

 Brent	<p align="center">Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny Committee 1 December 2020</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Assistant Chief Executive</p>
<p>Brent Climate Emergency Strategy (2021-2030) – Draft for Public Consultation</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	Appendix 1: Brent Climate Emergency Strategy – Draft for Public Consultation Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	
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1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Brent Climate Emergency Strategy (2021-2030). The Draft Strategy was approved to be issued for public consultation by Cabinet on 9th November 2020 and consultation is taking place from 16th November 2020 to 15th January 2021.
- 1.2 The Draft Strategy includes the key objectives, themes and areas of focus that will help Brent to do all in its gift to reach its overall aim of carbon neutrality by 2030.
- 1.3 The report additionally provides officer advice on a number of questions raised by the Chair of the Committee in relation to opportunities to embed climate action across council activity (see Section 5 of this report).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the Draft Brent Climate Emergency Strategy (Appendix A).
- 2.2 The Committee notes that, following comments received during public consultation, a revised, final Brent Climate Emergency Strategy will be presented back to Cabinet in spring 2021 for adoption.

3.0 Context

- 3.1 In October 2018, a Special Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as required by the Paris Agreement, called for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5⁰C in order to avoid the risk of reaching 'tipping points' in our ecological and climatic systems that are likely to lead to runaway climate change.
- 3.2 That IPCC report, together with the growing grassroots movements – such as the school climate strikes, community direct action and the Declare a Climate Emergency campaign – created a significant rise in media coverage and public sector commitments on the issue. The Mayor of London declared a climate emergency in December 2018, UK parliament declared a national climate emergency in May 2019, and in June 2019, the UK government enshrined in law a net zero carbon reduction target by 2050.
- 3.3 It is widely accepted by economists that the costs of taking climate action now will be far lower than the costs of inaction in the future. Global heating linked to climate change is predicted to have negative impacts not only for society's infrastructure and assets, but also for public health. These health impacts will be exacerbated without radical action to reduce pollution and enhance our green (natural) infrastructure. The health impacts are likely to affect vulnerable groups most severely and they include:
 - Poor air quality, which can cause or exacerbate serious medical conditions, and which particularly affects young people and deprived communities
 - More frequent and extreme weather events, such as flooding, heatwaves and drought, which can cause death, displacement and serious mental health conditions
 - An increase in fuel poverty if measures to combat and adapt to climate change are not carried out fairly
 - A lack of access to nature and green space, which can negatively impact physical and mental wellbeing
 - Potential for water and food scarcity and the arrival of new diseases and pandemics in the UK

- 3.4 Conversely, tackling climate change offers numerous health benefits, relating to cleaner air and better access to green space, healthier diets and more active travel, greater resilience to extreme weather, reduced fuel poverty and associated savings to National Health Service budgets.
- 3.5 The environmental crisis therefore provides an immediate opportunity for positive social, economic and environmental transformation through a transition to a net zero carbon economy, a cleaner and greener environment, and a fairer and healthier society. As well as reducing the risks from global heating, action to tackle climate change has the potential to bring positive change for the local community on many of the issues that matter most to people, such as cleaner air, greener spaces, warmer homes, healthier travel and a thriving local economy.
- 3.6 It is within this context that the London Borough of Brent (along with over 280 local authorities to date) passed a council motion to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency at the Full Council meeting on 8 July 2019. Within this declaration, the council committed to an overarching aim to *“do all reasonable in the Council’s gift to aim for carbon neutrality by 2030, and work with the government to achieve the national 2050 target”*.
- 3.7 The council has since carried out the following strategic actions to support the development of the climate emergency strategy for the borough:
- Developed a holistic, council-wide approach to addressing the climate emergency covering a range of inter-related environmental issues in Brent
 - Commissioned and received the Brent Carbon Scenarios 2030 Study, an independent assessment of the sources of carbon emissions produced in the borough and the potential pathways to achieve carbon neutrality
 - Concluded a cross-cutting, internal sustainability review to take stock of what is already happening in order to reduce carbon emissions and to consider what more needs to be done
 - Reported an Interim Response to Full Council in November 2019 including an Interim Climate Action Plan (Winter 2019/20).
- 3.8 It is clear that achieving the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 will be hugely challenging. As the council is not able to directly fund the level of infrastructure required to achieve this goal, collective climate action with key stakeholders across the borough will be paramount, alongside collaboration with regional and West London partners on cross borough initiatives, and a focus on ensuring that we secure investment in Brent from emerging national funding programmes.
- 3.9 In respect of regional collaboration, in December 2019, London Councils’ Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and the London Environment Directors’ Network (LEDNet) agreed a Joint Statement on Climate Change in which they committed to prioritise and support the delivery of the seven programmes listed below, by pooling experience, expertise and resources and working together collaboratively. These programmes are ultimately consistent with Brent’s ambitions for carbon neutrality:

