

London Councils Climate Programme Implementation Plan

#BeTheSolution

**LONDON
COUNCILS**

The logo for London Councils, featuring the text "LONDON COUNCILS" in a bold, sans-serif font. A white, curved line sweeps under the text from the bottom left to the bottom right, ending under the word "COUNCILS".

Foreword

London's boroughs have led the way in committing to rapid action on climate change, recognising that our city has a vital role to play in reducing carbon emissions, building resilience to climate impacts and shaping a positive transition to net zero, including a vibrant and inclusive green economy.

The urgency with which we need to act on climate change has never been clearer. Responding to this, every London borough has a Climate Action Plan setting out how they will meet their climate targets and deliver a just transition to a more sustainable future for Londoners.

The London Councils Climate Programme will support these ambitions, ensuring that London local government and our partners are effective and joined up and that we have the capacity to scale and replicate climate solutions.

The next two years are critical to this task. Choices made in cities today about urban infrastructure, upskilling workers and supporting communities to live more sustainably will determine the extent and impact of climate change, our ability to achieve emission reductions and our capacity to adapt to – and benefit from – changing circumstances.

Since 2020, we've done a huge amount of work with London's 32 boroughs and the City of London to establish the vision, action plans and leadership for the Climate Programme. Now boroughs are investing over £2 million to build capacity and turn this into reality, supporting rapid action and learning to enact pan-London climate solutions. This implementation plan sets out the projects and solutions that London's local government and its partners will deliver over the next two years to achieve this.

Our climate polling shows year after year that Londoners overwhelmingly support climate action. By co-designing local solutions that target benefits within our communities and connecting climate policies to the needs of all Londoners, we can demonstrate that climate action improves lives. Our Climate Programme will generate growth and employment, improve health and wellbeing for our residents and decrease expenditure on fossil fuels. We will work together as one city to deliver climate action that creates a better place to live, demonstrating that sustainable choices and sustainable living is not just better for the climate, but for people too.



Cllr Claire Holland

**Acting Chair, London Councils
Leader, London Borough of Lambeth**

London Councils Climate Programme

Following the London Councils Joint Statement on Climate Change in 2019, the 32 boroughs and the City of London have worked collectively to develop action plans for the seven themes with the Climate Programme. The seven themes are led by London's boroughs, and each brings together a range of key strategic partners to collaborate on our city's biggest climate challenges.

Retrofit London

Lead Boroughs: LB Enfield / LB Waltham Forest

- Scale retrofit across London to increase the number of homes retrofitted to EPC B or above

Low Carbon Development

Lead Borough: LB Hackney

- Strengthen the delivery of low carbon buildings and support boroughs to be leaders in low carbon development

Low Carbon Transport:

Lead Boroughs: RB Kingston / City of Westminster

- Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel from 2019 to 2030

Renewable Power for London:

Lead Borough: currently recruiting

- Secure 100% renewable power for the public sector now and in the future

One World Living

Lead Borough: LB Harrow (in partnership with West London Waste Authority and ReLondon)

- Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, textiles, electronics and plastics

Building the Green Economy

Lead Borough: LB Hounslow

- Double the size of the green economy in London by 2030

Creating a resilient and Green London

Lead Borough: LB Southwark / RB Kensington & Chelsea

- Develop a strong shared vision for a London that is environmentally, socially and economically resilient to the changing climate

2023/24

2024/25

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

Retrofit London

Develop a programme of retrofit training for council staff

Build a pipeline of London retrofit projects

Deliver outcomes-based funding & delivery model

Launch the HUG 2 programme

Low Carbon Development

Launch policy toolkit for low carbon development

Deliver training programme for borough planning teams

Publish research on potential for cross-laminated timber in new developments

Low Carbon Transport

Publish research & tools to support funding for active travel infrastructure

Invest £35 million and develop sub-regional partnerships to coordinate delivery of EV charging infrastructure

Produce consistent methodology for transport emission data and borough level baseline data for London

Publish study on zero carbon alternatives for the freight, services and delivery industry

Support boroughs introducing rental schemes for e-bikes and e-scooters

Renewable Power for London

Evaluate the current energy advice model across the capital

Assess energy-related capacity and capability gaps within boroughs

Support and coordinate London's heat zoning plans

Build the London net zero energy infrastructure pipeline

Deliver Local Areas Energy Plans across London sub-regions

Deliver a collaboratively procured, replicable Power Purchase Agreement for London boroughs

One World Living

Promote consumption-based emissions accounting across all London boroughs

Use textile material flow analysis to raise awareness of textile emissions with boroughs

Deliver phase 2 of *Eat Like A Londoner* campaign

Develop a low plastic commitment for councils, and procurement commitment for key materials

