

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS: ALL</b>
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Green Action for Change - Draft Second Annual Review	
<b>REPORT OF</b> AD Environment & Transport (Culture & Environment)	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b> 17 July 2013
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b>  <p>This report presents a draft second annual review of <a href="#">Green Action for Change</a> (GAfC), LB Camden's environmental sustainability plan (2011-2020), which provides a summary of the progress made from April 2012 to the end of March 2013 and an updated action plan for 2013/14.</p> <p>Green Action for Change provides the framework for the delivery of a number of environmental commitments in the <a href="#">Camden Plan</a>, principally under the theme of creating sustainable neighbourhoods.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Action for Change: Camden's Environmental Sustainability Plan 2011-2020, report to Cabinet, 11.04.13 (CENV/2011/06)</li> <li>• Green Action for Change <a href="#">first annual review</a>, published in September 2012</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Oliver Myers, Head of Corporate Sustainability, Town Hall Extension, Argyle Street, London , WC1H 8EQ, phone: 020 7974 6370, email: <a href="mailto:oliver.myers@camden.gov.uk">oliver.myers@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
C&E Scrutiny Committee is asked to comment on this report.	

Signed:



Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013

## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT?**

- 1.1 This report presents a draft second annual review of [Green Action for Change](#) (GAfC), LB Camden's environmental sustainability plan (2011-2020), which provides a summary of progress made from April 2012 to end March 2013 and an updated action plan for 2013/14. The final review will be published in a similar way to the [first annual review](#) later this summer.
- 1.2 A special focus on our approach to the engagement of residents and groups on environmental issues is included under section 6.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?**

- 2.1 GAfC was adopted by Cabinet on 6th April 2011. It is reviewed on an annual basis to assess the progress made each year and to ensure that the actions and priorities for the year ahead are current and aligned to the latest policy developments and council priorities.

## **3. OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The proposed new actions for the 2013/14 action plan are highlighted in bold in Appendix 2. These new actions were developed following an assessment of performance during 2012/13 and discussions with key officers, members and partners, and it is considered that they will assist the council and our partners in making even stronger progress against our targets.

## **4. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THE REPORT?**

- 4.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for C&E Scrutiny Committee to comment on the performance to date and the priorities and actions for the year ahead.

## **5. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?**

- 5.1 The intended impact is (as far as is possible within our spheres of control and influence) to achieve the targets in GAfC relating to the five key environmental issues (the indicators and targets for these issues are set out in Appendix 1, section 1):

- reducing Camden's carbon emissions
- adapting to a changing climate
- improving air quality
- reducing, reusing and recycling waste

- enhancing biodiversity, improving green spaces and involvement in gardening and food growing.

5.2 A summary of key achievements in 2012/13 is outlined below against these five key environmental issues and the following six areas for action within GAfC (a full progress report is included in the matrix in Appendix 1):

- Leading by example as a council
- Creating the foundations for success - planning, infrastructure & capacity
- Empowering our communities
- Encouraging businesses, institutions and the voluntary and community sector to play a leading role
- Encouraging schools, children & young people to play a leading role
- Improving homes and supporting households.

5.3 It is worth highlighting at the outset that the Council secured over £5m external funding for sustainability measures in 2012/13, principally for carbon reduction and alleviating fuel poverty in the domestic sector, but also for flooding and air quality. A further £2.4 million was secured from Transport for London (TfL) for transport projects through Camden’s Local Implementation Plan (LIP). The main focus of Camden’s LIP is to reduce car use and the associated impacts of deteriorating air quality and carbon emissions, and to prioritise and enable sustainable transport choices.

### Key environmental issues

#### 5.4 Reducing Camden’s carbon emissions

- Data for borough-wide carbon emissions for 2011 is expected in August 2013. The most recent data issued by DECC in August 2012 for 2010 shows that a 2% absolute emission reduction and a 9% per capita emission reduction was achieved on the 2005 baseline (Figure 1 below).

