

For General Release

REPORT TO:	CABINET 8 JUNE 2020
SUBJECT:	Recommendations from Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change
LEAD OFFICER:	Shifa Mustafa – Executive Director of Place
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr Tony Newman – Leader of the Council All Cabinet Members
WARDS:	All

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/ AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON

The recommendations contained in this report aims to deliver against multiple priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan including but not limited to:

- *Improved air quality, especially at or near schools*
- *Getting more young people involved in taking part in local democracy and in tackling the issues that matter most to them*
- *Croydon's recycling rate is increased and the use of plastics is reduced*
- *Transport, digital and social infrastructures are effective and support economic growth*
- *Less reliance on cars, more willingness to use public transport, walk and cycle*

[Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022](#)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The costs associated with the Citizen's Assembly and Climate Crisis Commission have been and will continue to be funded from within existing revenue budgets. The recommendations themselves do not have any additional specific financial impact for the Council.

FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE NO.: 1320CAB

The decision may be implemented from 1300 hours on the 6th working day after the decision is made, unless the decision is referred to the Scrutiny & Overview Committee by the requisite number of Councillors.

The Leader of the Council has delegated to the Cabinet the power to make the decisions set out in the recommendations below

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to

1.1 Note the statements from the Citizen's Assembly.

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| <p>1.2 Give approval for the recommendations from the Citizen’s Assembly to be taken forward and actioned where possible by the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet.</p> |
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report is an update and sets out recommendations from the Citizen’s Assembly on Climate Change which was set up following approval from the Executive Director Place (0619PL //051 (19) DD). This followed on from the Sustainable Croydon Summit 2019 that took place on the 27th June where the Leader announced the intention to take a declaration of Climate Emergency to Council. Full Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency on 15th July 2019.
- 2.2 This report is a summary of the assembly sessions and recommendations. A more detailed report of the Citizen’s Assembly is attached.

3. DETAILS OF THE CITIZEN’S ASSEMBLY

- 3.1 The Citizen’s Assembly on Climate Change launched this year and took place from January – February 2020.
- 3.2 A citizens' assembly is a group of people who are brought together to discuss an issue or issues and reach a conclusion about what they think should happen. This method ensures that the actions the Council takes in regards to climate change and sustainability will be heavily influenced by the voice of residents.
- 3.3 Multiple Councils have undertaken Citizen’s Assemblies after declaring climate emergencies to great success including Camden Council.
- 3.4 This January, we launched our first Citizen’s Assembly, the first being on Climate Change. The Council worked with The Campaign Company to deliver the assembly to ensure that the recommendations that have resulted are independent and based solely on resident input.
- 3.5 In order for the assembly to come to a borough-wide consensus of opinion, members of the community were recruited and entered into a pool where 70 residents were then selected by age, gender, ethnicity and age group, and across groups that shared protected characteristics to ensure they were representative of our borough’s diverse communities.
- 3.6 Assembly members were being provided with £50 per session they attend to encourage those selected to participate in all three of the meetings of the assembly. Originally vouchers were suggested but due to popular demand, cash was given instead as it was more convenient for assembly members.

- 3.7 Participants that were recruited to take part in the Citizen's Assembly process were provided with pre-meeting briefings before each meeting to ensure that they were clear about what to expect before each session. This allowed each member to take an active approach over the course of the assembly.
- 3.8 The content of the meetings were co-designed by the Campaign Company with the Council to ensure that the assembly members were:
- Informed of any relevant background information regarding climate change and lowering carbon emissions in Croydon and London for context;
 - Given the opportunity to scope the issue of climate change in Croydon in the first session;
 - Able to take evidence and explore options around what can be done in Croydon to lower our carbon emissions across the borough as well as a Council;
 - Able to form a conclusion based on the scoping they have done and the evidence they have seen to produce a set of recommendations to be taken to Cabinet for the review of Council Members.
- 3.9 The meetings took place over a 2.5hr slot during evenings around the borough depending on the availability of assembly members to ensure most are able to attend. Over the course of the sessions, 42 individual assembly members attended the Citizen's Assembly.
- 3.10 The assembly was made up of three sessions:
- The first session served to provide background of the challenge around climate change and identify the main themes that Croydon needed to take action on. These were transport, education awareness and engagement and improving energy efficiency.
 - The second session focussed on what action could be taken in regards to the identified themes on an individual, Council and community level.
 - The third session had assembly members set out and agree specific recommendations to be considered by Cabinet.
- 3.11 Further detail on the assembly sessions can be found in the attached report.