Work with boroughs to scale resident-facing initiatives

Launch Phase 3 of TRAIID refresh campaign

Building the Green Economy

Assess green skills provision relative to employment opportunity and market demand

Map and analyse best practice green finance and support for SMEs

Support mobilisation of financing for Net Zero Neighbourhoods and develop Net Zero projects pipeline for London

Publish monitoring and evaluation framework and metrics for green economy growth

Publish analysis of public sector procurement pipeline, identifying green economy growth opportunities

Resilient and Green

Review London's governance and partnership arrangements for climate resilience

Create a framework for local planning on adaptation-related data and information sharing

Develop a blueprint for borough adaptation plans

Publish borough guidance on identifying, mitigating and managing climate risks

Our Achievements So Far

Since 2020 the lead boroughs and other key Programme partners have:

- Undertaken **essential development work** to scope the themes, engaging other boroughs and key partners to assess need, opportunities, and potential for collaborative action across multiple strands of each theme
- **Published action plans** for each theme, which have been approved by London Councils' Leaders Committee and Transport & Environment Committee
- Developed two-year **implementation plans**, identified key deliverables for 2023-24, and assessed the resource requirements to deliver this first phase of implementation and build a sustainable longer-term programme of work
- Established robust **governance arrangements**, including lead boroughs for each theme and a pan-London Climate Oversight Group, with representatives from the Chief Executives of London Committee, and the professional groupings for Environment, Public Health, Housing and Finance Directors
- Formed knowledge partnerships that bring together London's leading academic institutions with each of the themes to strengthen the connection between the Climate Programme and evidence, research and evaluation

Alongside this, the Programme has already started to roll out priority actions that will deliver economies of scale and tangible successes against boroughs' shared priorities, and build our practical collaboration on these key climate goals. This includes:

- Investing in boroughs' in-house retrofit skills and increasing communities' capacity, in partnership with the GLA
- Developing a replicable model for Power Purchase Agreements to increase long-term certainty over price and reduce risk to boroughs in securing renewable power for their operations
- Launching a London cohort for neighbourhood-based climate financing models
- Commissioning joint research and evidence bases on carbon offset funding, transport pathways to net zero, the green economy, low carbon development in Local Plans and community-powered retrofit
- Launching practical tools, including retrofit training for boroughs, a low carbon diet campaign, new textile collection services and information packs for schools
- Developing innovation pilots and new corporate partnerships to drive behaviour change on object repair and able-to-pay retrofit, in partnership with the London Office for Technology & Innovation, with seed funding from GLA

What Does Success Look Like?

Successful delivery of the next phase of the Programme will accelerate our collective skills and capability, governance, investment and confidence to deliver climate action, and put London more securely on the path to delivering a just transition to net zero and climate resilience by closing the gap between policy and delivery.

It will build on our strong, existing foundations by putting in place more accessible data and robust evidence across every theme at a range of spatial scales, underpinned by partnerships with experts in the public, private and third sectors and in academia.

This will in turn inform guidance, toolkits and approaches to addressing shared challenges, from net zero planning, sub-regional Local Area Energy Plans and community co-design for circular consumption, to designing Net Zero Neighbourhoods and borough adaptation plans.

The Programme will support boroughs and their communities will deliver more of the climate infrastructure we need over the next two years, including EV charging, heat networks and green infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change that we are already seeing. Alongside supporting borough-led action, our work will empower our communities, for example to access advice and support to retrofit their homes.

Cumulatively, these initiatives will transform the scale and effectiveness of climate delivery across London. The Programme will strengthen Londoners' engagement in this area and help us to design climate action in a fair and equitable way, maximising co-benefits. It will also improve London's multi-asset climate infrastructure pipeline, design replicable, scalable financing and delivery models and to develop policy and regulatory proposal to unlock further action.

Implementation Plans

Retrofit London

LB Enfield and LB Waltham Forest

Our focus is on scaling residential retrofit across London, increasing the number of homes retrofitted to EPC B or above and in doing so reducing energy costs for Londoners at the same time as reducing emissions. Over the next two years Retrofit London will work on the factors that will enable us to scale retrofit in London, such as policy, partnerships, finance and funding, skills, data, coordination, and technical solutions.

Retrofit London will support and connect boroughs and their partners to develop new funding and delivery models. It will become the centre of collaboration and innovation for our city; a trusted partner to regional and central government and the private sector with the ability to bring knowledge of delivery to policy and investment discussions.

Current and Planned Work

October – December 2023: Building knowledge and capacity on retrofit is essential for successful delivery. We will deliver a programme of training for council staff to develop the skills and knowledge needed for retrofit.

October – December 2023: To support borough-led retrofit, we will create guidance and support including on leaseholders, engagement and integrating retrofit into repairs and maintenance programmes. We will also facilitate regular practitioner network meetings to enable peer learning.

