

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis	
REPORT OF Cabinet member for a Sustainable Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO FULL COUNCIL	7 October 2019
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report provides background information on the recent Citizen's Assembly on the climate crisis to support the full Council meeting on the climate emergency on 7 October.</p> <p>It provides an overview of carbon dioxide emissions in Camden and the impact they have on climate change, before explaining how the Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis ran.</p> <p>The report summarises the key findings of the Citizens' Assembly and then explains how the Assembly proposals will be developed into a new Climate Action Plan for Camden.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report</p> <p>Contact Officer: Harold Garner, Head of Sustainability, Air Quality and Energy harold.garner@camden.gov.uk 020 7974 2701 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That Council considers the report and uses it to help inform the debate at full Council on 7 October 2019</p>	

Signed: David T. Joyce
Date: 25th September 2019

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This paper provides background information on Camden's work to address the climate emergency for the full Council meeting on 7 October.

2 Climate change and Camden

- 2.1 Climate change is driven by carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions caused by the combustion of fossil fuels (gas, oil, coal etc.). In Camden, 90% of CO₂ emissions within the borough boundary result from heating and powering buildings and 10% are caused by road transport. Emissions from within the borough boundary are known as Scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- 2.2 Camden also contributes to CO₂ emissions beyond the borough boundary through the consumption patterns and life-style choices of residents and the supply chains of businesses and organisations. These "non-territorial" emissions are known as Scope 3 emissions.
- 2.3 Camden's borough-wide Scope 1 and 2 CO₂ emissions have reduced significantly since 2010, with latest national data showing that per capita CO₂ emissions in Camden now stand at 4.1 tonnes/annum/person. Progress has been strongly supported by the impact of national electricity grid decarbonisation and by Council-led programmes focused on improving the energy efficiency of buildings and encouraging more sustainable forms of transport.
- 2.4 The "non-territorial" or "Scope 3" emissions are harder to assess given the complexity of measuring emissions from supply chains and consumer behaviour. However, a 2015 London-wide study concluded that accounting for Scope 3 emissions increased per capita CO₂ emissions of a typical Londoner from around 5 to 15 tonnes of CO₂ per annum (1,200 tonnes over an 80-year life).
- 2.5 To put a Londoner's notional 1,200 tonnes of lifetime CO₂ emissions into a global context, the emissions reduction necessary to keep global heating below 2 degrees as proposed in the UN Paris Agreement on climate change, would require the lifetime carbon allowance of someone born today to be limited to approximately 120 tonnes – a tenth of current levels.

3 Progress to date in Camden

- 3.1 Camden's existing 10-year environmental sustainability plan, Green Action for Change, which runs to 2020, has demonstrated that the Council can develop and enable a strong and sustained borough-wide response to environmental challenges.
- 3.2 Scope 1 and 2 CO₂ emissions are now 38% below 2010 levels and CO₂ emissions from our own estate 34% lower. Camden has led by example

through exemplar low carbon energy projects such as Somers Town Energy, which now sees over 500 homes and the refurbished Edith Neville School supplied with low carbon heat, and low carbon electricity also being generated for sale.

- 3.3 Across our housing estates over 90% of cavity wall homes are now insulated, cutting energy bills for residents, while our Well and Warm free home energy visit service provides our most vulnerable residents with low cost energy efficiency improvements.
- 3.4 Across our corporate estate, we continue to roll out carbon reduction initiatives such as the recently completed solar array at the Grade II listed Swiss Cottage Library, where the Citizens' Assembly first met in early July, which is meeting around 8% of the building's energy demand.
- 3.5 The Swiss Cottage library solar project demonstrates that it is possible to find the right balance between energy and heritage conservation. This project was partly made possible because Camden was the first London borough to produce energy efficiency planning guidance for heritage buildings and conservation areas that explicitly recognised the public benefit of mitigating climate change.
- 3.6 We are also seeking to establish greener planning policies for planning policy framework areas such as the Kentish Town Goods Yard which sets a zero carbon and zero emission ambition for all new development.
- 3.7 Sustainable transport is key priority for this administration with our recently adopted Camden Transport Strategy and Clean Air Action Plan both showing how improved cycling infrastructure, electric vehicle charging and walking routes will combine to drive down private car use.
- 3.8 Projects that demonstrate the reach of our Clean Air And Camden Transport Strategy programmes include the West End Project, which is transforming Tottenham Court Road; the Transport for London funded "Liveable Neighbourhoods" redesign of Holborn, which will provide more space for cyclists and pedestrians; and the proposal for a Low Emission Neighbourhood in Camden Town, which in June won funding from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund.
- 3.9 However, despite this strong environmental progress over the last 10 years in Camden, we know we have to go further and faster if we are to respond the climate emergency. The work of the Citizens' Assembly is invaluable in shaping Camden's future environmental work.