4 OUTCOMES FROM THE CITIZEN'S ASSEMBLY

- 4.1 The outcomes from the Citizen's Assembly deliberations are summarised below as expressed by the assembly members:

Statements

- We support the Council's decision to take action on climate change.
- We believe that Croydon has a great opportunity to be one of the first to act and develop some trail blazing solutions.
- We believe that the issue is too big for anyone to do on their own so we call on the Council to show leadership and act as a role model collaborating

with others including businesses, the NHS, the voluntary sector, communities and special interest groups (e.g. the London Cycling Campaign, Ramblers, Friends of the Earth etc.) to develop concerted and co-ordinated action.

- We are prepared to take action ourselves on climate change but this will be boosted if the Council also leads by example by considering the following:
 - Building climate impact into everything it does (commissioning, operating etc.)
 - Educating and encouraging its staff to become Workplace Environmental Protection Officers, advocates and champions for climate action
 - Supporting businesses, landlords and residents to take action
 - Lobbying for more action from Government, the Mayor of London and other bodies
 - Using its influence within Croydon to encourage all agencies to adopt action plans
- We believe that many people are put off taking action on the climate because the information is confusing. We believe that we need a set of simple, understandable measures to chart our progress in Croydon.
- We believe that education and awareness around the issue cannot start too early. We therefore call for an extensive programme in all the borough's schools as a central part of the syllabus rather than an optional bolt-on. Colleges, training establishments and centres of adult education also have an important role to play.
- We want to see clearer and more regular feedback on the impact being made on the issue.
- We believe that there is a great opportunity to embrace and harness new technology to provide solutions to some of the challenges we face. Putting Croydon at the forefront of this will help to make this a centre for jobs and innovation and will promote Croydon as a future facing place to live and work.
- We want to see local business (particularly small and medium sized enterprises) rewarded if they sign up to environmentally friendly policies.
- Businesses and residents should be involved in discussions about the cost and payment schemes for environmental plans.
- We want the majority of socially responsible residents supported and recognised for contributions they make. We also want to see those who let us down identified and penalised.
- Action on climate must go hand in hand with measures to make the place cleaner, greener and safer.
- Young people are key – we want to see them taking a central role.

- We are open to the idea of charging people at a reasonable level who have highly polluting cars more on condition that efforts are made to improve public transport and those who adopt greener solutions (like walking, cycling car sharing and electric vehicles are rewarded). But above all we want to see fewer cars in total on the borough's roads with shorter journeys in particular being cut.
- We believe that the scale and speed of action required to tackle the climate challenge will need a whole community approach.
- We understand that Croydon faces a housing crisis and it needs to build more homes especially affordable housing for local people who are unable to find suitable accommodation. We call on the Council to develop a set of principles and regulations that will ensure that additional homes do not compromise the commitment to a greener, cleaner and more attractive borough. Making better use of existing housing stock that is empty or under used would help in this respect.
- The key priority areas to be actioned for Climate Emergency are: transport, air quality, energy use and awareness and engagement.
- We do not believe that currently, Croydon residents are sufficiently aware, engaged or equipped to play the central part needed in this change. Addressing this should therefore be a major priority.
- We support a community advocate programme that will train and support residents to help their communities' effect change.
- The spaces, networks, organisations and expertise that the borough has should be identified and co-ordinated to provide maximum environmental impact.
- Waste and recycling is an important aspect of the environmental challenge as everyone should be responsible for it. Information and action is needed to enforce good practice and take measures to penalise those who do not act responsibly.
- We are pleased to hear that the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission for a Sustainable Croydon has been set up and that residents' voices will be represented on this. We would like to see work from the Council and the Commission begin as soon as possible (we think some action can be taken immediately) and for residents' to be informed and engaged in this important area.

Recommendations

4.2 From the above statements, the recommendations that can be actioned by the Council are the following:

- Continue to take action on Climate Change, working in conjunction with partners, schools, businesses and residents.

- Consider the following:
 - Building climate impact into everything it does (commissioning, operating etc.)
 - Educating and encouraging its staff to become Workplace Environmental Protection Officers, advocates and champions for climate action
 - Support businesses, landlords and residents to take action with schemes rewarding positive action and punishing negative action
 - Lobbying for more action from Government, the Mayor of London and other bodies
 - Using its influence within Croydon to encourage all agencies to adopt action plans

- Create a set of simple, understandable measures to chart progress in tackling the climate emergency in Croydon.

- Encourage all the schools in the borough to implement an extensive programme as a central part of the syllabus rather than an optional bolt-on.

- Encourage young people to take a central role in tackling the climate emergency.

- Develop a set of principles and regulations that will ensure that additional homes do not compromise the commitment to a greener, cleaner and more attractive borough.

- Create a community advocate programme that will train and support residents to help their communities' effect change as tackling the climate challenge will need a whole community approach.

- Identify and coordinate a network of spaces, groups, organisations and experts that the borough has to provide maximum environmental impact.