January – March 2024: We will develop an outcomes-based funding and delivery model for retrofit in London. This will include an options appraisal to identify approaches to scale retrofit.

July – September 2024: As part of our work on community engagement for retrofit, we will create pilots to trial new approaches to engaging Londoners on retrofit. We will also collate best practice and learning to support boroughs, housing associations and other landlords.

July – September 2024: We will collate data to build a pipeline of London's retrofit projects to inform skills planning, procurement and delivery approaches, and funding finance.

January – March 2025: We will deliver the London-wide Home Upgrade Grant 2 Programme in partnership with GLA. This will support over 500 low income homes to receive measures to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills, in turn reducing the burden on local authority teams.

Co-benefits

By retrofitting homes, we can bring down people's energy usage, which in turn reduces bills and tackles fuel poverty. This is just one of the ways that climate action can contribute to equity and help disadvantaged Londoners.

Low Carbon Development

LB Hackney

London's councils are ambitious about achieving low carbon development and in challenging themselves and each other to go further and faster. They recognise that low carbon development will not only reduce emissions but also help create buildings that enable occupants to have healthier, more sustainable lives and to better cope with a changing climate. This theme aims to provide the support boroughs need to achieve low carbon outcomes through policy, research, guidance, and learning.

Over the next two years this theme will provide councils with the support they need to lead low carbon development and strengthen collaboration across London. We will provide resources and training for borough planning teams, support to strengthen strategic leadership on low carbon development, research to drive innovation and policy development, greater recognition of best practice and improved access to information to allow Londoners to take action on their own homes.

Current and Planned Work

July – September 2023: We will produce a London low carbon outcomes policy toolkit. This toolkit will contain guidance, draft policies and resources to enable borough planning teams to secure low carbon development.

July – September 2023: During 2023, we will be working to increase access to retrofit information for residents in conservation areas. This will provide clear guidance in each borough on the benefits, process, and priority steps for achieving low carbon in conservation areas.

July 2023 – March 2025: As part of our ongoing work to improve through collaboration and champion the work happening in London, we will continue to focus on engagement and awareness. This will include events for members, borough planning and development teams to share, promote and celebrate best practice.

April – June 2024: The theme will work to encourage the take up of low carbon materials and technology. We will produce a research report on the potential of new materials in London's new development with recommendations for policy makers.

April – June 2024: A Low Carbon Development Learning Programme will be developed with training modules for London's planning teams to strengthen the application of policy.

April – June 2024: We recognise the cost of the climate emergency to all local authorities and will conduct work linking carbon offset pricing with the cost for London's boroughs of offsetting carbon emissions. Through this, we will implement a carbon offset pricing increase across London boroughs.

Co-benefits

By increasing the amount of good quality low carbon development, we are increasing the demand for jobs and skills in the green economy.

Low Carbon Transport

RB Kingston and City of Westminster

Our goal is to halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel and encourage sustainable and active travel options. Our focus over the next two years will be to strengthen London's data and evidence on pathways and interventions to reduce transport emissions, while providing support and guidance for boroughs to implement low carbon transport strategies and infrastructure. This theme will develop London's sub-regional approach to EV charging planning and roll-out to enable the shift to EVs, while providing support and coordination for the successful expansion of micro-mobility.

The ambition for Low Carbon Transport is to become the centre of practice, data, and expertise for London local government on transport decarbonisation. We will become an effective convener of boroughs to help align and accelerate policy development and allow net zero interventions to be delivered at scale by building coalitions of the willing. By bringing together boroughs it can also support councils to be an effective strategic partner to Transport for London and the Department for Transport on shared climate goals.

Current and Planned Work

October – December 2023: To enable active travel infrastructure, the theme will produce research and a toolkit for boroughs on approaches to funding, including guidance for boroughs on the barriers and levers for active travel infrastructure roll out in the planning system.

October 2023 – March 2026: The provision of EV charging infrastructure is essential to accelerating the transition to electric vehicles. We will develop sub-regional partnerships to coordinate the planning and implementation of EV charging infrastructure plans and invest £35 million over the next three years to double the number of on-street charge points in London.

January – March 2024: One of our main priorities is strengthening our knowledge of data, evidence, and pathways to net zero. We will explore a consistent methodology for transport emission data and borough level baseline data for London.

April – June 2024: To support boroughs to use parking levers for decarbonisation, we will commission an evidence base for the carbon impact of CPZs, kerbside strategies, and net zero-led parking permits. We will also produce guidance and best practice to enable boroughs to implement kerbside strategies.

July – September 2024: Active travel is vital in the move to sustainable transport. Low Carbon Transport will create an evidence base for active travel, with a report summarising the benefits of active travel interventions, including health and other co-benefits, and how to communicate this to strengthen borough engagement. We will also create a programme of member training and dissemination to boroughs with resources enable them to implement behaviour change campaigns.