Year	Annual change in CO2 emissions					Tonnes of CO2 per person				
	Camden	Islington	Westminster	Greater London	National	Camden	Islington	Westminster	Greater London	National
2005	First Year Of Data					7.7	6.4	14.2	6.3	8.8
2006	↑ +7%	↑ +4%	↑ +6%	↑ +2%	→ 0%	↑ 8.1	↑ 6.6	← 14.6	↑ 6.4	↓ 8.7
2007	↓ -3%	↓ -2%	↓ -4%	↓ -2%	↓ -2%	↓ 7.8	↓ 6.4	↓ 13.9	↓ 6.2	↓ 8.5
2008	↓ -1%	↑ +2%	↑ +2%	→ 0%	↓ -2%	↓ 7.6	↑ 6.5	↑ 13.9	↓ 6.1	↓ 8.2
2009	↓ -10%	↓ -10%	↓ -11%	↓ -9%	↓ -10%	↓ 6.8	↓ 5.8	↓ 12.2	↓ 5.5	↓ 7.4
2010	↑ +6%	↑ +6%	↑ +6%	↑ +5%	↑ +4%	↑ 7.0	↑ 6.0	↑ 12.7	↑ 5.7	↑ 7.6
<b>Total Change 2005 - 2010</b>	↓ -2%	↓ -2%	↓ -3%	↓ -5%	↓ -10%	↓ -9%	↓ -6%	↓ -10%	↓ -9%	↓ -13%

Figure 1: Changes in carbon emissions in Camden and across London and the UK since 2005. (Arrows indicate direction of change)

## 5.5 **Adapting to a changing climate**

- We achieved better understanding, management and mitigation of the risks to Camden from a changing climate by:
  - Producing and publically consulting on a Flood Risk Management Strategy.
  - Preparing a Flood Asset Register and creating a system for recording flood incidents.
  - Undertaking detailed studies of flood risk in Gospel Oak and Hampstead and identifying priority actions to reduce flood risk in these areas.

## 5.6 **Reducing, reusing and recycling waste – (NB: provisional figures, final in July)**

- The household recycling rate was 30.95% for Quarter 3, 2012/13 (see Figure 2), representing a decrease from 2011/12. During 2012/13 the amount of dry materials recycled increased from 14,672 tonnes (2011/12) to 15,078 tonnes (2012/13). The amount of organic waste recycled dipped in 2012/13, which has resulted in an overall reduction of Camden's projected recycling rate for 2012/13.
- Residual household waste is provisionally projected to have reduced from 494kgs in 2011/12 to 480kgs in 2012/13, falling short of our target (see Figure 3).