- Retrofit London: Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of Energy Performance Certificate B.
- Low-carbon development: Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning.
- Halve petrol and diesel road journeys: Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel via combined measures that can restrict polluting journeys and incentivise sustainable and active travel options.
- Renewable power for London: Secure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future.
- Reduce consumption emissions: Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation.
- Build the green economy: Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy.
- Create a resilient and green London: Ensure London is resilient to the effects of climate change, whilst enhancing its biodiversity and green spaces.

3.10 In July 2020, London Councils also put forward eight key proposals to facilitate a green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Homes fit for the future: Comprehensive retrofit of housing and public sector buildings
- Net zero development for London: Establish a Commission on net zero development for London
- New neighbourhoods: Low carbon interconnected neighbourhoods
- Renewing our roads: London-wide road pricing and strategic enhancement of cycling/walking routes
- Accelerating low carbon heating: Developing local area energy plan and drive low carbon heating transformation
- Embedding a resilient, green economy: Develop a green economy recovery strategy
- Financing for a future London: Establish a green finance taskforce
- Creating a culture of sustainability: Research consumer behaviour and develop a communications strategy

3.11 Brent will continue to seek to capitalise on the benefits of joint working on this agenda, working with partners across the borough and across London and calling for the government to ensure that local authorities have the resources required to tackle climate change and ultimately meet the UK governments own targets. It is hoped that the UK government's role hosting the Conference of Parties (COP26) Climate Conference next year will mean an additional government focus on this agenda in the coming year.

- 3.12 Further to regional collaboration, the scale of the climate emergency requires us to build consensus with all sections of the community on the radical changes that will be needed in the way we heat and power our homes, move about and make choices about what we eat and buy. In autumn 2019, Brent organised a citizens' assembly on climate change to provide direction on how we should seek to tackle this issue collectively within the borough.
- 3.13 The [Brent Climate Assembly](#) took place over three workshops in November and December 2019, attended by 53 residents who came together to learn about climate change, discuss potential climate action in Brent, and make recommendations for action to the council and the community. The question they considered was *"How can we work together to limit climate change and its impact while protecting our environment, our health and our wellbeing? Consider the council, businesses and organisations, individuals"*.
- 3.14 The Assembly was designed and facilitated by deliberative democracy experts, Traverse, overseen by an advisory board of experts in relevant fields. At the Assembly workshops, a variety of specialists presented evidence and participated in discussions. Participants drew up a set of criteria by which to assess potential climate action. These were: cost effectiveness, fairness, transparency, wider benefits for health and wellbeing, and how realistic and achievable the idea was. Using this list, Assembly members voted on a longlist of potential actions which led to the development of a set of recommendations across a number of themes which have informed the Draft Strategy.
- 3.15 A Youth Climate Summit with the Brent Youth Parliament was also held, carrying out a similar process on a smaller scale to gain recommendations for climate action from the borough's young people, which were then presented to the wider Assembly, along with suggestions from over 300 individuals and groups who posted their ideas on the Assembly website.
- 3.16 Most recently, we engaged with residents through Brent Connects sessions to explore how we can begin to put the recommendations developed by the Brent Climate Assembly into action over the coming months and years.
- 3.17 A key proposal within the Draft Strategy is the formation of the Brent Environmental Network to provide opportunities for everyone in Brent to take individual and collective actions to address the climate emergency.