October – December 2024: We will work with the London Environment Directors' Network to explore common policy positions on future road user charging and produce a road user charging policy options paper.

October – December 2024: As part of our aim to decarbonise the freight sector, we will commission a study to determine the challenges faced by the Freight, Servicing and Deliveries industry in replacing London's fleet by 2030-2040 with zero carbon alternatives. The study will also look at how

the industry will replace some journeys with walking, cycling and small EV alternatives, and the levers that boroughs have to make change.

January – March 2025: We will support boroughs in introducing rental schemes for e-bikes and e-scooters and aid London's long-term strategy on micro-mobility rental services. This will involve delivering two phases of an e-scooter trial that prioritises safety, collects data on usage, and assesses the scheme's environmental impact. The theme will also explore procurement for a single contract for rental e-scooters and e-bikes in London that is carried out in line with environmental best practice.

Co-benefits

From making healthy, active and low-cost travel more accessible, to reducing air pollution as we move to zero carbon alternatives, low carbon transport improves the health of Londoners and tackles health inequalities.

Renewable Power for London

Our aim is to deliver 100% renewable power for London's public sector, now and in the future. Over the next two years, Renewable Power for London (RP4L) will support public sector bodies to increase their procurement of renewable energy by developing a model for collective Power Purchase Agreements that can be replicated by groups of boroughs, supporting grid decarbonisation and increasing certainty over long-term energy costs.

The theme will look to accelerate the development and delivery of decentralised energy by supporting boroughs to develop the skills and capacity they need, exploring financing and delivery models, considering regulatory issues and strengthening planning, data and coordination through the roll out of sub-regional Local Area Energy Plans. This work will be undertaken in partnership with GLA.

The theme will also work with GLA, boroughs and the Voluntary and Community Sector to review London's energy advice services to ensure they are supporting residents to access renewable power effectively, while reducing energy costs and contributing to decarbonisation.

Current and Planned Work

October 2023 – March 2024: RP4L will support boroughs to make full use of the new statutory powers on heat zoning across London to accelerate the decarbonisation of heat. This will involve coordinating heat zoning plans with infrastructure plans to build a holistic understanding of London's net zero infrastructure needs and pipeline. We will also provide support to boroughs to engage strategically with heat zone planning to develop their new functions, and link heat networks to building retrofit delivery.

January – March 2024: Strategic leadership in London boroughs is vital to delivering a net zero energy system. To address this, we will undertake an assessment of energy-related capacity and capability gaps within boroughs including overall technical, financial and leadership skills and model job descriptions, approaches to organisational support and governance models for LAEP delivery. To support this, a dynamic resource that brings together information and best practice on funding, financing and investment and skills and development on energy will be put in place for boroughs.

April – June 2024: We will undertake an evaluation of the current energy advice model across the capital with delivery partners, the GLA and other stakeholders. We will then create proposals to

strengthen current services and review and improve information available to all Londoners to support decarbonisation.

July – September 2024: We will support the creation of a small suite of energy catalysts that can accelerate borough’s learning around delivery models, and input this work into an updated, dynamic 3Ci Net Zero Project Pipeline for all net zero projects.

January – March 2015: We will work with the GLA to deliver sub-regional LAEPs (stages 1 – 4), including clear roles and responsibilities for boroughs and the GLA, together with engagement around how boroughs can deliver steps 5 – 7, which complete the LAEP process. We will link these plans and the boroughs’ role to the new regulatory system for energy management and set up a practitioner’s group to reflect aims around leadership and to build up technical expertise and capabilities within the boroughs.

January – March 2025: We will work to procure 100% renewable energy for London’s public sector, establishing options for shared routes to market and delivering a collaboratively procured Power Purchase Agreement for a group of London boroughs with the potential for this to be replicated by further groups of boroughs and public sector partners.

Co-benefits

By working to decarbonise our energy systems and build more local infrastructure solutions, we will increase jobs and skills in net zero energy, increase our city’s economic resilience to fluctuating energy supplies and costs to make savings for Londoners, and unlock wider regeneration based on secure net zero energy connections.

One World Living

LB Harrow in partnership with West London Waste Authority and ReLondon

This theme’s goal is to reduce consumption emissions by focusing on food, textiles, electricals, and plastics. Over the next two years, OWL will focus on creating a city-wide and bottom-up model of consumption-based emissions reduction.

We will continue to focus on the three main action areas we have identified where local authorities can make a real difference:

- 1) **Engaging with Communities:** We will enable London boroughs to support businesses and residents to take practical actions
- 2) **Data-Driven & Influencing Policy:** We will develop good data which London can rely upon and influence change
- 3) **Our Organisations:** We will help London boroughs reduce our own consumption emissions and walk the talk

The outputs the theme seeks to create are 1) a **culture of sustainability** amongst Londoners where new attitudes and behaviours around diet, sustainable product choices, food waste, repair, reuse recycling and refills are normalised, and 2) an **enabling environment** where Londoners are provided with accessible and convenient means to take practical actions in these areas.

