

# Leaders' Committee

## Climate Change Strategy and Resource Item 7 Transfer

<b>Report by:</b>	Katharina Winbeck	<b>Job title:</b>	Strategic Lead – Transport and Environment
<b>Date:</b>	23 March 2021		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Katharina Winbeck		
<b>Telephone:</b>	020 7934 9945	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:katharina.winbeck@londoncouncils.gov.uk">katharina.winbeck@londoncouncils.gov.uk</a>

---

**Summary:** This report highlights London Councils activities on the climate change agenda over the past year through the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and describes key elements of London Councils 2021/22 Climate Change Strategy previously adopted by both TEC and London Councils Executive.

This is a very important year for climate change policy and TEC is ambitious in the outcomes it wants to achieve and willing to resource this ambition. Expenditure on climate change related activities are however outside TEC's authority and this paper therefore seeks agreement from Leaders' Committee that the ambitions should be met with the additional resource transfers as outlined in Paragraph 9.

**Recommendations:** The Committee is asked to:

1. Note progress on climate change policy to date and the strategy for 2021/22; and
2. Approve the proposal for a transfer from the Transport and Environment Committee to the Joint Committee to resource climate change activities to March 2024 (paragraph 9).

## Climate Change Strategy and Resource Transfer

1. Climate change policy has been a high priority area for London Councils TEC and Leaders' Committee to support action locally, collectively as London Councils, and also collaboratively with the Mayor through the London Recovery Board. London Councils TEC and Leaders' Committee approved London Councils priorities and resourcing for climate change in December 2019, and in June 2020, approved eight green recovery proposals. London Councils TEC and Executive Committee considered climate change policy and strategy at their December 2020 and January 2021 meetings respectively, and thus shaped and endorsed a strategy for the coming year.
2. Nationally, there have been a number of important policy and strategy developments around climate change, such as the roll out of the Green Homes Grant starting in summer 2020, the National Infrastructure Plan in November 2020, the Energy White Paper and the sixth Carbon Budget with extensive supporting research, including the role of local authorities in achieving net zero by 2050, in December 2020. Many more are expected during this year of the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26), taking place in Glasgow in November.
3. In this report, officers outline some of the progress that has been achieved on this agenda and the plan to take this work forward in this COP26 year.

## Climate Change Progress to date and Strategy for 2021/22

4. Officers presented key achievements of the first year of the climate change programme to the TEC meeting in December 2020 and to the London Councils Executive in January 2021. They include:
  - i. Recruitment of nine boroughs (see Appendix 1 for a full list) to lead the delivery of the seven climate priority programmes in the London Councils Joint Statement on Climate Change. These nine boroughs will work with both geographically and political representative groups of boroughs to develop and then implement action plans

- ii. Establishment of working groups to draft action plans for four of these priority programmes, including securing £75,000 funding to support development of the retrofitting action plan
  - iii. Integrating London Councils' green recovery proposals into the missions under the London Recovery Board, including developing a £1.1 billion pipeline of green projects
  - iv. Hosting three London Climate Action Week events attracting a total live audience of more than 260, including the launch of our inaugural polling on Londoners' attitudes to climate change
  - v. Lobbying BEIS to ensure that London receives a fair share of well-designed and targeted retrofitting funds<sup>1</sup>, and securing an invitation to join their Social Housing Decarbonisation Consultative Panel
  - vi. Supporting the establishment of a Heads of Communications Climate Change Steering Group
  - vii. Supporting the development of climate capability training for Directors and elected members, led by LEDNet and attended by more than 100 people
5. Building on this, and discussions at the 10 December TEC meeting, officers have developed a climate change strategy for 2021/22 that was endorsed at London Councils Executive on 19 January.
6. The programme aims to create learning and opportunities for all boroughs, without a one size fits all approach. Key elements of the strategy are:
- i. delivering an analysis of published borough climate action plans, a borough-level consumption emissions profile and establishing a carbon emissions accounting task and finish group to develop a consistent approach in this area;

---

<sup>1</sup> Boroughs secured: £25 million under Green Homes Grants (GHG) Local Authority Delivery (LAD) schemes phases 1a and 1b, and have an indicative allocation of £27.5 million under LAD2; at least £68 million under Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; and we are confident also of success for two schemes under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund demonstrator.