4.0 Draft Brent Climate Emergency Strategy - Overview

- 4.1 The aim of the Strategy will ultimately be to harness the opportunities that the council has to make a direct impact on the climate emergency, to identify where investment will be required for maximum impact, but also where the council can lead by supporting and enabling different key communities (residents, businesses, voluntary and community sector groups, schools, registered providers etc) to play their part in sharing ownership of this substantial agenda.

- 4.2 The Draft Strategy themes therefore reflect, as closely as possible, the priorities identified by the Brent Climate Assembly, they also reflect the ambitions and direction of travel on this agenda for councils across London (as highlighted in section three).
- 4.3 Further detail on each of the key themes is provided within the strategy document itself which also provides a few practical examples of how residents can take action and contribute to tackling the climate emergency.

Theme 1: Consumption, Resources and Waste

- 4.4 The long-term objective of this theme is: 'By 2030, our communities will be living more sustainably: consuming less of the products and materials that accelerate climate change, whilst also wasting less of the world's natural resources. This behaviour shift will have helped to cut Brent's consumption emissions by two-thirds, and drive a substantive reduction in the amount of household waste produced within the borough'.
- 4.5 The key areas of focus in achieving this goal are: creating the optimum conditions for community-led behaviour change; ensuring that the supporting waste related infrastructure continues to be improved; and enhancing the green and circular economy in Brent, shifting to a local economic model where resources and products are kept in use for as long as possible.

Theme 2: Transport

- 4.6 The long-term objective of this theme is: 'By 2030, petrol and diesel road journeys will have at least halved in the borough, being driven as close as possible to zero, with an accompanying increase in journeys made by residents through cycling, walking or public transport'.
- 4.7 The key areas of focus in achieving this goal are: supporting and encouraging active travel; moving away from petrol and diesel vehicles; and encouraging public transport where possible and safe to do so.

Theme 3: Homes and Buildings

- 4.8 The long-term objective of this theme is: 'By 2030, as many homes and buildings in the borough as possible will be more energy efficient, be powered by renewable sources, and be resilient to future adverse weather events caused by climate change - and we will do all in our gift to achieve an average Energy Performance Certificate rating of 'B' in directly owned council stock.
- 4.9 The key areas of focus in achieving this goal are: improving energy efficiency in all homes and buildings, whether existing or new-build, facilitating a shift to powering homes and buildings through renewable energy sources; and adapting our homes and buildings to ensure that they are more climate resilient to cope with the potentially dangerous effects of climate change in years to come.

Theme 4: Nature and Green Space

- 4.10 The long-term objective of this theme is: 'By 2030, Brent will be one of the greenest, most biodiverse and climate-resilient boroughs in London with our residents better connected to nature'.
- 4.11 The key areas of focus identified in achieving this goal are: enhancing green (and blue) spaces and biodiversity wherever possible; improving our wider green infrastructure such as green corridors; and adapting our green spaces to assist in mitigating against adverse weather impacts in years to come.

Theme 5: Supporting Communities

- 4.12 Underpinning all four themes above is the overarching theme of ensuring that our communities are supported in delivering the proposed climate objectives for the borough.
- 4.13 The long-term objective of this theme is: 'Everyone who lives, works or studies in Brent will have improved access to clear and understandable information on the need to tackle the climate emergency, and as many people as possible will be actively engaged in taking action to help the borough become carbon neutral by 2030'.
- 4.14 The key areas of focus in achieving this goal are: developing an environmental network in Brent for organisations, communities and individuals to be the catalysts of driving this agenda forward; supporting the key sectors which will need to be at the forefront of making sustainable change happen (households, schools, businesses, the voluntary and community sector); and through launching and utilising the Brent Carbon Offset Fund to drive carbon reduction at a local level.
- 4.15 Once adopted, the strategy will be treated as a 'live' document, with the annual delivery plans reviewed each year to ensure that the Borough is progressing against its overall aim for carbon neutrality by 2030. The setting of intermediary/midway targets for the Strategy for the period leading up to 2030 will be considered as part of this ongoing review process.

