

For general release

REPORT TO:	<i>Streets Environment & Homes Sub-Committee 29th September 2020</i>
SUBJECT:	<i>Croydon Climate Crisis Commission</i>
LEAD OFFICER:	<i>Shifa Mustafa, Executive Director of Place</i>
CABINET MEMBER:	<i>Cllr Tony Newman, Leader of the Council All Cabinet</i>
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	<i>TBC</i>

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*
- *A truly sustainable Croydon*

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

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	<i>This has been identified as an item for Scrutiny.</i>
BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:	<i>To review the purpose, roles responsibilities and receive an update on the work plan of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission</i>

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.2 This report will cover the purpose of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission, the key roles and responsibilities, an update on the work plan and how the Commission aims to measure success.

2 CROYDON CLIMATE CRISIS COMMISSION

- 2.1 After declaring the Climate and Ecological emergency in July 2019 and agreeing to become carbon neutral as a Council by 2030, the Leader and Cabinet made the decision to have the Council work with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) to create the independent Croydon Climate Crisis Commission which launched on the 12th March at Croydon College.
- 2.2 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 by 2030. This work along with the recommendations from the Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change will form the Climate Action Plan for Croydon.
- 2.3 With the current timeline, the Council aims to bring this plan to Cabinet early next year.
- 2.4 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 NEF consulted with stakeholders across the borough (green groups, the voluntary sector, and Citizens' assembly) to draft the terms of reference for the commission
- 2.5 There will also be an engagement period towards the end of this year to ensure that these groups of people are also consulted with on the recommendations from the working groups before the plan goes to Cabinet in the New Year.
- 2.6 At the beginning of this year, Miatta Fahnbulleh, CEO of the New Economics Foundation, was appointed the chair of the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission.
- 2.7 Please see the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1 for further detail.

New Economics Foundation

- 2.8 NEF have been brought on as consultants to support the Commission and ensure that it remains independent from the Council. They are providing continuous support to the Commission and working groups, acting as the secretariat for the Commission, facilitating meetings, supporting the Chairs of the working groups and providing administrative support.
- 2.9 Council officers are part of the working groups to provide expertise and join up with other work streams around the Council where possible.

Engagement

- 2.10 Once the working groups have identified key themes and outcomes to recommend for the Climate Action Plan, the Council will support the Commission to engage with residents, businesses and young people to ensure that they are able to input and have their voices consistently heard throughout this process.

2.11 We are in the process of putting together an engagement plan which will include a timeline and will identify which groups to get in contact with as well as the format of the engagement sessions to ensure they are done in a socially distanced manner. The sessions will likely be done virtually to enable as much engagement as safely possible.

Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

2.12 There have so far been three main impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- **Context of Commission's recommendations:** The context and challenges in which the Commission is making recommendations has changed as a result of the pandemic. The Commission's focus has shifted slightly to recognise that it is now making recommendations in the context of a recession and is considering how its recommendations can support recovery in a way that moves towards the carbon neutral target.
- **Timeframe:** The Commission launched days before the national lockdown and a short period was needed to review ways of working and identify the best options to continue with the Commission by moving meetings online. This meant that the first Commission meeting took place in May rather than at the end of March as originally intended. As a result the timetable has been extended by one to two months and a higher concentration of work is planned for after the public engagement.
- **Availability of resources:** Prior to the lockdown, the Council had been seeking to recruit to a role to provide additional capacity and administrative and coordination support to the Commission, as agreed with NEF as part of the proposal. A recruitment freeze stopped this and NEF has sought to provide this additional capacity at no additional cost to the Council.

3 WORK PLAN UPDATE

3.1 The first two meetings of the commission have now taken place and five working groups have been set up to identify the outcomes of the climate action plan:

- Housing, Planning and Built Environment
- Adaptation and Resilience
- Jobs and Skills
- Energy & Transport
- Communication & Engagement

2.1 Each working group is chaired and led by members of the Commission. The groups are made up of technical experts, Council officers, citizens' assembly members and other groups who expressed an interest in being involved. Each group is also supported by someone from NEF.

2.2 The working groups are drawing on evidence and technical expertise, the recommendations of the citizens' assembly, best practice and other

experiences to develop recommendations. The Commission will synthesise and prioritise the recommendations from the groups, identifying links and recommending sequencing.

- 2.3 Each working group is aiming to meet two to four times ahead of recommendations going to public engagement. At the time of writing, each group has met at least once and meetings have focused on understanding the problem, challenges and opportunities and identification of possible solutions.

4 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 As mentioned previously, the climate action plan will be created based on the recommendations of the Commission.
- 4.2 The evaluation of the plan will need to be based on the deliverables to make the Council carbon neutral by 2030.
- 4.3 The deliverables have not yet been identified however, we will compare with Other London boroughs to ensure best practice. The Council is also endeavouring to have a baseline completed before the publication of the Climate Action Plan in the New Year to ensure that any outcomes can be measured and performance managed.

CONTACT OFFICER: Yasmin Ahmed, Senior Strategy Officer

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

APPENDICES: Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Croydon Climate Crisis Commission