Current and Planned Work

Ongoing from July 2023: As part of our aim to develop good data, we will promote consumption-based emissions accounting across all London boroughs and work on their incorporation into local climate action strategies.

Ongoing from July 2023: Using textile material flow analysis, we will raise awareness of textile emissions with London boroughs and develop actions and interventions that local authorities can take (subject to funding) to enable residents to reduce emissions within this material theme.

October – December 2024: We will also develop a plastics material flow analysis, subject to funding.

Phase 2 from October 2023: We will continue to engage with communities through the delivery of the pan-London food campaign (Eat Like a Londoner) focusing on sustainable diet and food waste.

July – September 2024: The theme will scale resident facing initiatives. Across each material theme, we will work with boroughs to scale up existing models and/or pilot new initiatives, e.g., school-based refill stations, local repair cafes, local rental schemes.

July – September 2024: To support and influence sustainable change in our organisations, we will improve procurement by London boroughs by developing and implementing a low plastic commitment for councils, and implementing sustainable and circular food, textiles and electricals procurement commitments.

January – March 2025: TRAIID textile collections reduce the clothes sent to landfill and extend the lifecycle of clothing. We will expand collections by rolling out phase 3 of the TRAIID refresh campaign with the final 11 boroughs.

Co-benefits

One World Living's community-led approach to helping Londoners make more sustainable choices – particularly by repairing and reusing their items and tackling food waste – will strengthen our community relationships, help us to engage with our residents better, and support people to save money.

Building the Green Economy

LB Hounslow

This theme's goal is to double the size of the green economy in London. Over the next two years Building the Green Economy will focus on building a robust evidence base for boroughs to act to support the growth of the green economy in their area and ensure a just transition. It will develop data and metrics to enable London to collectively track its progress and identify the right interventions.

Alongside this, the theme will grow London's understanding of the skills and business support needed to ensure the growth of key sectors and engage partners in developing plans to address these gaps. And, working with 3Ci – the Cities Commission for Climate Investment, it will test and develop new models for financing and delivering climate infrastructure and support boroughs to navigate the right funding sources for their projects.

Current and Planned Work

October 2023 – March 2024: We will support the growth of green small and medium-sized enterprises by producing best practice analysis and mapping of effective green finance and support programmes.

October 2023 – March 2024: Part A - To ensure that London is equipped with the green skills needed for a changing economy, the theme will produce an assessment of current green skills provision relative to employment opportunity and market demand.

October 2023 – March 2024, delivered after Part A: Part B - We will engage partners, including other themes, to agree interventions to address gaps through a green skills plan.

January – March 2024: To help mobilise finance for the green economy transition we will: set up a cohort of boroughs to develop Net Zero neighbourhoods and share methodology for identifying areas and feasibility of Net-Zero neighbourhoods learned via a community of practice;

October – December 2023: To strengthen the data, insight and research to grow the green economy, we will create a monitoring and evaluation framework and metrics to track the growth of the green economy and just transition.

January – March 2025: We will collate guidance to support boroughs to access appropriate green financing; and support development of a robust Net Zero Projects pipeline for London, and associated skills and capabilities within boroughs.

January – March 2025: To ensure that public procurement supports the green economy, we will produce analysis of the public sector procurement and projects pipeline to identify key opportunities for green economy business.

Co-benefits

This theme will create local economic opportunity, contributing to thriving high streets and neighbourhoods. Its work on skills development will also ensure a just transition to a more sustainable economy – equipping our residents for the future, so no one is left behind.

Creating a Resilient and Green London

LB Southwark and RB Kensington & Chelsea

This theme's goal is to help London become environmentally, socially and economically resilient to the changing climate, in a way that safeguards and enhances green and blue infrastructure and ensures that they are equally accessible to all. Over the next two years, we will focus on developing a strong shared vision for a climate resilient London and strengthening London local government's strategic adaptation capacity.

The theme will focus on developing effective partnership, governance and leadership arrangements to manage London's key climate risks. These will be supported by the identification, collation and promotion of the data and evidence needed by boroughs to effectively understand climate risks and to assess the impact we are having on London's resilience.

In two years, we will have identified and promoted good practice on adaptation for London's councils – for example, developing toolkits and resources for producing local adaptation plans or incorporating adaptation into CAPs, Local Plans, and risk management frameworks.

Current and Planned Work

October – December 2023: Resilient and Green will review London's governance and partnership arrangements on climate resilience with recommendations and actions for improvement to support pan-London and local area coordination as part of our strategic partnership development.

