

Cabinet	 TOWER HAMLETS
25 March 2020	
Report of: Ann Sutcliffe – Corporate Director Place	Classification: Unrestricted
Climate Emergency Declaration: Tower Hamlets Net Zero Carbon Plan	

Lead Member	Councillor Rachel Blake, Deputy Mayor Regeneration and Air Quality
Originating Officer(s)	Abdul Khan
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	To January 2020
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	People live in a borough that is Clean and Green

Executive Summary

In response to the March 2019 LBTH Climate Emergency Declaration a Net Zero Carbon plan has been produced, which sets out the intent to deliver the ambitious target of becoming a net zero carbon council by 2025. The Net Zero Carbon plan is a demonstration of progress on the LBTH Climate Emergency declaration and includes actions for costed delivery plans to be produced.

The Net Zero Carbon target in the Climate Emergency declaration relates to LBTH energy use from buildings, external uses (street lighting) and fuel for transport. The analysis is showing that at best and at most sensible expectations, LBTH should be targeting a maximum of a 75% reduction by 2025, with a plan to offset the remaining 25% of residual carbon emissions from buildings and transport. Reducing our CO2 emissions further than the 75% is constrained by the lack of technological options for some of the fleet to move to electric vehicles and the Council will still be utilising gas in a number of the buildings. However, it is recommended that challenging goals continue to be set plans produced to reduce the 25% residual emissions.

The Net Zero Carbon plan is a statement of intent on the LBTH Climate Emergency declaration and will be supplemented by a suite of costed delivery plans drawn up for the Actions.

The Net Zero Carbon plan also includes the recommendations for the Council to use its powers, influence and leadership to put the Borough on the right track to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2050 (or earlier if possible). The 2050 timeframe follows the

Climate Change Act 2008 target.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. To note progress made on the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration
2. Approve the Net Zero Carbon plan and the actions to deliver the Net Zero Carbon ambitions

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 To acknowledge progress by the council on delivering the ambitions of the Climate Emergency Declaration for carbon emissions.
- 1.2 To agree the Net Zero Carbon plan and the draft action plan, including timeframes for departments to undertake costed plans.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' at Full Council meeting on 20th March 2019. The Council has set ambitious targets to be a net zero carbon council by 2025 and the approval of the Net Zero Carbon plan is essential in demonstrating progress and delivering on the declaration.
- 2.2 It is considered that there would be significant environmental, public health and reputational damage and risk should the council not agree to the Net Zero Carbon plan in order to deliver the ambition to meet the 2025 target.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Net Zero Carbon plan will replace the Carbon Management Plan as the approach to reduce the carbon emissions of the Council. The Net Zero Carbon plan shows that it is possible to achieve the 2025 timeframe, but that it will require decisive action starting now to reduce direct emissions by 75%. The residual emissions will have to be offset.

Climate Emergency

3.2 The climate emergency declaration noted:

The facts

- LBTH are London's third highest emitter of CO2.
- The evidence is clear - if we don't act quickly then we face extreme consequences.

What we're doing about it

- LBTH are committed to achieving a 60 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from our own operations by 2020.
- LBTH aim to become a zero-carbon or carbon neutral council by 2025.

Progress to date

3.3 Over the last 12 months the council has demonstrated it's commitment to delivering against it's ambition through a number actions and decisions including:

- Switch to renewable energy supplier – in October 2019 LBTH transferred to a 100% renewable electricity tariff moved all electricity Scottish Power
- The Pensions Committee have actively engaged with the climate change agenda and are looking at revising their investment strategy toward a greener portfolio. The Tower Hamlets pensions fund are on a journey towards decarbonisation of their investments
- Commenced of Sustainable Workplace programme to instil sustainable behaviours for council employees including: promoting resource efficiency (reducing energy use; moving to paperless working); reduction in single use plastics including elimination of plastic cups from buildings; and introduced food waste collection to Mulberry Place to reduce waste being sent to landfill and incineration
- Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
- Commenced of our Liveable Streets programme which aims to improve the look and feel of public spaces in neighbourhoods across the borough and make it easier, safer, and more convenient to get around by foot, bike and public transport
- Commenced of our tree planting programme to deliver over 1000 street trees. This programme will increase carbon capture
- Installation of 300 Electrical Vehicle Charging Points by 2022

- Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new development to achieve net-zero carbon
- Commenced review of Council Assets for Zero Carbon retrofit feasibility and viability studies
- Completed initial feasibility for decarbonisation of Barkantine district heating network
- Undertaking review of design standards for new council development to ensure that requirements align the climate emergency declaration and deliver net-zero carbon objectives
- Commenced review of Tower Hamlets Homes properties for Bio-solar feasibility project
- Continued delivery of carbon reduction projects – Grants programme for schools to deliver carbon reduction measures; grants programme for SME's for energy efficiency measures; Residential boiler and heating efficiency project
- Undertaking review of new civic centre proposals to ensure design is as energy efficient as possible and operating environment and systems are low carbon
- 87% of lamp columns have been replaced with integral LED luminaires. We will continue to roll out the phased programme of LED street lighting upgrades to replace all lamp columns in the Borough.

3.4 In addition to the good work already being delivered it is acknowledged that more needs to be done to achieve the 2025 target. Therefore, a Net Zero Carbon plan has been produced to set out the scale of the ambition and challenge that the Council faces.

Tower Hamlets - Net Zero Carbon plan

- 3.5 The Net Zero Carbon plan is significant piece of work and demonstrates progress on the LBTH Climate Emergency declaration. Following adoption of the Net Zero Carbon plan the detailed costed delivery plans identified for the Actions will need to be completed by the relevant Council departments.
- 3.6 The Net Zero Carbon target in the Climate Emergency declaration relates to LBTH energy use from buildings, external uses (street lighting) and fuel for transport. The Sustainable Development Team has worked with Etude (Sustainability Engineers) to identify the complete energy baseline and produce a 'Net Zero Carbon plan'. The scope of the Net Zero Carbon plan is based on the current carbon reporting. The Net Zero Carbon plan provides a set of actions to reduce the council's carbon emissions and aim to achieve net-zero status.

- 3.7 The report has been drafted with input from the LBTH greenhouse gas reports, CRC energy efficiency schemes, Tower Hamlets Homes data and London Energy Map analysis. The analysis is showing that at best and at most workable expectations, LBTH should be targeting a maximum of a 75% reduction by 2025, with a plan to offset the remaining 25% of residual carbon emissions from buildings and transport. Reducing our CO₂ emissions further than the 75% is constrained by the lack of technological options for some of the actions (i.e. moving all of the fleet to electric vehicles; the Council will be utilising gas boilers in a number of the buildings).
- 3.8 LBTH will need to continue to set challenging goals and produce longer term plans to reduce the 25% residual emissions.

Zero Carbon Borough 2050

- 3.9 In addition to moving towards Zero Carbon there is also a need for LBTH to use its powers, influence and leadership to put the Borough on the right track to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2050. The key features of delivering carbon reductions across the borough are:
- All new buildings, from now, are built to be highly energy efficient and use a heat pump as the primary heat source.
 - Road transport rapidly converts to electric. Road journeys are reduced.
 - Incentives and regulation to significantly reduce commercial, industry and residential emissions.
- 3.10 In order to deliver the 2050 target major investment in the electric infrastructure in the borough is necessary.