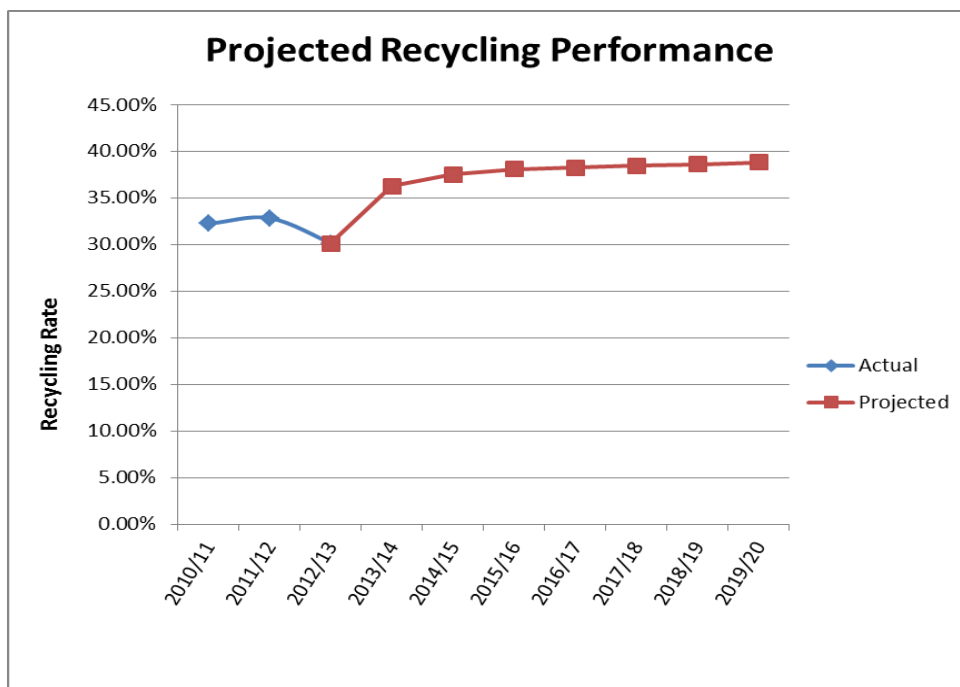


Figure 2: Projected recycling performance to 2020

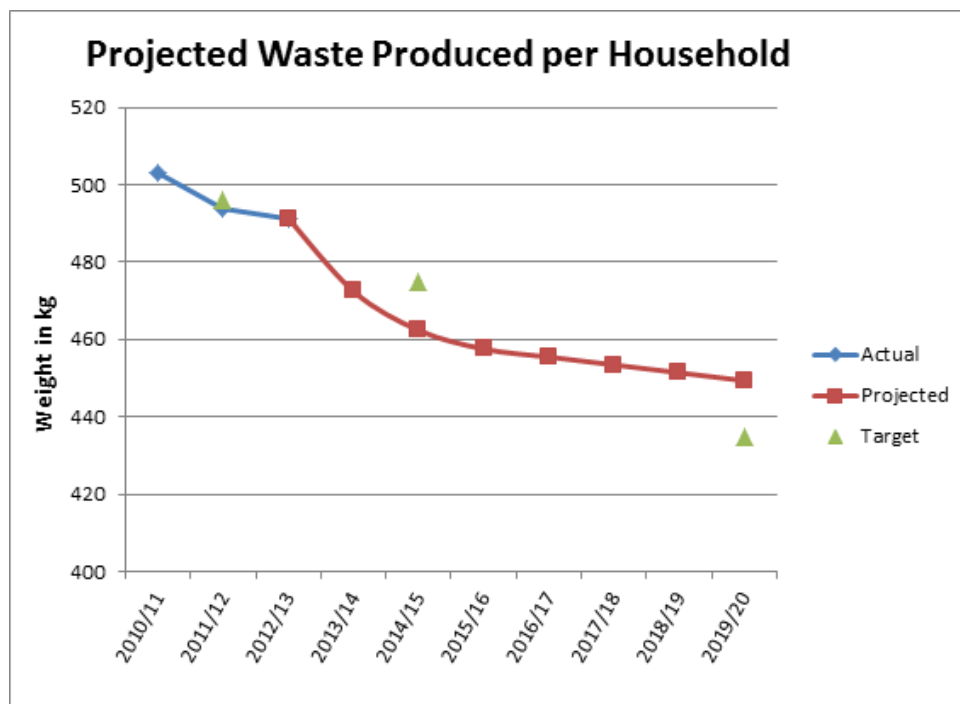


Figure 3: Projected reduction in residual household waste per household to 2020

### 5.7 Improving air quality

- We are still in breach of the annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> objective at all four automatic monitoring stations (Bloomsbury, Euston Road, Shaftesbury Avenue, Swiss Cottage) and 13 out of 14 of the diffusion tubes (various locations across the borough). In the case of Euston Road, levels are still more than double the EU limit values. We are also still failing the hourly mean NO<sub>2</sub> objective at three of the four automatic monitoring stations (Euston Road, Shaftesbury Avenue, Swiss Cottage).
- Despite this, annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> did reduce by 5.3% across the four automatic monitoring sites and by 5.8% as recorded at our 13 diffusion tubes, while the number of exceedences of the NO<sub>2</sub> hourly mean across the four automatic monitoring sites reduced by 57%. The small reductions in annual mean are not yet indicative of a trend, and the reductions in hourly mean exceedences, while interesting and positive, do not indicate a permanent change for the better as this measure experiences significant fluctuations year on year.
- We are complying with the Particulate Matter (PM) limit values at all three monitoring stations (a fourth PM monitor for the borough is being installed at Euston Road in Summer 2013). Between 2011 and 2012 there was a reduction of 12% on the annual mean and a 34% reduction in exceedences of the daily mean. Whilst positive, this is not yet indicative of a trend.