5.0 Response on specific areas of interest identified by the Committee

- 5.1 This section provides an update on opportunities to address climate change within a number of council functions identified by the Committee.

Pension divestment

- 5.2 The Brent Pension Fund is invested to ensure that the pensions that its members are entitled to can be paid. The legal and fiduciary duty of the pension fund committee is to ensure that this objective can be met, and

investments are made in a wide range of assets, in line with industry best practice to ensure that the risk is diversified.

5.3 The Brent Pension Fund has the following funding principles:

- Ensure that sufficient resources are available to meet all benefit as they fall due for payment;
- Recover any shortfall in assets, relative to the value of accrued liabilities, over broadly the future working lifetime of current employees;
- Enable employer contributions to be kept as stable as possible and at reasonable cost; and
- Maximise the returns from investments within reasonable risk parameters.

5.4 The Fund's Sub-Committee also takes Responsible Investment ("RI") seriously. The Fund's Sub-Committee recognises that Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") factors can influence the Fund's ability to achieve long-term sustainable returns. This is reflected in the Fund's Investment Strategy Statement, which includes the following stated beliefs:

- Environmental, social and corporate governance ('ESG') issues can have a material impact on the long term performance of its investments
- Climate change and the expected transition to a low carbon economy is a long term financial risk to Fund outcomes.

5.5 The ESG criteria of its existing investments are assessed on an ongoing basis, including regular interaction and challenge of the Fund's investment managers (including the Fund's asset pool London CIV). The Fund has continued to make strong representations to the London CIV on ESG issues and to have a senior lead on responsible investment. The Sub-Committee is also committed to collaborative investment practices with the view of affecting positive change through the powers of collaborative influence.

5.6 Climate change has the potential to impact all asset classes over the Fund's lifetime and the Fund, with its actuary and investment advisors, has modelled various scenarios to understand possible outcomes from different climate related scenarios. The Fund is also considering undertaking a carbon footprint exercise for the Fund in order to improve its understanding of the Fund's holdings and is awaiting developments from London CIV in this area. Overall, therefore, an important consideration is how we achieve long term sustainable returns and how climate change risk impacts on our ability to achieve these returns.

5.7 The Pensions Sub-Committee agreed to invest £50m in the London CIV Infrastructure fund in October 2019. The design of this fund ensures that at least 25% of the fund will be invested in renewable energy projects.

5.8 The Pensions Sub-Committee agreed to invest £28m in a low carbon equity fund in July 2020.

5.9 The Fund continues to explore further investment options in this area. London CIV recently held a 'seed investor group' for a low cost, low carbon equity

fund. The Brent Pension Fund is a member of this group and its purpose will be to help shape the investment mandate ahead of a Fund launch. Officers will be working closely with the Fund's investment advisers to assess the suitability of this investment in Brent's portfolio once further details are known.

Air quality and the North Circular Road

- 5.10 The A406 North Circular Road (NCR) forms part of a strategic ring-road around London, and is the responsibility of Transport for London (TfL). High volumes of traffic result in very poor air quality along this corridor. In October 2021, TfL will extend the existing central London Ultra Low Emission Zone to the area bounded by the North and South Circular Roads, but the North Circular Road is not included in the zone. The wider expansion of the ULEZ scheme to include the NCR would help to reduce pollution. Brent will collaborate with TfL on opportunities to expand the ULEZ in the future, or introduce projects or initiatives that will help to improve air quality.