- ii. supporting lead boroughs to finalise and oversee delivery of ambitious and well-supported action plans for our seven priority climate programmes, including appropriate governance structures (see Appendix 2) and links to the London Recovery Board missions;
- iii. Lobbying on the indispensable role of local government – and London as the nation’s capital – in delivering net zero, with a particular focus on the Net Zero Strategy, Spending Review and UNFCCC COP26;
- iv. delivering effective communications that support boroughs, our policy and funding asks, and the role that all Londoners can play in tackling the climate emergency; and
- v. ensuring that London Councils itself both ‘talks the talk’ and ‘walks the walk’ on climate action.

7. In delivering on this strategy in 2021, we have to date:

- i. Established a Climate Oversight Group comprising Directors from our lead boroughs and representatives of key Director Groupings on environment, housing, finance and public health. The Group has a remit to oversee strategic delivery of the climate programmes, avoid duplication of effort and maximise synergies, and consider cross-cutting themes including investment and resourcing, green jobs and skills, communications and engagement, public health and knowledge partnerships; it will report back to TEC and Leaders’ Committee on a six-monthly basis, and will be supported by a Climate Officers Coordination Group (see Appendix 2, overall governance).
- ii. Organised a meeting between Lord Callanan (Minister for Climate Change and Corporate Responsibility), Cllr Rodwell and Mayor Glanville, to put the case for improvements to the Green Homes Grants scheme, and offer a partnership to deliver retrofitting and the associated green jobs and skills in London.
- iii. Hosted a ‘climate roundtable’, chaired by Mayor Glanville and bringing together Cabinet members from lead boroughs with the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and representatives of London Councils political groups, to agree an

- approach to shared climate priorities for the coming year. This includes key points of the narrative we will use around climate, and an indication of how we will articulate this to key audiences, including communities, businesses, investors and other cities, and to government (see Appendix 3).
- iv. Secured a partnership with Core Cities and the Connected Places Catapult to develop a City Investment Prospectus, which will articulate low carbon investment opportunities and business case for aggregating investments across cities to create more attractive propositions at greater scale and volumes. The prospectus will be launched at a high profile Investment Summit at COP26 and the steering group will include Mayor Glanville and Keith Bottomley, Vice Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee at the City of London.
  - v. Begun the development of a communications campaign and toolkit for boroughs around active travel and electric vehicles.

### **Resourcing climate change activity**

- 8. London Councils resources for climate change policy were approved by both TEC and Leaders Committee in December 2019, consisting of a Head of Climate Change post, funded by TEC specific reserves. This post was recruited to in February 2020 for a two-year fixed-term contract. Climate change policy has also been supported through a six-month placement (October 2020 – March 2021) by a National Graduate Development Programme trainee (1FTE), and staff time from across the Transport and Environment, Housing and Planning, Enterprise, Economy and Skills and Communications teams, supporting the different aspects of policy.
- 9. To maintain the current level of resource going forward, officers are requesting approval for a one-off transfer of resources from TEC special projects specific reserves to London Councils Joint Committee to:
  - i. Employ a Principal Policy Officer (1 FTE) on a fixed-term contract from June 2021 to March 2024 (two years and ten months), at a cost of £221,799; and

- ii. Extend the contract for the Head of Climate Change post for a further two-year period, from March 2022 to March 2024, at a cost of £221,308.

10. TEC will need to formally agree this at its March meeting, but informally members have indicated support for this use of part of the special projects' specific reserves.