## 5.8 ***Enhancing biodiversity, improving green spaces and involvement in gardening and food growing***

- New figures for Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) under active conservation management due in September 2013. The Sep 2012 figure was 58% (21 out of 36) sites (up from 50% in 2011, 47.2% in 2010, 30.6% in 2009).
- A revised Biodiversity Action Plan to run from 2013-2018 has been prepared in consultation with stakeholders and is due to be launched in September 2013. The new BAP contains 27 indicators for improving access to nature through engagement, volunteering and education; 15 indicators for enhancing biodiversity in the built environment such as living roofs, sustainable drainage street trees and green corridors; and 29 indicators relating to open spaces and natural habitats including improving the extent and quality of wildlife habitat, controlling invasive species and improving the network of SNCIs.
- A total of 3,587 hours of volunteering were completed through the Camden Green Gym and Friends Groups.
- We currently have 139 Capital Growth registered food growing sites in Camden, a 10% increase from 2011/12.

## **Action Chapters**

### 5.9 ***Leading by example as a council***

- 14% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction achieved from 2009-10 to 2011-12 (footprint to be next updated in August 2013).
- A 'BREEAM Outstanding' design standard was achieved for our new centre for customers in King's Cross.
- 66% of the council's fleet was powered by Green Fuel technologies (41% LPG, 10% biomethane, 4% Hybrid, 2% electric). This is the same figure reported for 2011/12. 63% of the fleet meets the Euro 4 emissions standard, 25% meet Euro 5 and 12% meet Euro 6.
- Sustainability integrated within the Procurement Strategy approved by Cabinet and a Sustainability Risk Assessment Tool has been rolled out for all Tollgate-level contracts. The Voluntary Charter agreement has been finalised ready for use on existing contracts. All available items in the stationery catalogue are greener "Globe and Tick" options where possible, and Camden has signed the WWF Timber Pledge.
- New sustainability guidance has been tested on the Adelaide Road Community Investment Programme scheme and a retrospective Planning Policy Plus scenario tested and completed for the Bourne Estate. Feasibility stage assessments now planned for Agar Grove and Edith Neville.
- A recycling baseline for the Town Hall complex has been measured. Recycling will be installed in Holmes Road in the next few months, followed by Jamestown Road. All other main council buildings have recycling.

#### 5.10 ***Creating the foundations for success - planning, infrastructure and capacity:***

- Pilot enhanced retrofitting planning guidance for conservation areas adopted for Dartmouth Park and Holly Lodge. Format for new borough wide energy efficiency planning guidance for conservation areas agreed.
- Decentralised energy:
  - Euston Road/Somers Town CHP scheme now procurement ready.
  - Gospel Oak Heat Network - which uses waste heat from the Royal Free Hospital's CHP system to heat several Camden housing estates – was connected to 1,427 dwellings, saving an estimated 37,761 lifetime tCO<sub>2</sub>.
  - Energy masterplan completed for Bloomsbury area, with detailed assessment of British Museum link to university and Great Ormond Street to Tybalds estate
  - Euston Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAFP) energy masterplan funding secured with completion pending HS2 judicial review.
- £120,000 DECC Green Deal Pioneer Places funding secured to test Green Deal Promoter model. Pilot underway with funding for site visits, 200 green deal assessments and a successful Greener Homes event run in partnership with the community attracting over 160 attendees and exhibitors.
- Camden Transport Strategy:
  - Screenline figures for traffic flow shows that during 2012 -13:
    - The number of people cycling in the borough increased by 2%. Meanwhile cycling increased from 13.9% to 14.2% of total traffic flow.
    - The number of people using private motorised vehicles in the borough decreased by just under 2%. This includes motorcyclists, cars, light and heavy vehicles, but not taxis, buses or coaches.
  - Camden recently won the London Cycling Campaign's best Borough Cycling Project award (jointly with City of London) for its programme of making one-way streets two-way for cyclists to improve cycle permeability. 18 completed to date in West Hampstead, Fitzrovia and Kings Cross. The award acknowledges the London borough cycling programme that has best engaged with local residents and delivered real behaviour change.
  - At the end of March 2013 there were 8,893 Camden members of Barclay's cycle hire scheme.
  - Currently Camden has 275 car club bays – an increase of 10 bays since last year. Camden is now the lead borough in London for the number of on-street car club bays. At the end of 2012-13, car club membership stood at 8,540, an increase of 17% on 2011-12.
  - During 2012-3 1,614 children and adults participated in cycle training, while a further 584 people took part in a Dr. Bike bike maintenance session.
  - On International Car Free Day (21st September 2012) the Council held a cycle fashion catwalk event on Bayley Street, just off

