

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE PANEL

MEETING ACTION NOTES

11th May 2021 - Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Cllr Ian Barnes (Chair), Cllr Mahym Bedekova, Cllr Birsen Demirel, Rafe Bertram, Neil Best, Mark Bradbury, Sarah Cary, Tilly Ford, Alasdair Gillies, Amanda Grosse, Kristen Guida (GLA), Michelle Larche, Peter Nathan, Harriet Potemkin, Claire Reilly, Ian Russell, Glenn Stewart, Doug Wilkinson, Liz Wright. Apologies: Cllr Catherine Chibah, Fay Hammond and Tony Theodoulou.

Introductions

The Chair noted that the Government has not announced any significant new climate action initiatives as part of its policy programme for the coming year.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Kristen Guida from the GLA gave a presentation:

- The London Climate Change Partnership (LCCP) engages with partners from across UK to help London adapt to climate change.
- Extreme weather events are becoming the norm and have significant impacts, for example drought with London entering a water deficit by 2040, so will need an alternative source (for example new reservoir). Also need to consider inequality and social vulnerability to climate change.
- There is a national climate change risk assessment (next evidence base due) and in London resilience and adaptation is included in regional strategies and plans (for example Mayor's Transport Strategy).
- When looking at local resilience and adaptation, councils can follow best practice and use resources, including from the LCCP website. This includes climate change mapping to help inform development of plans and policies.

There were follow up points:

- When thinking about what to focus on, build on what you are good at, for example surface water flood risk where Enfield has been delivering an ongoing programme of sustainable urban drainage.
- Should also look to link into the public health agenda and work with communities, including via schools. For example, on water saving Thames Water have a free service which could be promoted.
- Heat risk is something that needs addressing, particularly in the built environment. There was a request for examples of good planning policy / practice.

Climate Action Plan – Overview of 2020/21 Progress Report

There was a short presentation on the emerging Climate Action Plan Progress Report, which will look back the main achievements in 2020/21, have an updated carbon emissions review and outline priorities for 2021/22.

It was noted that waste and recycling is an ongoing priority but given the level of emissions it generates and the extensive work already underway, for example a pilot to improve collections from flats, it is not proposed as a top level priority.

School's Climate Action

Harriet Potemkin and Tilly Ford gave a presentation:

- Schools make up around 30% of the Council's own emissions so are key to meeting the targets in the Climate Action Plan.
- There has been work to benchmark energy performance and identify a trajectory to decarbonise schools, which will require reducing energy demand, decarbonising heat, more renewables and offsetting, as well as improved data.
- Challenges include the type and age of buildings, potential impacts on recurring costs and the lack of long-term funding for wider works. A school retrofit pilot is being developed which will be an opportunity to test solutions.
- In terms of wider engagement, a Schools Climate Action Network has been set up (with a very successful first meeting) and a related handbook has been developed and is due to be tested with engaged schools.

Follow up points:

- Engagement with schools can be variable and it often relies on a motivated individual. Will also look to link into other work, such as Healthy Streets, and offer curriculum content to get them interested.
- It was noted that energy usage varies between schools but it is related to building size and type as well as the education setting.

Updates

- Communications – There is a campaign to reduce contamination of recycling to improve rates. Looking at what could be included in wider messaging around what residents can do to reduce emissions.
- Housing retrofit – It was briefly noted that the Retrofit London programme is progressing at pace and an internal Council working group has been set up.

AOB

Date and agenda items to be confirmed.

Forward plan topics:

- Sustainable and ethical procurement policy
- Electric vehicles
- Getting people travelling actively and sustainably
- Governance and structures
- Reducing emissions from Council buildings
- Renewable energy generation
- Local Plan and low carbon new development