11. This will enable London Councils to continue to support borough ambitions on climate change by:

- i. Delivering the 'roadmap to COP26', including the development and launch of the COP26 City Investment Prospectus with Core Cities and the Connected Places Catapult, and capitalising on the outcomes of COP26 and the launch of the prospectus from 2022 onward.
- ii. Supporting the climate change lead boroughs to oversee the delivery of each of the seven climate change programmes (whose targets run to 2030) and report to TEC, and seeking further resource to support those programmes
- iii. Coordinating strategic oversight of the seven climate programmes, including through support to the Climate Oversight Group and the Climate Officer Coordination Group.
- iv. Co-leading development and management of the Green New Deal mission, with the GLA, including through the Expert Advisory Panel, which is jointly chaired by Mayor Phil Glanville and Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues and links through to the Green economy climate programmes and green skills work led by the sub-regional partnerships
- v. Coordinating and managing relationships on climate policy and evidence with the GLA, and with pan-London organisations such as UK Power Networks and NHS London
- vi. Delivering cross-cutting data, evidence and research, and advocacy and lobbying activities on behalf of boroughs, including specific needs arising from the climate programmes

- vii. Developing joint advocacy activities with local government partners, including the LGA, through the Blueprint Coalition
- viii. Supporting the development of training and best practice, for example around Climate Action Plans and their overall costs, which will continue to rapidly evolve, including working with groupings such as the London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet)
- ix. Supporting the development of evidence-led communications activity and support to boroughs, via the Heads of Communications Climate Change Steering Group, including annual polling on Londoners' attitudes to climate change
- x. Supporting collaboration and coordination across London Councils, including ensuring that we 'walk the walk' and 'talk the talk' on our own carbon emissions

## **Recommendations**

12. The Committee is asked to:

- Note progress on climate change policy to date and the strategy for 2021/22; and
- Approve the proposal for a transfer from the Transport and Environment Committee to the Joint Committee to resource climate change activities to March 2024 (paragraph 9).

## **Financial Implications**

13. The Director of Corporate Resources reports that the cost of the draft proposals outlined in this report are estimated to be a maximum of £443,107, which can be funded by a transfer of uncommitted funds from the TEC special projects specific reserve to the Joint Committee as detailed in paragraph 9 above.

## **Legal Implications**

14. Climate change related activities are not within the functions delegated to TEC in the TEC Agreement and are therefore currently outside TEC's authority.

15. However, the proposed activities are within the functions delegated to Leaders' Committee and these can be funded by a transfer of uncommitted funds from the TEC special projects specific reserve to the Joint Committee.