Tottenham Court Road. The week of the event saw very high levels of social media interest including the highest reach of Facebook content (997,959 people), the highest viral reach of Facebook content (147,632 people) and 3,665 people talking about the event on Facebook.

- The Clean Air Action Plan (2013-15) has been completed and consulted on and is awaiting final approval from Defra. Achievements in 2012/13:
  - Completed the Perceptions of Air Quality study and air quality communications toolkit which Defra developed into a best practice case study.
  - Won the City of London Sustainable Cities Transport Award for our Electric Vehicle trials: Nine 2-week company vehicle trials were provided. Christmas Lights event generated significant online media coverage. A video was created receiving over 10,000 views on Green TV.
  - Our schools videos were promoted as best practice by the London Sustainability Exchange and shown at the GLA air quality conference.
  - Camden Air Quality Business Engagement project advised 48 businesses.
  - Received £114k Francis Crick Institute S.106 money for a new PM monitor at Euston Road, including 5 years of maintenance and data collection.
  - £60k Defra/GLA funding was secured for school projects, campaign days and business engagement in Camden, as part of the new Cleaner Air Borough programme.
- Climate change adaptation:
  - Project appraisal reports for Hampstead and Gospel Oak have identified areas where sustainable drainage solutions e.g. permeable paving and green storage areas would be most effective; Project Appraisal Report for Hampstead has identified potential flood alleviation solution to tackle flood risk in area in conjunction with Thames Water.
  - Highways contractors required to have recycled water in laying pavements.
  - Creation of 900m<sup>2</sup> of new gardening and green space in housing estates, increasing the amount of permeable surfaces within the estates.
  - Installation of 200m<sup>2</sup> Green Roof on Belmont Street to follow 12 other green roofs already delivered on Camden housing stock.

#### 5.11 ***Empowering our communities***

- 32 Green Camden Zones completed at least one action with 800 residents benefitting. Successful GCZ showcase event in Sep 2012, with 55 attendees.
- Provided advice stalls at 66 events, including local festivals, farmers markets, libraries, schools, family fun days and Olympic events. These events were spread out throughout the year, with the most being



attended in July, October and March. During these events, our advisors spoke to approximately 8,500 people. Over 1,100 individual actions (such as cycle training, junk mail or newsletter sign ups) have been taken as part of this engagement.

- Delivered 38 workshops with tenants associations, community and vulnerable groups. These focused on a range of topics including energy, recycling and reuse, food growing and water efficiency.
- Delivered two train the trainer recycling workshops which gave people the information and skills required to encourage their neighbours and local community to recycle.
- Established an online community-led, collaborative network to promote green action in the borough. This platform will enable residents to share skills and materials as local as within a one mile radius of their home. The platform will also help people to support one another to create more zones by facilitating a mentoring and learning environment.

