailed business cases and funding proposals will be essential before some of those decisions can be taken.
- 6.6 The 49 actions proposed for acceptance will be integrated into existing work streams, and incorporated into the development of strategic policies which have already been agreed.
- 6.7 Many of these 49 recommendations proposed for acceptance are already found in the Council’s planning policies. To improve the outcomes achieved by these policies, further promotion and enforcement of them would be needed, with an acceptance that - in some situations – other outcomes also defined in Council planning policies would have to be correspondingly deprioritised. An example of this is the Council’s requirement for Zero Carbon Developments. The Council has policy requiring this, but its deliverability is often challenged by developers based on the impact of additional costs on the overall viability of the scheme. Assuming the Council accepts the overall position on viability, it then has to weigh the requirement for Zero Carbon Developments against other policy requirements - including (but not limited to) affordable housing – and decide the relative priority it places on the different outcomes in order to settle on a package of benefits which it feels strikes the most appropriate balance between those priorities.
- 6.8 The Commission has also highlighted best practice which it recommends should be considered in emerging policy. Where these recommendations are accepted, the promotion of these policies, how the Council would like to see these policies delivered, and how this links to development that has already been delivered, will be set out in a Planning Advice Note (PAN).
- 6.9 The Council’s development of a PAN will offer further guidance on the planning policies of the Council and offer developers a stronger sustainability steer. It has been agreed that the development of this PAN can include health and

wellbeing guidance giving it a broader impact while linking it to the environmental agenda. Alongside this it has been identified that training should be delivered with the Development Management Team on key issues, such as air quality, wellbeing, and climate change adaptation.

- 6.10 Recommendations will also be integrated into the following policy and strategy documents as they are developed:
- Regeneration programmes including the emerging Design Frameworks;
  - The emerging Green and Open Spaces Strategy;
  - The developing Transportation Strategy;
  - New planning policies (at time of review and refresh c2023); and
  - The emerging Borough Plan.
- 6.11 Some of the 49 actions that the Council has initially proposed to agree, will require further working up. This may include some decisions for approval by Cabinet. Such approval would be necessary before these proposed responses can be fully implemented, either through incorporation into formal Council policy or through the delivery of specific projects and programmes. Detailed business cases and funding proposals will have to be developed as the basis for such approvals.
- 6.12 The Council has an particular opportunity to deliver on these recommendations where it has degree of control that goes beyond the influencing ability of the planning authority. This is seen in schemes where the Council owns the land or a building, such as the new Civic Building, or where there is a long term partnership in place, such as in the High Road West development.
- 6.13 For the 16 partially accepted actions, the Council agrees with the overarching objectives, but may take a different view from the Commission on the grounds that it already has processes in place that deliver similar strategic outcomes. Therefore, developing new policies or processes is not seen as appropriate. Alongside this there are several instances which the Council's officers have welcomed the actions and will work with developers and strategic partners to work towards delivery, but the Council cannot deliver the actions on its own.
- 6.14 The reasons why 6 actions have not been accepted are based on the market place analysis (such as there being no educational institute appetite to deliver a new qualification in waste management), and resource implications. Many of the actions would require the development of and access to new datasets in building materials; for the planning service to adopt a more prescriptive approach rather than negotiation; and require local dataset to be developed rather than use national / regional datasets. To overcome these technical barriers would require a considerable resource, which on balance the Council does not feel able to consider committing at this time. The Council will therefore work with regional and nation policy makers to deliver the aspirations of the actions, but the Council is not in a position to deliver them itself now.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 This Commission Report directly supports the delivery of Priority 4 objective 4: 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.
- 7.2 Alongside the wider ambitions set out in the recommendations and actions of the Commission supports the delivery of Priority 3 “A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work,” Priority 4 “Sustainable Housing, Growth and Employment”, and Priority 5 “Creating homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive”.

**8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

**Finance**

- 8.1 The proposals to integrate 49 recommendations into Council plans fall into two categories – those that are within existing plans and those that are additional.
- 8.2 For those recommendations and actions which are already embedded into existing work plans, financial implications (where there are any) are have been incorporated into existing budgets and forecast.
- 8.3 Where new projects and policies are proposed, no funding currently existing and the inclusion of the recommendation will be subject to a business case, developed and brought forward through the Cabinet process. Financial implications will be considered as part of the assessment and formal adoption process for each proposal.

**Procurement**

- 8.4 Whilst the Public Procurement Regulations are focused on delivery of Best Value for Money it is important that sustainability is considered in the Procurement decision making process.
- 8.5 Procurement will support the outcome delivery of the Zero by 2050 Commission by working with the Services to ensure a Sustainable Impact Assessment is fed through the Procurement decision making process for appropriate procurements. Greater consideration and support for SMEs through education on sustainability and use of local providers to reduce logistics will support the Zero Carbon objective.
- 8.6 Procurement will also support the development and drive for effective innovations for the Zero Carbon transition.

**Legal**

- 8.7 The recommendations set out in this report cover a range of matters governed by range of legislation which the Council is required to comply with. Legal advice must be obtained when delivering these work streams to ensure that the Council’s legal requirements are met.



## Equality

- 8.8 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 those protected characteristics and people who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.9 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. It is not anticipated that the decision to accept or partially accept some of the Zero by 50 Commission's recommendations will have a negative impact
- 8.10 Overall adopting these recommendations will deliver an improvement to all Haringey residents. These include improvements in air quality, addressing fuel poverty, improvements in wellbeing and health. This is outlined in greater detail by the Commission's report.
- 8.11 Recommendations and actions set out in Appendix 2 that bring together existing policies will be embedded into existing work plans which have already been agreed to be delivered. These policies will have undergone equality assessments at their adoption by Cabinet.
- 8.12 New projects and policies recommended by the Zero by 50 Commission and agreed by the Council will be developed in to business cases and brought forward through the Cabinet process. Equality assessments will be made as part of the formal decision making process for each of these.

## 9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – The report of the Zero by 2050 Commission

Appendix 2 – The Council's response to the Commission's recommendations

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

Background Papers

Zero By 2050 – A Manifesto to deliver Sustainable Regeneration In Haringey (2017) (see -

[http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/haringey\\_zero\\_by\\_2050\\_commission\\_report.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/haringey_zero_by_2050_commission_report.pdf))