

Executive

Climate Change Strategy 2021/22 Item no: 4

Report by: Kate Hand **Job title:** Head of Climate Change
Date: 19 January 2021
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Summary: This paper outlines London Councils climate change achievements in 2020 and the proposed Climate Change Strategy for 2021/22, covering projects on data and evidence, the seven climate change programmes and advocacy and communications work focused on the Government's Net Zero Strategy, the Comprehensive Spending Review and the COP26 Climate Summit.

Recommendations: Executive is asked to:

- Comment on and agree London Councils Climate Change Strategy 2021/22 as outlined in paragraphs 5 – 20

Climate Change Strategy 2021/22

Introduction

1. The Executive considered climate change policy at its November 2019 meeting; Leaders' Committee approved London Councils priorities and resourcing for climate change in December 2019, and in June 2020 approved proposals for eight green recovery proposals.
2. This report outlines London Councils achievements in this area in 2020 and a proposed climate change strategy for 2021/22.
3. Executive is asked to approve the overall strategy for 2021/22.

Looking back: climate change achievements in 2020

4. Officers presented key achievements of the first year of the climate change programme to the Transport and Environment Committee meeting in December 2020. These can be found in Annex 1, and include:
 - i. Recruited nine boroughs to lead the delivery of the seven climate priorities in the London Councils Joint Statement on Climate Change; this was achieved following extensive borough engagement in the development of the Joint Statement, which has now also been integrated into boroughs' own climate action plans in many cases; the commissioning brief for climate lead boroughs sets out key expectations around engagement with other boroughs and reporting to the Transport and Environment Committee, whilst leaving scope for boroughs to shape their leadership approach, and was developed together with senior officer groupings; the request for lead boroughs was circulated via the Chief Executive of London Committee, and a process of negotiation led by London Councils secured our nine lead boroughs, including two borough partnerships (see Annex 2 for full details)
 - ii. Established working groups of boroughs and external experts to draft action plans to deliver on four of these shared climate priorities
 - iii. Secured £75,000 funding to commission research on retrofitting measures needed to reach our target and expertise to develop our action plan

- iv. Integrated London Councils green recovery proposals into the missions under the London Recovery Board, including developing a £1.1 billion pipeline of borough, sub-regional partnerships and Waste Disposal Authority projects aligned to the Green New Deal mission
- v. Securing a position as co-Chair of the Green New Deal Expert Advisory Panel, alongside Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues.
- vi. Hosted three successful London Climate Action Week events across July and November, attracting a total live audience of more than 260
- vii. Launched the inaugural polling results on Londoners' attitudes to climate change and commissioned Business 1000 with questions on private sector climate action
- viii. Hosted briefings to support boroughs to access new government retrofitting funds¹, lobbied BEIS to ensure that London receives a fair share of these funds and that they are well-designed and targeted, and was invited by BEIS to join their Social Housing Decarbonisation Consultative Panel
- ix. Worked closely with senior officer groups to secure their insight and maintain alignment, including Lead Chief Executive Advisors – Environment, LEDNet, London Housing Directors' Network, Society of London Treasurers and the Association of Directors of Public Health – London.
- x. Worked with local government organisations and green groups to input into 'A Blueprint for Accelerating Climate Action and a Green Recovery at the Local Level'
- xi. Supported the establishment of our Heads of Communications Climate Change Steering Group
- xii. Supported the development of climate capability training for Directors and elected members, led by LEDNet, attended by more than 100 people so far.

¹ Boroughs have secured £11.54 million in the first phase of Green Homes Grants (GHG), with further funding likely to be secured through further bids to GHG, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund demonstrator and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.

Looking forward: London Councils Climate Change Strategy 2021/22

5. At its 10 December meeting, the Transport and Environment Committee discussed priorities for climate change in 2021/22. Based on this discussion, officers have developed a strategy for 2021/22.
6. This strategy will build on 2020 by:
 - i. delivering projects that develop and articulate the evidence base and a consistent approach to carbon emissions data that can underpin effective borough and pan-London climate action;
 - ii. supporting the delivery of ambitious and well-supported action plans for our seven climate programmes;
 - iii. advocating for the indispensable role of local government – and London as the nation’s capital – in delivering net zero, with a particular focus on the 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review and UNFCCC COP2; and
 - iv. Ensuring that London Councils itself ‘walks the talk’ on climate action.