4 The Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis

- 4.1 The decision to hold the Citizens' Assembly on the climate crisis was made in April 2019 as part of Camden's "climate emergency" declaration.

- 4.2 Camden's Citizens' Assembly was the first in the UK and met over three sessions in July to consider evidence and develop proposals about how to reduce Scope 1, 2 and 3 CO₂ emissions in Camden, with a view to these being presented to full Council and informing a new Climate Action Plan for Camden.
- 4.3 Assembly members were recruited from across Camden with the final composition representative of the borough's demographic profile. The framing question for the Assembly was: "We are now facing a climate and ecological crisis. How can the Council and the people of Camden help limit the impact of climate change while protecting and enhancing our natural environment? What do we need to do in our homes, neighbourhoods, council and country?"
- 4.4 To inform the Assembly's deliberation, Assembly members were provided with high quality evidence about the climate crisis from academics, renewable energy experts, built environment professionals, community energy groups, campaign groups and environmental scientists. Speakers included, Professor Mark Maslin from University College London (UCL), Leo Murray from local environmental groups 10:10, Joanna Marshall-Cook (UCL), Dee Searle of Climate Emergency Camden, local residents Debbie Bourne and Stephen Evans, Chris Dunham from Carbon Descent and Trevor Keeling from Buro Happold. All evidence presented to the Assembly is available at www.camden.gov.uk/climate-crisis
- 4.5 In addition to this expert evidence, ideas from the wider Camden community about how Camden could address the climate crisis were captured through an on-line "[call for ideas](#)" in June. The platform provided details of how the Assembly would work and allowed citizens to put forward climate solutions at the four spatial scales noted in the framing question. Over 2,000 people visited the platform with over 500 comments and detailed proposals put forward to the Assembly. Proposals ranged from easing planning restrictions in Conservation Areas to make it easier to improve the energy efficiency of homes, through to banning traffic in residential areas.
- 4.6 To broaden the community discussion, Camden's environmental business network, the Climate Change Alliance www.camdencca.org arranged a series of roundtables with the business community to discuss the threats and opportunities presented by the climate crisis. The potential for "green leases" was discussed as a means of encouraging landlords to take more responsibility for the energy efficiency of buildings. A green rating system for environmentally responsible businesses was also proposed, alongside the need for more training to enable staff to make effective environmental decisions.
- 4.7 The views of schoolchildren were also collected through a project called The Sustainers, delivered with the local Transition Town groups. The limited coverage of climate change on the school curriculum was discussed, alongside suggestions that Camden's school meal contracts should reduce meat and plastics.

- 4.8 Assembly members were then independently facilitated by Involve and the Democratic Society, two leading public participation charities, to develop climate proposals for Camden across the spatial scales of Home, Neighbourhood and Council. National and international spatial themes were intentionally omitted on the grounds that Assembly discussions at the local scales would inevitably highlight the need for national and international policy support the detail of which could be captured through debate. Involve’s report on the Assembly’s deliberation is included in Appendix 1.
- 4.9 The Citizens’ Assembly concluded on 20 July, with Assembly members agreeing seventeen climate related proposals across the spatial themes of “home”, “neighbourhood” and “Council”. Please see the following section for a full list of proposals.
- 4.10 An independent Advisory group comprising of University College London (UCL) (Richard Jackson, Director of Sustainability), BuroHappold (Duncan Price, Director of Sustainability) and Climate Emergency Camden (Dr Joanna Macrae) oversaw the approach to Assembly design, including speaker selection.
- 4.11 The Assembly was also independently evaluated by UCL’s public policy team. Their evaluation report will be published in November.

5 The Citizens’ Assembly findings

- 5.1 As noted above, the Assembly proposals were developed around the spatial themes of home, neighbourhood and Council. The following seventeen Assembly proposals were agreed through a ballot system at the final session on 20 July.
- 5.2 The Assembly proposals ranged from the specific, for example, “pilot a community heating project” to the general, for example, “green the Council’s operations”. They also ranged from those that are already proposed within existing Council programmes, for example, “introducing more segregated cycle lanes” to those that will require additional resource to deliver, for example “fitting solar panels on as many homes as possible” and “mobilising community groups to address the climate crisis”.
- 5.3 The approach to refining and developing the Assembly is set out in the following section.