October – December 2023: To ensure London's climate resilience, we will create integrated plans and guidance with other the other climate themes to ensure adaptation and resilience are incorporated across all our work. Projects in themes such as Low Carbon Development, Retrofit London, and Low Carbon Transport will benefit from consideration of climate adaptation, as well as emissions reduction, to ensure our homes and infrastructure are fully adapted for the future.

January – March 2024: To develop data and an evidence base on adaptation we will create frameworks and guidance for data and information sharing. This will support boroughs to identify, monitor and respond to climate risk as well as give improved access to research for boroughs on flood, drought and heat to inform local planning.

April – June 2024: We will develop a blueprint and guidance for boroughs to develop their adaptation plans.

January – March 2025: To strengthen borough leadership and capacity on adaptation, we will collate best practice for boroughs to effectively identify, manage and mitigate climate risks. Guidance will be produced on defining and developing strategic adaptation leadership roles within councils and access to training to support leaders in their roles.

Co-benefits

By strengthening our preparation for extreme weather events, we will better support the health and wellbeing of our residents, particularly those most exposed to climate risk. We will also ensure local areas across London continue to be attractive places to live, work, play and invest.

How will the programme impact on places?



Funding and Financing

The cost of achieving net zero and effectively adapting to a changing climate far exceeds the current funding available to local government. Taking retrofit alone, our modelling suggests we would need £49bn to retrofit all of London's 3.8 million properties to EPC B. Nationally, the Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that it will cost the UK £1.4tn by 2050 to eliminate all domestically produced greenhouse gases, or 0.6% of GDP per year (£417b by 2050) once the financial benefits to households are factored in.

While the costs of inaction are far greater, there is a clear need to find new ways to fund and finance the transition that is fair and equitable. That is why over the next two years we will be working with partners to develop new delivery models, and continuing to speak out on the important role of public sector funding in driving innovation and catalysing wider, deeper private sector investment.

The Programme will continue to develop the strategic leadership on green finance and investment that London Councils has built to date, notably our founding membership of 3Ci – the Cities Commission on Climate Investment. The significant net zero capital investment requirement across London represents a compelling investment opportunity for private sector partners. Whilst this reflects borough-level project pipeline, it can also be aggregated through the Programme to make more attractive propositions, for example around heat networks or EV charging infrastructure.

To unlock this, we will work with 3Ci, the GLA and other partners to support capacity and leadership within boroughs to attract and manage investment, build a credible London net zero projects pipeline, develop and test innovative financial models (including Net Zero Neighbourhoods), support strategic government and investor engagement and support peer learning on green finance.

The evolution of the Climate Programme outlined in this plan has been underpinned by £2 million of funding from the London boroughs, together with funding from the London Housing Directors' group for Retrofit London and enhanced resourcing from London Councils. Together this will enable and accelerate the project delivery outlined above and help to put London local government on a secure pathway to net zero and a climate-adapted city.

Over the next two years the Programme will develop further options for longer-term resourcing of the core capacity required. This will be founded on engagement with a wide range of external partners, including central government, the GLA and partners in the private sector.

Synergies and Cross-Cutting Issues

Across the Programme there are many actions that rely on similar approaches, such as behavioural change, or have the potential to generate similar benefits, such as green jobs and skills. We refer to these as synergies. As we move towards the next phase of the Programme, we will look at the opportunities to further harness and coordinate action in these areas to accelerate progress and strengthen impact.

Behavioural change

Many activities within the themes rely on encouraging and enabling behaviour change amongst Londoners. We know that community-led engagement and co-design can be powerful tools for encouraging individual action, as the recent Community-Powered Retrofit report from Retrofit London outlined, and indeed as many borough Climate Action Plans have demonstrated.

The themes will work with their knowledge partners to build up our understanding of how councils can effectively inform, engage and collaborate with communities to develop climate solutions that work for local areas.

Green jobs and skills

London has an exciting opportunity to accelerate its growing green economy and deliver new jobs and skills in a range of climate-related sectors both within and beyond boroughs own staff. This new workforce will underpin delivery across climate action, including in our themes, and is therefore a key shared ambition across the Programme. The way in which we support these new opportunities must be inclusive and deliver good jobs for disadvantages groups including low income and young Londoners. Building the Green Economy are addressing this head on, with metrics to track equitable participation in green jobs and skills opportunities already agreed.

Low Carbon Transport will be reviewing the skills needed to achieving the objectives of their Programme, in collaboration with Building the Green Economy. Low Carbon Development are creating a Programme with training modules for London's planning teams to strengthen the application of policy. London Councils itself is leading a piece of work to develop climate training for all borough officers. Going forward, our lead boroughs will reflect upon and discuss opportunities for further collaboration on skills development.