Projects

7. **Analysis of published borough climate action plans**, identifying how boroughs are addressing the challenges they face, how well the plans are aligned to our seven climate priorities, what the plans collectively achieve, the costs of borough-level climate action, the opportunities for collaboration, the risks of not acting and how boroughs can evolve their approaches.
8. **A Climate evidence review** that brings together a clear, coherent picture of the existing, fragmented evidence base, including identifying any potential gaps in the activities and approaches in our climate programme action plans.
9. **Borough-level consumption emission profiles**, to support borough climate action plans and delivery of our fifth shared climate priority on consumption-based emissions (as outlined in the Joint Statement on Climate Change).
10. Recommendations for a shared borough approach to **carbon emissions accounting**, including an agreed methodology for scope 3 emissions.

Programmes

11. London Councils will support boroughs to agree **ambitious and well-supported action plans** that outline how we will deliver the targets set out in the Joint Statement on Climate Change; any proposed revision of those targets – following development of the action plans – will be brought to Leaders' Committee for approval.
12. London Councils will support boroughs to **co-ordinate work** on the climate programmes through effective governance and reporting structures, including six-monthly progress reports for each programme to TEC.
13. London Councils will also continue support the **green recovery** through the London Recovery Board missions, and work with the GLA to ensure that we avoid duplication between our seven climate programmes and the missions.

Advocacy and communications

14. London Councils will establish a **robust set of asks** and deliver a **powerful advocacy campaign** in the lead up to the Net Zero Strategy, COP26 and the Comprehensive Spending Review.
15. The UK will be hosting the UNFCCC COP26, in Glasgow from 1 – 12th November 2021, and will need to demonstrate strong domestic leadership. This is already helping to drive a series of policy and funding announcements from the government and we expect a number of significant announcements in the first half of 2021, including around heat, buildings and transport. COP26 thus provides an opportunity to press for ambitious government action on climate change, and to showcase – to government and wider partners – the crucial role boroughs have in direct delivery, working with our communities and local businesses, as well as the strong existing leadership and innovation amongst London boroughs.
16. London Councils will need to work with our existing partners, including the GLA, to make the most the opportunity that the COP provides. Our advocacy planning proposes a 'London local government climate leaders' roundtable' before mid-March, which will provide an opportunity for Executive Members, lead boroughs, senior officers and the GLA to discuss progress to date and areas of common ground where we can work together. This will be followed by a 'London climate leaders' pre-COP', which will be an outward-facing conference to bring together boroughs, provide a platform for our policy and funding position and support showcasing of London's

contributions to climate action, including civil society and private sector contributions. The green recovery will continue to be an important strand of these discussions, and advocacy cooperation is already envisaged through the Green New Deal mission.

17. Together with the COP, there are two important domestic policy announcements that London Councils will need to influence in 2021:

- i. the Net Zero Strategy, which ‘will clearly set out [the UK’s] pathway to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.’² The Committee on Climate Change have advised that the strategy should ‘align and clarify the roles of national, sub-national, regional government, public bodies and local authorities in delivering the UK’s climate objectives’ and ‘provide a clear direction to reduce uncertainty, and additional powers where needed.’³ It goes on to note that, ‘Government should support local and regional authorities to deliver climate action... without mandating how local areas should achieve their climate goals. This is likely to require additional funding for staffing and resources for local delivery plans, alongside a ‘duty to collaborate’ to encourage authorities to work with local, regional and national partners to deliver their climate ambitions.’⁴
- ii. the Comprehensive Spending Review 2021, which is scheduled to determine long-term funding for key climate programmes, including investments in home energy retrofitting. Our climate advocacy will fit into our wider package of London Councils CSR advocacy, that is already underway following our 2020 submission.

18. Whilst the detail of policy and funding priorities for 2021 will need to be further developed, many are already established within our policy positions. Officers will continue to recognise and seek to address existing challenges and potential conflicts, for example around building safety remediation works, without losing focus on the urgency of climate change. Officers will also seek to identify opportunities to call for more efficient and/or streamlined funding.

19. Finally, London Councils will deliver a wider media campaign to publicise the importance of climate action and London boroughs’ contribution to addressing this

² UK Government (2020), ‘10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution’

³ Climate Change Committee (2020), ‘Policies for the Sixth Carbon Budget and Net Zero’

⁴ Ibid.

challenge, including a second year of our polling on Londoners' attitudes to climate change.