## **Equalities Implications**

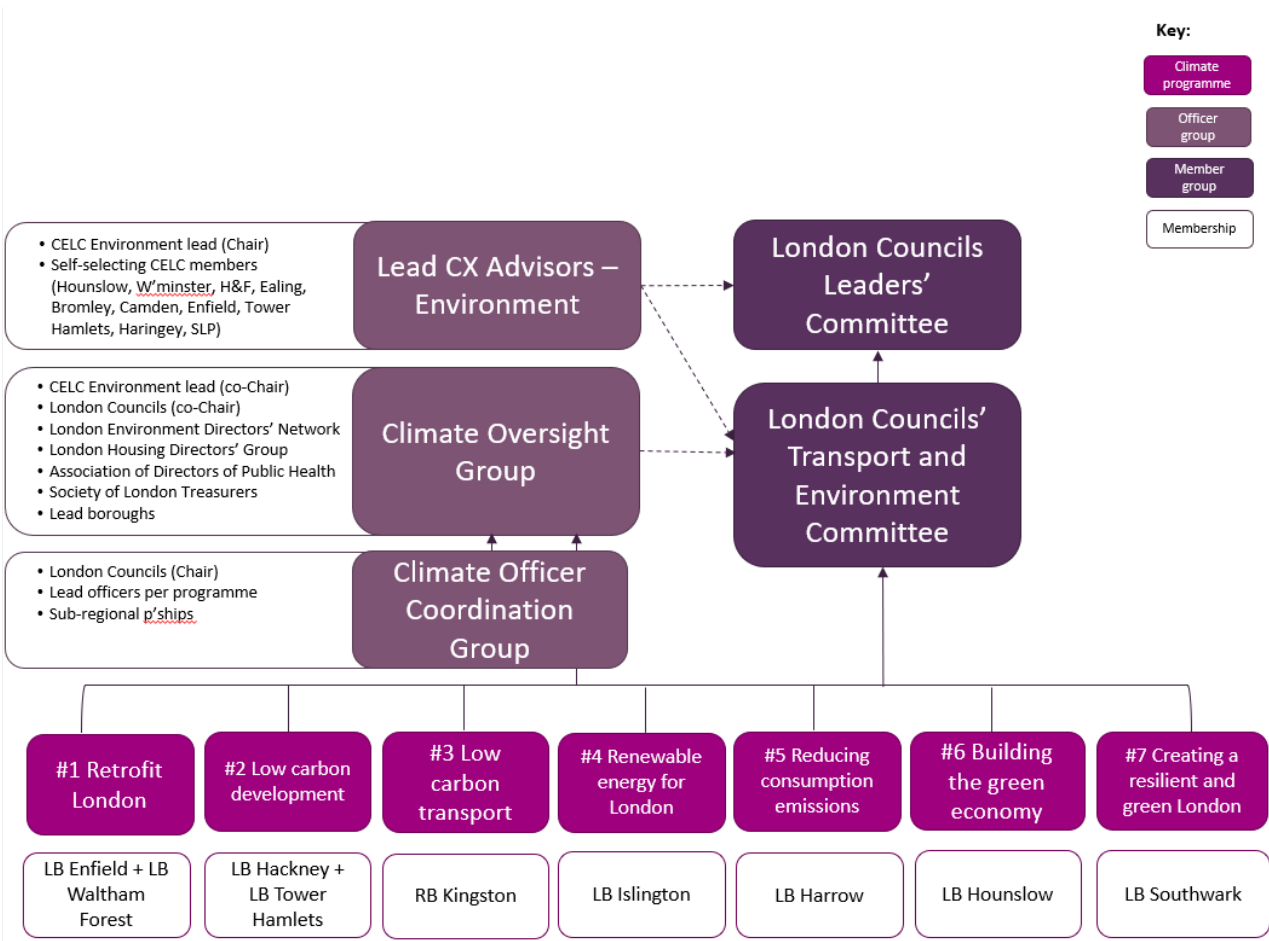
16. There are no specific implications for equalities arising from this report



# Appendix 1: Climate Change Lead Boroughs

Programme	Lead borough
#1 Retrofit London	LB Enfield and LB Waltham Forest
#2 Low Carbon Development	LB Hackney and LB Tower Hamlets
#3 Low Carbon Transport	RB Kingston
#4 Renewable Energy	LB Islington
#5 Consumption Emissions	LB Harrow
#6 Green Economy	LB Hounslow
#7 Resilient and Green	LB Southwark

# Appendix 2: London Councils Climate Change Governance



## Appendix 3: Climate roundtable outcomes

1. Attendees at the roundtable agreed that we should adopt a **positive narrative** to frame our work on climate change, centred around:
  - a shared vision for a more connected city that is greener, lower carbon, more resilient and more equal where all can thrive
  - active support for our burgeoning green economy to help us build back better from Covid-19, creating markets for local businesses, good jobs for Londoners and innovation
  - positioning London as a leading engine for the green recovery that also supports and works alongside other cities and regions, and international partners
  - working in partnership with our communities, our businesses and government.
2. Attendees also agreed that London local government should develop a series of outward-facing events through 2021 to articulate this narrative to our key audiences, focusing on a small number of top priorities, which are likely to include green financing. We will also seek to undertake joint lobbying activities, to present our shared narrative on the opportunity that London presents to achieve net zero, and the support we need to achieve that aim. Key moments will include:

## 2021 climate public affairs timeline