Data

Data, monitoring, and evaluation is critical to all seven themes. We need a baseline to understand the challenge, measure progress and impacts, and create strong evidence-led cases for action, investment, and funding.

Our lead boroughs are working on how to overcome the challenges of collecting and standardising data and developing partnerships with organisations such as the London Office of Technology and Innovation to create innovative approaches to harnessing data from other sectors to strengthen insight. We will prioritise reporting and sharing to ensure the coordination of information on our shared areas of interest.

Built environment

The built environment, placemaking and planning systems are a key enabler of local climate action. Many of the themes include thinking on how we improve our infrastructure – from construction and

energy decarbonisation, transport infrastructure and climate-resilience to how we can shape local places to support green economies, sustainable consumption and behaviours and action on green skills.

We will work together to holistically consider what local authorities can do across all these themes, to maximise impact whilst making effective use of resource.

Co-benefits

Climate action can create powerful benefits for other agendas – making local places more liveable, stimulating the economy, tackling poverty and inequality, and reducing costs to the NHS by improving wellbeing and reducing environmental risks. By designing climate policy and measures to meet several objectives simultaneously, we can deliver greater benefits for the community we serve.

Stronger Communities

Effective climate action requires ‘bottom-up’ and community-led approaches that either directly tackle climate change or target related areas, such as making streets cleaner and greener. This can support community cohesion, strong local neighbourhoods, citizen empowerment and a range of other co-benefits.

Examples within the Programme include the One World Living work on repair solutions, which will help develop local skills hubs and skills-sharing programmes – strengthening local neighbourhoods and intergenerational relationships. Similarly, the Green Economy and Resilient and Green themes will help ensure our local high streets and neighbourhoods are connected, vibrant and future proofed. This in turn will help with community cohesion, safety, and wellbeing.

Improved Health and Wellbeing

The potential health benefits of climate action are manifold – whether it’s warmer, healthier homes, improved air quality, increased exercise from active travel, the mental health benefits of a greener city or reduced stress around flooding or heat risks.

Examples of measures with positive health impacts include: Low Carbon Transport supporting the expansion of EV charging points to enable the switch from fossil fuel vehicles; Low Carbon Development strengthening boroughs’ capacity and capability to create more fuel efficient homes that are resilient to changing weather; or Resilient & Green strengthening our capacity to support people’s health and safety during heatwaves. The latter is an ever growing concern, with the Office for National Statistics identifying 3,271 excess deaths during the five spells officially classed as “heat periods” during June and August 2022.¹ We will also be continuing to strengthen our work with health partners – including the Association for Directors of Public Health and the NHS – to maximise and target these benefits.

Enhanced Economic Opportunity, Employment and Skills

By investing in initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and developing the local and regional green economy, we can create a wealth of economic opportunity. For example, we estimate that total green jobs in London will rise from 234,000 in 2020, to 505,000 in 2030 and then a little over 1 million in 2050.² Many of our themes are focused on building London’s knowledge, capacity and readiness to deliver on our climate ambition. This requires initiatives to create green jobs and support skills development, including upskilling within local government.

¹ ONS, 2022, ‘Excess mortality during heat-periods, England and Wales’,

² WPI and IES, 2021, ‘Green Jobs and Skills in London: cross-London report’

Our Building the Green Economy theme is dedicated to London's green economy growth, including green skills development. And with leadership from this theme, the Programme is also working to mobilise new investment into boroughs, including by supporting a robust net zero projects pipeline for London and collating green finance guidance for boroughs. Other Programme strands will also contribute, for example, coordinating a stronger pipeline of home retrofit and energy investment will increase the construction sector's confidence and willingness to deliver jobs and investment alongside us, while One World Living will support the development of repair skills in local communities.

Strengthened Economic and Community Resilience

By taking steps to decarbonise and adapt our communities we can improve their resilience to climate shocks. We are already seeing the impact of climate change in London – from the cost impacts of fuel and food insecurity, to the financial and insurance impacts of floods and fires, to the health impacts of heat on our communities. Over 200,000 properties in London are at risk of surface water flooding and one in ten households in our city are struggling to pay their energy bills during the winter months.³ These climate risks have a greater impact on those with fewest resources and have the potential to widen inequality over time. This has implications for education, productivity, and investment certainty as well as health, wellbeing, and inequalities.

Our work will increase the resilience of our city in a multitude of ways. Action taken through the Programme will help prepare our economy and infrastructure for future changes such as the transition to electric vehicles. The Resilient and Green theme will provide data and planning support to help London withstand the impacts of climate change, such as flooding, drought, and heat. Renewable Power for London will help reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and create options for longer-term renewable energy contracts, helping to reduce exposure to price volatility and changes in supply. All of this will help ensure London remains a place people can confidently invest in their futures – whether as citizens or businesses.