#### 5.12 ***Encouraging businesses, institutions and the voluntary and community sector to play a leading role***

- There are now 225 Camden Climate Change Alliance members (increase of 21%), representing 29% of all sector emissions.
- Alliance members achieved a 10.3% CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by end 2012, exceeding the 10% target, saving 25,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> and £4.5million in energy costs.
- Successful EECO Awards held with record number of applications (54) and attendees (84).
- Completed Alliance's 'Smart Green Business' Programme, which engaged 110 Camden SMEs in carbon reduction activities and directly delivered 500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings, 20 events involving 82 unique businesses, and 50 businesses received 12 hours of one: one consultancy support. The SMEs involved achieved carbon reductions of between 3-48% in the last two financial years.
- Additional ERDF funding secured to support SMEs in greening their operations and procurement until 2015.
- Alliance website revamped in August 2012 with visits up by 10% and page views up by 25% during Aug – Mar 2012/13 compared to same period during 2011/12.
- Successful partnership working with Camden Town Unlimited and Inmidtown, and Fitzrovia BID signed up to Alliance as a new member and exploring a carbon footprint assessment for the BID area.
- The Alliance was one of four finalists shortlisted from 450 applications for the Climate Week local initiative award.
- Tonnes of commercial recycling collected from businesses reduced slightly in 2012/13 (current projection). In 2012/13 commercial waste undertook a systems thinking review of the service to increase income and market share of customers in Camden, with recycling services sold alongside refuse services. A marketing and sales strategy is a key outcome of the systems thinking project which will promote the recycling

services in 2013/14 and a move to co-mingled recycling for all businesses

#### 5.13 ***Encouraging schools, children and young people to play a leading role***

- Total number of schools with or working on a green action plan is 31 (down 9 from 11/12). 43% of schools and children's centres improved their Display Energy Certificate (DEC) rating (26% in 2011-12); 2% experienced a reduced grade (17% in 2011-12). Average DEC score has improved to 110 (from 114 in 11-12).
- 34 schools registered/awarded Eco-Schools status (+2 from previous reported data). Of these 16 have received either Bronze, Silver or Green Flags (up 3 from 11/12).
- 17 schools/children's centres were programmed to receive Low Carbon Schools Service during 2012-13 and beyond.
- Sustainability capital programme for the Camden schools estate:
  - Energy improvement measures have been installed to 17 schools in the first wave of the CIP programme. A further 10 schools have been identified for energy savings measure installations commencing this summer which are being delivered through both the school improvement works programme and the GLA RE:FIT programme. A number of feasibility works have commenced for major works programmes where carbon saving opportunities will be explored.
  - Schools have been advised of the Schools Capital Energy Saving Payback Scheme and it is proposed to initiate this request with schools following confirmation of completion of work package and the energy assessment surveys carried out in post occupancy evaluation which is anticipated in June
- 17 schools submitted School Travel Plans or reviews during 2012-13 which surveyed 5,954 school pupils. Of these 31.7% pupils walked to school (a decrease of just over 12%), while 5.3% of pupils cycled – an increase of just over 1%. A further 17.6% of pupils travelled by bus – up from 9.4% in 2011. 22% of pupils travelled by car, down from 23% in 2011, while a further 4.4% car shared, down from 5.4%.
- Recycling facilities and collections are now provided for over 100 schools and nurseries across the borough. Camden's schools recycled 374 tonnes of dry recycling from for 2012/13 which is an increase of 82 tonnes (up 28%) from 2011/12. Over 40 schools are recycling their food waste. The Green Camden Zones programme has provided 2 schools with new compost and wormery schemes, and supported 4 schools with engaging pupils at school events.

#### 5.14 ***Improving homes and supporting households***

- The Green Camden helpline has advised 25% more residents than in 2011/12 (2,327 in total). Green Camden website has seen an increase in webhits of 34% (7,534 in total). This represents very strong progress on previous trends.