Managing and protecting biodiversity through our Public Realm contract

- 5.11 We are working closely with Veolia to enhance biodiversity in the borough through the planting and development of the wildflower meadows and its expansion into verges. Veolia are fully supportive of the council's vision to plant in our parks in a way which works with constant climate change and to develop our parks, open spaces and verges into newly created habitats for wildlife.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- 5.12 There is one SSSI site in Brent, which is the Welsh Harp reservoir, which is under shared management with Barnet Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust (C&RT). There is also a Welsh Harp Consultative Committee, which meets quarterly to discuss management of the area. A working group was established between Thames 21, Brent and Barnet Councils, C&RT and the GLA to set out a vision for the Welsh Harp that will facilitate site improvements and wider communication of this wonderful location, whilst retaining the SSSI status

Public Sector in Brent

- 5.13 The council has a long standing carbon management programme for its own estate and operations (which includes corporate buildings, fleet and street lighting). By April 2020 we had achieved a 64% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions against our 2010/11 baseline, exceeding our target of a 60% reduction in emissions by 2021. This was achieved through a combination of improvements within our own buildings, installing LED streetlights and through benefits associated with grid decarbonisation.
- 5.14 The Government has recently announced funding under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for public sector organisations to implement measures which both directly and indirectly result in carbon reduction, in particular in relation to heat decarbonisation. This has provided an

opportunity for Brent to further review its stock and develop a programme of short term works to reduce carbon. The aim is to use the information developed as part of the grant application process to investigate what further longer term measures might benefit our stock and determine the investment required. The programme will also allow the Council to develop a heat decarbonisation strategy for its buildings.

- 5.15 In addition, the council is investigating the potential for renewable energy projects to further decarbonise our energy use and determine how to maximise our use of renewables in the borough and the potential for working with partners outside the borough.
- 5.16 Through the Brent Environmental Network, we will seek to engage with all other public sector bodies in Brent to share good practice and to start working towards our carbon neutral goal together.

Planning

- 5.17 A key policy on climate change and resilience within the Council's draft Local Plan (anticipated to be adopted spring 2021) will not only tackle climate change within the borough, but also improve air quality and deliver a number of social and economic benefits. Ensuring that all developments have high standards of environmental performance will be a key part in delivering this policy objective.
- 5.18 Planning policies within the draft Local Plan will require that all major commercial and residential developments mitigate and adapt to climate change, specifically by being Air Quality Positive or Neutral, and by managing flood risk, on-site water management and sustainable surface water drainage. Minor developments will be encouraged to maximise feasible opportunities for on-site renewable energy generation. Where zero carbon targets cannot be achieved on site the council will seek payment from developers into a local carbon offset fund which will be used to deliver carbon offsetting projects in the borough.
- 5.19 In addition, planning policies also include provisions for all new developments to be car-free or car-lite, increase coverage of electric vehicle charging points and enable broadband access to encourage home working, all of which help to contribute to the implementation of the themes/objectives within the draft Brent Climate Emergency Strategy.

Business rates

- 5.20 In order to incentivise businesses to reduce their carbon footprint, officers considered the introduction of a business rates relief to businesses who were able to demonstrate a significant reduction in their carbon footprint.
- 5.21 However, this proposal was not taken forward due to the current business rates retention regime set by government. Many business are already eligible for relief under the existing system, for example small business rates relief, charitable relief and retail relief. As a result, in 2020/21, businesses in these

sectors such as retail, shops, leisure, bars, restaurants and small businesses pay no business rates. Therefore, using the business rates system to incentivise businesses in the borough is unlikely to have the desired result.

Licensing

- 5.22 The council's Licensing Team licenses various activities in accordance with the relevant legal provisions. The licensing provisions are determined by either legislation or statutory guidance. The council is unable to incorporate any climate emergency provisions into policies in order to sway or otherwise, any decision making process.
- 5.23 For example, the most commonly used policy is under the Licensing Act 2003 for the licensing of alcohol, entertainment and late-night refreshment. The council's policy must address the four licensing objectives of preventing of crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance and protecting children from harm. Climate Change criteria do not align with the required objectives.