Indicative Timetable of Events and Milestones

Milestones	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Heat and Buildings Strategy												
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Consultative Panel												
Development of planning reforms												
London Local Government Climate Leaders' Roundtable												
Budget 2021												
Transport Decarbonisation Plan												
Devolution White Paper												
Net Zero Strategy and Sixth Carbon Budget												
London Climate Action Week												
London Climate Leaders' pre-COP												
Comprehensive Spending Review												
COP26												

Recommendations: Executive is asked to:

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Financial implications for London Councils

None

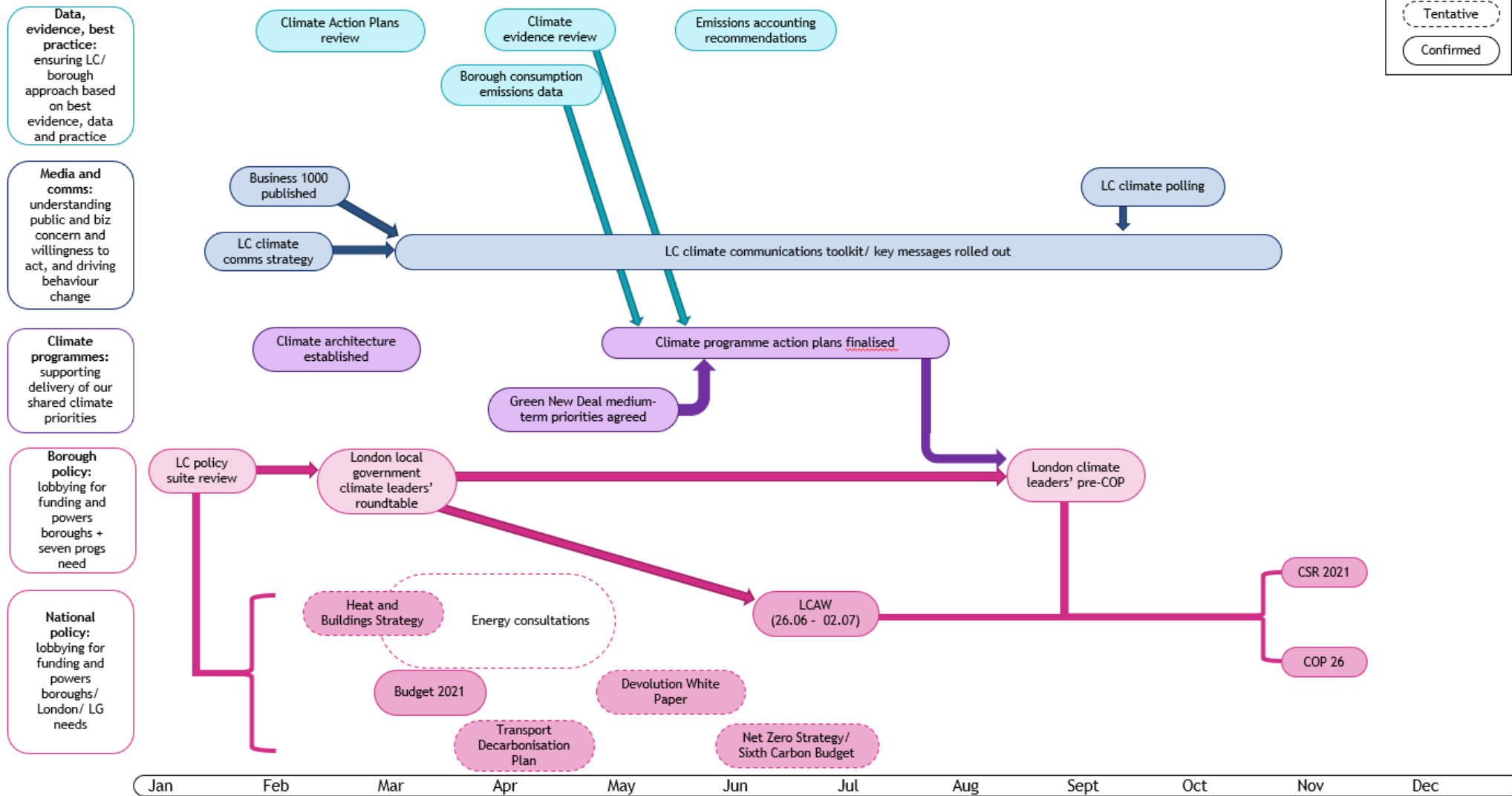
Legal implications for London Councils

None

Equalities implications for London Councils

None

London Councils Climate Change Strategy: 2021 at a glance



Annex 1: London Councils climate programme: one year review

1. In December 2019, Committee members agreed a Joint Statement on Climate Change, together with the London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet), which is the foundation for London Councils' climate programme. This report provides the Committee with an overview of delivery against the Joint Statement in the first year since its adoption, including the development of ancillary work to support borough climate action and work to secure a green recovery, and looks forward to priorities for 2021.
2. Climate programme achievements in 2020:

Seven shared climate change priorities

- Recruited and inducted seven boroughs to serve as **leads for our climate priorities** going forward; please see paragraph 6 for a proposal for our final lead borough
- Established **Working Groups** for four of the seven climate priorities, which have hosted 22 thematic sessions involving around 100 borough officers, 10 GLA staff members and nearly 30 external presenters and experts.
- Secured **£75,000 funding** to commission research on retrofitting measures needed to reach our target of average EPC B across all building and to recruit consultancy support to develop a credible action plan
- Drafted **action plans** for three of the climate priorities (#2 Low carbon development, #5 Consumption emissions and #7 Resilient and green)
- Hosted a roundtable on **green finance** with the GLA and Green Finance Institute

Green recovery

- In response to the Covid-19 crisis, officers pivoted to develop an ambitious set of nine **green recovery proposals**, agreed by TEC and Leaders Committee, and supported by CEL
- Worked closely with the GLA to develop the **Green New Deal mission**, including:
 - Developing and advocating around a £1.1 billion pipeline of aligned borough projects
