


LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	Cabinet 22 September 2022	
Report Title	Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee Themed Review 2020-21: Climate Emergency Response	
Cabinet Portfolio	Councillor Clyde Loakes – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Lead Member for Climate and Air Quality	
Report Author/ Contact details	Emily Wood – Acting Scrutiny Officer Finance and Governance Emily.wood@walthamforest.gov.uk Ian Buckle – Head of Electoral and Democratic Services Finance and Governance ian.buckle@walthamforest.gov.uk	
Wards affected	None specifically	
Public Access	OPEN	
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Themed Review 2021-22: Climate Emergency Response Appendix 2 – Proposed Response Appendix 3 – Equalities Analysis Screening Tool	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's scrutiny committees conduct themed reviews as part of an annual work programme. This is an opportunity for a committee to engage in a sustained way with a particular topic. This year the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee conducted its review on the Council's approach to the Climate Emergency and the Council's response to recommendations made by the Climate Emergency Commission. The attached report sets out the Committee's findings and recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- 2.1.1 That the Growth Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report be noted;
- 2.1.2 That the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted and taken forward as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Committee conducted its themed review throughout 2021-22, and its approach is outlined in **appendix 1**. Officers have prepared a proposed response which is attached as **appendix 2**. Cabinet are asked to review and approve the response.
- 3.2 The full recommendations are outlined in the report (appendix 1). A summary of recommendations can be found below:

People, communities and climate

- 1. That the Council aims to improve the Climate Emergency skills and knowledge of Councillors; that, to achieve this, Carbon Literacy is integrated into the Councillor induction process
- 2. That, as part of its forthcoming behaviour change strategy, the Council makes full use of the unique connections Councillors have within their communities to further influence residents on their attitudes and behaviours towards the Climate Emergency

Sustainable transport

- 3. That the Council leads by example in enabling active travel to its staff; that they also engage its health and care partners to do the same for their employees
- 4. That the Council explores the parameters used to decide when a School Street can be implemented

Greener buildings

- 5. The Committee commends the Council's Eco Show Home initiative and endorses its fabric first approach to retrofitting its own stock
- 6. That the Council continues to provide private homeowners with support and guidance on retrofitting their homes and reducing their household carbon emissions
- 7. The Committee supports the Council's ambition to lead by example through Sixty Bricks by delivering its first zero carbon development in 2024; that details of out how this will be achieved is presented to the committee in 2022/23

Adapting to the Future

- 8. That the Council explores the option of bringing in a dedicated specialist ecologist to provide strategic oversight and maximise effectiveness of biodiversity programmes

9. That an item on green jobs is added to the 2022/23 forward plan;
that a relevant witness working in the industry is invited to attend

4. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Committee has reviewed the Council's policy and practice, and its proposals relate to current service delivery. It is a requirement for the Cabinet to consider each individual scrutiny committee themed review and respond to the recommendations within the report.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)

- 5.1 The attached report of the scrutiny committee sets out a number of ways the themed review has taken into consideration both local and national policies in respect to its area of focus.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Formal consultation is not required for a scrutiny committee to conduct a themed review. The Committee has, however, spoken to a range of witnesses and sought a diversity of views in respect to its topic, as set out in its report.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

- 7.1.1 The recommendations have been developed so that they can be implemented within the existing budgets available to relevant services. However, if in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are not sustainable within existing resources and officers find that additional expenditure is required, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; or b) proposals to finance their implementation.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Part of the Council's constitution sets out the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules including, in paragraph 5, the procedure for Policy Review and Development. This report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 6.1 of the procedure rules as a report by Overview and Scrutiny. The procedure rules provide that in carrying out any such policy review or development, Overview and Scrutiny must have regard to available budgets and resources (para.5.2) and make recommendations to Cabinet (6.1).

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

- 7.3.1 The Council must further take into account its wider Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 when

making a decision. The Council will consider the impact of changes that might arise as a result of implementing the recommendations on those with protected equality characteristics, in particular where there is likely to be an impact on residents or service users from any changes to, or decommissioning of existing services. In order to assist with this, an Equality Analysis screening tool has been completed and is attached as **appendix 3**.

7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

- 7.4.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report may have a positive impact on sustainability as engagement at an earlier stage may avoid sustainability implications at a later date. The recommendations may have an additional impact on sustainability, arising from day to day operations. These concerns will be taken into consideration by relevant officers during the design and implementation phase. If in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are noted to have a negative impact on sustainability, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; b) options to curtail negative sustainability impact.

7.5 Council Infrastructure

- 7.5.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report are expected to be delivered within existing council infrastructure and resources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None