- Continue with work through the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission and ensure that residents are kept informed and engaged.

5 NEXT STEPS - CROYDON CLIMATE CRISIS COMMISSION

- 5.1 After declaring the Climate and Ecological emergency in July 2019, the Leader made the decision to have the Council work with the New Economics Foundation to create the independent Croydon Climate Crisis Commission which launched on the 12th March at Croydon College.

- 5.2 This commission will identify long term goals in order to dramatically reduce the Council's carbon emissions as well as recommend realistic actions in order for Croydon as a borough to become a sustainable city.

- 5.3 As has been said from the beginning at the Sustainable Croydon Summit, the Council intends to work closely with residents, including young people, and

businesses to become more sustainable. To this end, the New Economics Foundation has consulted with stakeholders around the borough to form the commission.

- 5.4 The recommendations from the Citizen's Assembly can be used by the commission as a starting point for the commissioners to then form an action plan to make Croydon more sustainable. Strategy groups sitting under the commission which will likely be a mix of relevant officers, experts, businesses and residents could then begin to enact this plan once it has been approved by Cabinet.
- 5.5 However this is subject to change as the commissioners will be expected to take part in setting the brief for the commission post initial meeting.
- 5.6 At the beginning of this year, Miatta Fahnbulleh, CEO of the New Economics Foundation, was appointed the chair of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission.

6 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

- 6.1 The Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission went to the Scrutiny Streets, Environment & Homes Sub-Committee in December 2019 as part of the Sustainable Croydon report taken by Cllr King. Recommendations were around:
 - Careful attention needed to be given to the composition of members on the Citizens Assembly as well as the Commission to ensure there was appropriate representation of the diversity of the borough
 - Officers should give consideration as to how to measure success in order to ensure that it was on target to meet commitments to be Carbon Neutral by 2030
 - The Council must exercise caution in managing the costs associated to the projects and ensure that all costs incurred were quantifiable to work that was being undertaken.
 - Whilst it was recognised that the Council was trying to be thorough in its research and fact finding, consideration must be given to expediting progress as there had been considerable delay since the declaration was made to producing an action plan, which was still currently awaited.

7 FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The costs associated with the Citizen's Assembly and Climate Crisis Commission are being funded from within existing revenue budgets. The recommendations do not have any additional financial implications and any future financial impact will need to be met from existing revenue budgets.
- 7.2 The allocation of funding and the outcomes of the Commission will be monitored regularly.

Approved by Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk and s151 Officer.

8 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The Head of Litigation and Corporate Law comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance that whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report, as recommendations are sought to be implemented, whether via Action Plans or otherwise, this could give rise to legal implications and specific legal advice will need to be sought to support this implementation.

Approved by Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

9 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 9.1 There are no immediate implications for LBC staff arising from this report.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of Human Resources

10 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 10.1 The Citizen's Assembly members were recruited to form a representative sample of Croydon's diverse population to ensure we take on board the views of and hear the voices of all our residents.
- 10.2 Likewise the commissioners for the Climate Crisis Commission have been and will continue to be appointed are from diverse backgrounds to further ensure that Croydon is adequately represented in any action the Council takes regarding climate change and sustainability.
- 10.3 An Equality Analysis will be completed and come to Cabinet with the climate action plan to ascertain the potential impact on groups that share protected characteristics

Approved by: Yvonne Okiyo, Equalities Manager

11 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 11.1 There have been no direct environmental impacts from the Citizen's Assembly however, the meetings have encouraged residents to think and act on ways to become more sustainable and lower their carbon footprint.
- 11.2 The recommendations that have come from the assembly and the actions that will be taken as a result will lower our carbon emissions as a Council and a borough with direct input from Croydon residents.

11.3 This assembly has and the commission will identify what is necessary to achieve Croydon's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030 and London's commitment of 2050 with resident input.

11.4 A report detailing the climate action plan will come to Cabinet and identify further environmental impacts.

12 CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

12.1 No expected impact.

13 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSED DECISION

13.1 The recommendations from the Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change need to be approved so the Council (via the commission) can take action on the Climate and Ecological emergency with resident input.

14 OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14.1 No other options have been considered at this stage.

15 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

15.1 WILL THE SUBJECT OF THE REPORT INVOLVE THE PROCESSING OF 'PERSONAL DATA'?

NO

15.2 The Director of Policy and Partnership comments that the data and evidence considered by the Citizen's Assembly did not include any personal data.

15.3 Personal data for the Citizen's assembly members was collected and maintained by the third party provider. This was held in accordance with their policies and privacy notices.

Approved by: Gavin Handford, Director of Policy and Partnership.

CONTACT OFFICER: Yasmin Ahmed, Senior Strategy Officer, ext 62545

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 – Final report on Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None