 - Building capacity and support for the Green New Deal and Good Work missions amongst sub-regional partnerships

Lobbying and communications

- Hosted three successful **London Climate Action Week** events in July and November, attracting a total live audience of more than 260, and speakers from BEIS, ADEPT, Ashden, CBI London, Repowering and Schneider Electric.
- Launched the inaugural polling results on **Londoners' attitudes to climate change**, attracting a good level of media coverage and comment
- Lobbied BEIS around **retrofitting grant funding**, to ensure that London receives a fair share of funds that are well-designed and targeted, and hosted three briefings for boroughs with the GLA; boroughs have secured £11.54 million in the first phase of Green Homes Grants (GHG), with further funding likely to be secured through further bids to GHG, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund demonstrator and the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- Secured an invite to a **BEIS 'critical friends group'** who will input into the development of GHG, the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, and relevant cut across to, for example, the Social Housing White Paper
- Submitted or supported responses to five **Select Committee inquiries**, on energy efficiency of future homes, decarbonisation and green finance, future Environmental Audit Committee inquiries, post-pandemic economic growth and future BEIS Select Committee inquiries.
- Worked with **UK Power Networks** to input into their Distributed Future Energy Scenarios and draft 2023 – 2028 business plan, which will determine their investment during that period.⁵

Partnership

- Worked closely with the **LGA** to influence their climate emissions accounting tool and align our activities around lobbying and low carbon procurement.
- Worked closely with **senior officer groups** to secure their insight and maintain alignment, including Lead Chief Executive Advisors – Environment, LEDNet, London

⁵ A number of West London boroughs fall into the Scottish and Southern Energy area.

Housing Directors' Network, Society of London Treasurers and the Association of Directors of Public Health – London.

- Supported the establishment of our **Heads of Communications** Climate Change Steering Group
- Supported the development of **climate capability training** for Directors and elected members, led by LEDNet, and so far, attended by 84 people.

Annex 2: Climate Change Lead boroughs

#1 Retrofit London: LB Enfield and LB Waltham Forest

#2 Low Carbon Development: LB Hackney and LB Tower Hamlets

#3 Renewable Power for London: LB Islington

#4 Low Carbon Transport: RB Kingston

#5 Consumption Emissions: LB Harrow

#6 Green Economy: LB Hounslow

#7 Resilient and Green: LB Southwark