5.4 The final Assembly proposals

	Home	% disagree or strongly disagree	% agree or strongly agree
1	Encouraging low carbon dietary choices	14%	86%
2	Making all new homes ‘zero carbon’	4%	96%
3	Creating more green space on residential streets	10%	90%

	Home	% disagree or strongly disagree	% agree or strongly agree
4	Fitting solar panels on as many homes as possible	0%	100%
5	Campaign that makes CO2 reduction fun	8%	92%
Neighbourhood			
6	Planting more trees and creating more allotments.	2%	98%
7	Piloting a community energy heating scheme.	2%	98%
8	Installing more 'segregated' cycle lanes.	16%	84%
9	Promoting and trialling car free zones and days.	24%	76%
10	Enabling electric transport with infrastructure and incentives	4%	96%
11	Developers to fund energy efficiency retrofits of old buildings.	14%	86%
Council			
12	Establishing a Climate Emergency scrutiny panel made up of experts and residents.	6%	94%
13	All council properties to be fossil-fuel free.	2%	98%
14	Planting trees and retaining public spaces.	2%	98%
15	Improving council communications and engagement on the climate crisis.	10%	90%
16	Mobilising existing community groups to work on tackling the climate crisis.	2%	98%
17	Greening the Council's operations	2%	98%

5.5 The Assembly proposals place significant emphasis on reducing CO2 emissions from buildings and transport. They also highlight the importance of Council leadership and community participation in solving the climate crisis. There is also a strong focus on education and awareness raising, particularly in the context of Scope 3 emissions.

6 From Assembly proposals to a new Climate Action Plan for Camden

- 6.1 We are now refining and developing the Assembly proposals in consultation with Assembly members, officers and community groups, so that they begin to take the form of the new Climate Action Plan for Camden.
- 6.2 Responding to the Assembly proposals, the new Climate Action Plan for Camden will set ambitious new climate targets for Camden. We also recognise the need for much stronger focus on Scope 3 emissions in Camden, both from our own operations but just as importantly from the consumer choices of citizens and the supply chains of businesses and organisations operating in our borough.

- 6.3 The new Climate Action Plan will also seek to build on the community spirit and energy of local groups by encouraging and supporting social action targeted at environmental improvements. This has the potential to build community cohesion and increase the scale of climate mitigation activity – both key outcomes in the context of ongoing financial pressures for local government.
- 6.4 An early example of this social action in practice is the recent community led road closure of Leighton Road in Kentish Town. For this project, the Council facilitated the closure, arranging the bus diversion with Transport for London, while the community managed the logistics on the day and organised the associated community event.
- 6.5 Inevitably there are Assembly proposals that will be difficult to bring forward immediately because of their cost and complexity, such as that noted above calling for all Council buildings to be fossil fuel free; and the need to significantly improve the energy efficiency of homes across Camden. We will not shy away from these, but will bring together experts, the community and officers to design a supportive policy framework and fast-track delivery.
- 6.6 The action plan will also see the Council continuing to show leadership and create the policy conditions needed for further decarbonisation. For example, we will commission immediate feasibility work for large scale solar array across Camden's estate and all new homes in Camden, including those developed by our Community Investment Programme, will be zero carbon.
- 6.7 The action plan will also aim to support community-led energy efficiency improvements to homes, by extending the new Camden Climate Fund to direct developer contributions towards local carbon reduction projects, such as the community heating pilot called for by the Assembly.
- 6.8 The community will be kept updated as the action plan development progresses.

7 Next steps

- 7.1 The new Climate Action Plan for Camden will be subject to public consultation in early 2020, with a view to formal adoption in late 2020 at the point at which the Council's Green Action for Change plan ends.

8 Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 8.1 This report sets out the activities and actions proposed by Camden's Citizens' Assembly regarding policies and actions to help mitigate climate change and protect the natural environment. The report notes the positive progress the council has made in this regard in recent years and touches on a number of ways it has invested to improve its direct impact (for example through reducing the carbon emissions of office buildings) and to facilitate residents to

take action to reduce their impact (for example through improved cycling infrastructure and our low carbon energy programme).

- 8.2 While the borough has plans and committed resources to continue to invest in tackling climate change, embracing some of the proposals from the Assembly fully would require additional investment, and this must be considered in the context of continuing challenges in local government finance following 10 years of austerity, and ongoing uncertainty regarding the funding outlook due to Brexit.

9 Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 9.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to make.

REPORT ENDS (APPENDIX 1 FOLLOWS)