Action Plan

- 3.11 The action plan to deliver the Council's declaration follows the Committee on Climate Change categories and includes:
- Power – Increase renewable energy generation on council buildings
 - Buildings – Retrofit existing buildings to reduce energy demand
 - Transport – Accelerate replacement cycle of council's fleet to more sustainable vehicles, including electric, hybrid or other fuel sources as appropriate
 - Waste – Target reduction in production of waste and increased recycling rates
 - Land – Increase tree planting
 - Other sectors – Procurement to take into account carbon emissions of all procured goods and services

Organisational readiness and commitment

- 3.12 The goals of a Net Zero Council by 2025, and a Net Zero Carbon borough by 2050 are ambitious and the achievement of any ambitious goal requires strong commitment.
- 3.13 There are three essential cornerstones to achieving the sustainability targets at Tower Hamlets:
- Embed – Goals and targets should be embedded within the organisation's ethos and culture. Strong leadership buy-in and a high-level of employee engagement are crucial.
 - Action – Action towards the achievements of goals should be committed and sustained.
 - Monitor – Monitoring of progress should be undertaken throughout.
- 3.14 In order to deliver the zero carbon proposals the report identifies a number of considerations for organisational readiness and commitments. These include identifying an appropriately skilled, knowledgeable and funded resource with responsibility for implementing the Net Zero Carbon plan, including:
- Collect data on energy and CO₂ from Council operations, reporting annually
 - Develop the Carbon Reduction Action Matrix
 - Implicate and involve all services for maximum impact and reach

To ensure the Action Plan is delivered at pace a resource has been commissioned for 6 months to assist officers. This will be reviewed after 5 months to determine what future requirements will be and how may be funded.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 An Equality Analysis has been undertaken on the Net Zero Carbon plan (see Appendix 2). This found that there are no areas in Net Zero Carbon plan which would adversely impact on any equalities target group. All sections of the community can benefit from the transition to a low carbon Borough.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Best Value implications

- 5.2.1 The Net Zero Carbon plan is proposed to be delivered through a series of projects for buildings, transport and street lighting. Best value implications will be assessed through the development of the costed delivery plans to reach net-zero carbon for each of the actions proposed.

5.3 Environmental implications

5.3.1 The series of projects proposed within the Net Zero Carbon plan aim to reduce carbon emissions and the impact the Borough has on Climate Change. A number of the projects proposed have the benefit of improving air quality within the Borough as they involve the transition to low carbon electric systems instead of the traditional boiler arrangements, as well as the electrification of the fleet.

5.4 Risk management

5.4.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken and the Risk Register can be found at Appendix 3.

5.5 Crime reduction implications

5.5.1 Not applicable

5.6 Safe guarding

5.6.1 Not applicable

5.6 Data Protection and Privacy

5.6.1 The implementation, monitoring and promotion does not involve handling personally identifiable information in any of the ways listed in the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) checklist, either under the list for which PIA is always carried out, nor the list for which a PIA should be considered. It is therefore not considered necessary to carry out a PIA.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications emanating from this report which details the Net Zero Carbon plan in response to the LBTH Climate Emergency Declaration and the Council's approach and actions for delivering it.
- 6.2 There will be a series of delivery plans following the adoption of the Net Zero Carbon plan. There will be significant revenue and capital financial implications associated with these plans which will be the subject of separate reports.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to undertake the activities described in the Net Zero Carbon plan.
- 7.2 The Council has the duty to consider how the methodology of procurement of works goods and services and the subject matter of the procurement will improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area. This is under the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- 7.3 The nature of a procurement is the measurement of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the submitted bids. Therefore, it may be compliant with this duty for the Council to consider the least amount of detriment in terms of carbon footprint that the proposed bid will have on the environment as part of the evaluation criteria.
 - 7.4 The Council will also satisfy this duty by comparing the degree of benefit a new solution which is the subject of the new procurement has compared with the solution pre-existing the new procurement in a particular area
 - 7.5 The Council is restricted when deciding the selection criteria which will be used to determine who will be invited to submit a bid. The only criteria against which organisations may be selected are suitability to pursue a professional activity, economic and financial standing and technical and professional ability.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

1. Tower Hamlets Net Zero Carbon plan
2. Equality Analysis
3. Risk Assessment
4. Tower Hamlets Council Net Zero Carbon - Actions Summary

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A