

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE PANEL

28 February 2022 – 4pm to 5.30pm

Location: Via Teams

Meeting Note

Introductions

Cllr Barnes (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting:

Cllr Bedekova, Cllr Demirel, Rafe Bertram, Sarah Cary, Andrea De Lucy, Tilly Ford, Alasdair Gillies, Amanda Grosse, Dominic Millen and Harriet Potemkin.

Then he reflected on a recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report which, based on analysis of thousands of research documents, noted that the impacts of the climate crisis are more severe than predicted.

It also highlighted that the UK is not adapted to climate change and is not prepared, with the poor, vulnerable and excluded in society impacted the most.

Climate Change 2019 to 2022

Dominic Millen provided an overview of progress made since the inception of the Climate Change Task force:

- Corporate emissions reduced by 20% which, even taking into account the Covid-19 pandemic, is significant progress.
- Borough wide emissions reduced by 2% in a year, although the supporting data has a significant lag (2018 was the most recent) so does not pick up recent positive activities.
- A range of climate related schemes have been or are being delivered including new blue and green infrastructure, building decarbonisation, supporting active and sustainable transport, as well as electric vehicle charging.
- There has also been progress embedding climate action and sustainability in what the Council does, as well as with engagement, including with schools via the climate action network and handbook.
- A progress report was published in 2021 and carbon disclosure reporting has been undertaken, with the Council receiving an A- rating from an internationally recognised organisation.

There were follow up points including in respect of the approach to the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan:

- Finance is a big challenge particularly getting private institutional and individual investment in climate action and sustainability.
- The focus of the Council's work in this area should remain what can be controlled and influenced.
- Green skills is an important emerging area of action which is both challenging and an opportunity to support new employment.

- Schools remain a priority both as high emitters and enablers of future change.
- Embodied carbon is a real challenge so need to look at circular principles around retention, reuse and recycling.
- Tackling inequality is important for life outcomes more generally as well as the specific impact and cost of climate change.
- Decision making and prioritisation needs to be clearly articulated so people understand the choices being made.

Climate Change Governance Review 2022

Alasdair Gillies gave an update on progress and emerging themes for the governance review, which is mapping the existing approach in Enfield, benchmarking against other organisations and getting feedback from internal stakeholders.

The work to date has highlighted that each organisation has a slightly different approach, although there are some common threads around internal reporting and external input.

The next steps for the work are completing interviews and identifying best practice. A note will then be drafted so that it can inform the future approach.

There were follow up points:

- Need to be clear about the role and responsibilities in any governance structure.
- There are opportunities to involve partners in future work, with examples including the education and health sectors.

Updates

Communications

Highlights included electric vehicles, trees and wetlands, recycling and reuse, as well as retrofit of buildings. It was noted that tree planting is popular, with numerous community and school events.

Retrofit London

The development of the implementation plan for the London-wide programme of work is well underway, with a final version due in April.

AOB

Cllr Barnes thanked everyone for their work to date and hoped that progress would continue with addressing the global and local impacts of climate change.