Equitable transition

Delivering a just transition for London means creating equitable solutions that support the communities most exposed to the effects of climate change.

For example, NO₂ concentrations in ethnically diverse areas of London are on average 16% to 27% higher than in majority white areas; racial and ethnic disparities in exposure to air pollution remain even when you adjust for deprivation.⁴ Many of our Programme themes are taking steps to reduce air pollution in London, including Low Carbon Transport who are strengthening our evidence around pathways to reducing transport emissions that drive NO₂ concentrations. They will produce consistent methodology for transport emission data and borough level baseline data for London.

We know that low-income households are increasingly facing a choice between heating their homes and sacrificing other essentials such as eating. Retrofit for London will address this inequality by reducing fuel poverty for the most vulnerable; for example, through the Home Upgrade Grant Programme which will support over 500 low-income homes to reduce their energy bills.

³ The Greater London Authority, 2023, 'London Under Water'

⁴ The Greater London Authority, 2019, 'Air Pollution and Inequalities in London'

There are a number of other policy solutions across the Programme strands which need to be designed consciously to deliver a just transition. For example, the Resilient & Green theme will work on how we use data to ensure equal protection from heat and flooding; One World Living will explore repair, reuse, and food sustainability solutions that can also support people with the cost of living; and green skills will be considered through the lens of increasing equality. By taking this approach, the Programme will tackle inequalities and help us build a future that is fairer as well as more sustainable.

Central Resourcing and Enablers: London Councils' role

London Councils' role is to coordinate and enable boroughs and our partners to deliver the activities set out above. We do that by putting in place cross cutting support like finance, policy and capacity, by providing a robust governance framework and by championing the Programme and boroughs' climate delivery.

Resourcing and partnerships

The funding recently secured from boroughs will enable London Councils to enhance this core support by creating a dedicated climate delivery team and commissioning budget to support the lead boroughs. The team will work with our lead boroughs and partners to accelerate the development and roll out of the Programme across London and strengthen the connections and learning across the Programmes' themes.

Boroughs have made a significant investment in London Councils' Climate Programme, but the level of investment needed to achieve our goals requires us to look for further funding and partnerships that can bring the right resources and expertise together. Local government has a valuable convening role in developing and implementing climate action and through the climate Programme we aim to bring together the right partners from government, the private, public and community sectors. London Councils will support and coordinate the development of new partnerships, delivery models and funding relationships across the Programme.

Communications, engagement and advocacy

London Councils will lead on communications and engagement for the Programme; raising awareness of London's climate action and strengthening knowledge sharing across London local government. We recognise that as a capital and a global city London has a responsibility to contribute to the growing community of practice on cities' climate action; we will work to capture and share our learning with the public and our wider partners through existing networks and our communications channels.

The Programme's objectives also require a supportive national policy and resourcing environment, so we can scale up delivery and generate real impact in the long term. London Councils will coordinate our climate policy positions, building on learning from the Programme, and lobby for the tools that boroughs' need to deliver their climate commitments, including relevant powers, resources, and national government leadership.

Monitoring, data and equity

Over the next two years London Councils will support the climate Programme by putting in place the data and monitoring arrangements that will enable us collectively to track our progress and build a stronger evidence base for the next phase of the Programme. This includes developing our equality analysis so that we are able to understand and effectively mitigate the risks climate change poses to London's communities and the risks of action and inaction.

Governance and Oversight

The London Councils Climate Programme 2023-25 has been agreed by the Leaders' Committee and endorsed by the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC). These committees provide political oversight and direction to the work of the Programme. In the next phase, their remit will be strengthened to ensure they have input into the strategic direction of the themes, can monitor Programme delivery, and are able to effectively advocate for them. London Councils will report on the Programme to the Leaders Committee and TEC Executive twice yearly and provide access to live monitoring data once established in year 2. This will create the robust systems of accountability that the Programme will need to thrive.

The Climate Oversight Group acts as the portfolio board for the Programme, with representation from each of the lead boroughs and London Councils' professional networks including the Association of Directors of Public Health London, the London Environment Directors' Network, the Chief Executives of London Committee, the Society of London Treasurers and the London Housing Directors' Network. This Group meets five times per year and has overall responsibility for the delivery of this implementation plan, as well as overseeing the allocation of resources across the themes and monitoring and supporting overall delivery. The Oversight Group will also actively disseminate progress reports back into London's professional networks and the boroughs to engage them in the Programme's development. In this way, we will ensure that our key stakeholders continue to have strategic oversight over the Programme and that the themes are coordinated to deliver maximum impact.

At the operational level, each theme has a Steering Group that brings together the range of partners involved in contributing and leading that strand of the Programme, chaired by the lead borough. These Steering Groups will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of the theme's projects, making day to day decisions on the use of resources, ensuring value for money and building effective partnerships.

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