- Fuel Poverty Summit attended by 86 delegates from a range of internal teams and external organisations. Affordable Warmth Partnership relaunched and membership broadened. Successful Winter campaign for 2012/13 included successful Warmer Homes roadshows and letter to all private sector households on benefit, which contributed to the increase in helpline calls.
- 296 'Well and Warm' cross-tenure borough-wide home energy visits were delivered by end March with the full 500 visits to be completed during May 2013. £100k funding allocated for future private sector visits in 2013/15 from Camden Plan Fund.
- In late 2012/13, £145,000 funding was secured from DECC to subsidise Green Deal assessments for landlords, to train landlords and local authority staff, and hold focus groups with tenants. Five rented houses were identified to act as exemplar projects which could be used in promotion of the green deal principles.
- Camden delivered energy efficiency improvements to over 7,000 council homes, enabled by securing a total of £4,157,000 in funding, and resulting in a saving of 117,013 tonnes of lifetime CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - 3,418 dwellings received cavity wall insulation, saving a total of 1,405 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year or 56,191 lifetime t CO<sub>2</sub>. All cavity walled dwellings which it was practical to fill under existing regulations have now been filled. Works were funded by CERT and ECO at no cost to Camden.
  - 145 lofts were insulated using CERT funding as part of the ongoing loft insulation programme, saving further 2,105 lifetime t CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - As part of the refurbishment of the Kilburn Gate Estate, 41 flats received external wall insulation (the remaining flats received cavity wall insulation) along with glazing upgrades to "A" rated energy efficient windows, and improved roof insulation.
  - EU funding was obtained to install internal wall insulation to 10 homes using the WHISCERS system using laser scanning and off-site cutting of internal wall insulation. Two homes completed and a further eight are scheduled for installation before the end of June 2013.
  - Replaced a total of 954 inefficient G to D rated boilers saving a total of 2,949 lifetime tCO<sub>2</sub>.
  - Heat meters installed in 957 dwellings across 12 blocks, saving an estimated 14,970 lifetime tCO<sub>2</sub>, in addition to the 804 dwellings already provided with heat meters using funding provided by the GLA.
- Worked in partnership with North London Waste Authority to deliver the sub-region's waste prevention plan. There were a number of 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaigns in the autumn, including 31 campaign roadshows and schools shows (Great Taste Less Waste). There was also a NLWA led advertising campaign.
- The Maiden Lane Rocket food waste composting scheme continues to run through SEED with support from volunteers. There have been 5 new

community composting schemes introduced through the Green Camden Zones programme.

- In November 2012, launched a Recycle on the Go zone through Camden High Street.

## 6. GOING FORWARD

6.1 The table below identifies the key challenges and some proposed new actions for these in 2013/14. As stated earlier in this report, these and other new actions are included in the revised action plan in Appendix 2.

Key Challenge	New Actions
Ensure we maintain the BREEAM outstanding rating for B3 post occupancy.	Embed appropriate measures/training for staff.
Increase engagement of schools.	Encourage more Camden schools to adopt a whole school approach to sustainability through greater use of incentives.
Better understand how council housing is contributing to the borough-wide 40% by 2020 CO <sub>2</sub> reduction target.	Undertake an assessment of how Camden's council homes are contributing to the 40% by 2020 carbon reduction and alleviating fuel poverty in the council-owned housing stock.
Increasing delivery of domestic insulation measures.	Devise a coordinated package of insulation programmes for homes across all tenures in the borough, maximising the take up of Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation funding.
Protecting the vulnerable from fuel poverty.	Hold an extensive, targeted and localised Warm Homes campaign in late Autumn 2013.
Encourage walking and cycling and create more pleasant neighbourhoods for everyone.	Seek Cabinet approval for a borough-wide 20mph on Camden's roads using signage and road markings following the decisive support given in response to the public consultation.
Increase recycling levels.	Complete rollout of the new commingled service.

6.2 The 2013/14 action plan will be monitored throughout the year and progress assessed in the first quarter of 2014/15.

### ***Focus on engagement of residents and groups***

- 6.3 A summary of the progress made to date regarding our engagement of residents and groups is included under “Empowering our communities” (5.11 above) and in full in Appendix 1 (pages 8-9). Updated actions for this sector are set out in Appendix 2 (page 6).
- 6.4 The Green Camden service aims to engage and empower individuals, communities and schools to take responsibility for their own environmental impacts by promoting activities and offers, attending events across the borough and delivering workshops to vulnerable and hard to reach groups. Advice and information is provided through a call to action focused [website](#), free phone helpline (0800 801 738), monthly e-newsletter and Green Camden Facebook.
- 6.5 The service uses evidence based behaviour change approaches to engage residents and is committed to trialling innovative methods and new ways of working with the community. It is dedicated to testing and measuring the impact of these interactions, and using knowledge gained to feed into future development of the service and relevant corporate policy areas.
- 6.6 The Green Camden Zones (GCZs) programme was launched in December 2011 as a new way to enable residents to take green action with their neighbours to improve their local area. Over 45 zones have been created to date, with residents taking responsibility for increasing recycling rates, installing cycle parking, delivering events and setting up community gardens.
- 6.7 The knowledge and experience generated by the Green Camden Zones programme is now being channelled into two online platforms where residents and groups can share information, materials and skills between themselves, and assist other groups in setting up a zone. The first platform, Streetbank, encourages community activity by helping people to find, share and learn from others in their local area. The second platform, Project Dirt, connects people and widens the reach of those who are or want to be involved in community environmental projects.
- 6.8 Officers are working with these sites to tailor their platforms to meet Camden’s needs in order to achieve the following objectives:
- An increase in numbers of residents participating in green action and involvement of a wide range of people from diverse backgrounds.
  - More communication and shared learning between the GCZs and the wider green network.
  - A peer to peer and mentoring environment where residents can help each other to take green actions or run green community projects.
  - An increase in community cohesion and social capital through connecting people with their neighbours.
  - Provide value for money for both resources and financial investment.

6.9 We are also committed to ensuring that the following key factors of success for the websites are sustained:

- The provision of activities and offers that provide real benefits to residents
- The building of trust across users through a self-regulating feedback rating system
- The provision of regular updates showing the activity taking place through the site

6.10 Camden Climate Action Network (Camden CAN) and other green community groups were consulted on both the Green Camden Zones initiative previously and on the idea for the sharing platforms earlier this year. Officers remain very keen to work with any interested environmental and community groups in the borough to make this programme a success.

## **7. LINKS TO THE CAMDEN PLAN OBJECTIVES**

7.1 Environmental sustainability is referenced under two Camden Plan themes as follows:

- **Creating conditions for and harnessing the benefits of economic growth**
  - Delivering a shared commitment to embrace the green agenda in the way local businesses operate and in our supply chain so that they minimise any negative impact on the environment.
- **Investing in our communities to ensure sustainable neighbourhoods**
  - 27% carbon reduction across the borough by 2017.
  - Use our investment to support the community to tackle the environmental challenges we face.
  - Encourage more residents to take 'green' action either independently or through a local community or group.
  - Leading by example in promoting the Council's programme of work for carbon reduction on our own estate – from Council homes to Camden schools.
  - Working with local businesses to ensure they are making an active contribution towards our long term target of a 40% carbon reduction in Camden by 2020.
  - Ensure all Council services contribute to the health outcomes we are working to achieve, particularly in areas such as fuel poverty, air quality... (and road safety)
  - Commission the most sustainable Council building of its type in the country complete with leisure facilities that will be in use from 2014 as part of the Kings Cross Central development.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The development of Green Action for Change in 2010/11 involved extensive public consultation which was summarised on page 5 of the original [Plan](#). Publication of the first annual review in September 2012 was accompanied by opportunities for residents and businesses to tell us how we were doing and we intend to provide similar opportunities again with publication of this second annual review later this Summer.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Borough Solicitors department has been consulted on the Report and has no specific comments.

## **10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This report provides an update and progress on the Green Action for Change strategy. There are no specific resource implications arising due to this report, however, the report does outline in paragraph 5.3 the success Camden has had in securing additional external resources and funding to support the plan.
- 10.2 The new actions identified in the 2013/14 plan will be delivered within identified resources and any additional external funding required will continue to be secured by Camden Officers to progress the actions as necessary – for example, maximising the take up of Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation funding for increasing domestic home insulation measures.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- i. Progress made on GAfC in 2012/13 (Appendix 1)
- ii. The updated GAfC Action Plan for 2013/2014 (Appendix 2)

**REPORT ENDS**