Partnerships

- 5.24 As highlighted in the Supporting Communities section, we are launching a new, cross-sector Brent Environmental Network (BEN) as the main mechanism for sustained engagement with residents, businesses, schools, VCS, public sector and environmental groups on tackling the climate emergency in Brent. BEN will provide a means of collaboration, sharing information and opening dialogue around climate change and climate action with Brent residents and organisations and will also facilitate targeted sector-specific communications and engagement.
- 5.25 We are also working in partnership with other London Boroughs, and our West London neighbours in particular, to share ideas and good practice and to collaborate, for example through the successful West London consortium bid for the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Given the financial pressures that the council is facing and competing council priorities following the onset of COVID-19, alternative approaches include a 'business as usual' approach. However, as is made clear within the strategy document, through working together with Brent's communities, the council remains committed and ambitious in its goal to attain carbon neutrality by 2030. Failure to act at such a crucial time risks setting in train climate deterioration that will have huge adverse impacts for the borough and its population in years to come. For these reasons, 'business as usual' is not considered desirable.
- 6.2 An approach that solely focuses on the council's own estate and operations is also not supported, in view of the above but moreover, because the council's own emissions only account for 1% of Brent's total territorial carbon emissions. It is also thought that there is no other central body in Brent that

can play a leadership role to bring together individuals and organisations in tackling this issue with the speed and urgency it requires.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 The financial implications for each action within the 2021-2022 action plan are set out at the end of Appendix A. Overall, of the 23 actions proposed, four are already factored into existing budgets, 10 result in new additional activity where costs can be contained within existing departmental budgets, six have external funding secured and three require further work where due to the early stage of project scoping, the financial implications are yet to be fully developed. These actions include developing a green infrastructure vision for 2030 (R&E06), developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the borough (R&E12) and implementing the council's plan to achieve net zero for the Council's own estate and operations by 2030 (R&E13). These plans are likely to have both revenue and capital financial implications, which will be assessed as the detailed plans and recommendations are developed. Those aside, it is expected that the year one actions can be contained within existing budgets.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 (the Act) is the statutory basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. The Act places a legal duty on central government to set legally binding targets to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

9.0 Equality Implications

9.1 The council, as a public authority exercising public functions, is subject to a general public sector equality duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA). The PSED requires public authorities to have 'due regard' to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. This involved having due regard to the need to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic
 - Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it
 - Encourage persons who share the relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low

- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant and protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This includes having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

9.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix B to this report. This strategy and action plan will support Brent Council to continue to meet its public sector equality duties.

10.0 Human Resources Implications

10.1 There are no immediate staffing implications.

11.0 Property Implications

11.1 Energy audits of Harlesden Library, Kilburn Library and the New Millennium day Centre have recently taken place. A specific energy audit for the Civic Centre is also being discussed by officers and is hoped to be commissioned in the near future.

11.2 The findings from all of these reports will help to inform the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the council's estate and operations by 2030, which is part of the 2021-22 delivery plan within **Appendix A**.

12.0 Environmental Sustainability Implications

12.1 Environmental sustainability considerations are integral to the purpose, content and recommendations in this report.

13.0 Proposed Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

13.1 Every individual who lives, works or studies in Brent has a stake in tackling the climate emergency. The draft strategy has been developed with the views of our residents at its heart, with the key themes and actions closely reflecting the priorities of the Brent Climate Assembly which took place last year.

13.2 Residents and stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft strategy [via the open consultation](#) which closes on 15th January 2021.

13.3 During the eight week consultation period we are holding a series of virtual events with schools, businesses, environmental groups and residents, particularly those groups who will be most affected by climate change – young people, older people, people with disabilities and our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

- 13.4 We are encouraging our ward councillors to become community champions. We have prepared fact sheets for members to use to promote the council's response to the climate emergency and to engage with residents, businesses, schools and community groups in their ward. Members will be at the forefront of community engagement and will be champions for climate action.
- 13.5 Finally, we have included a Neighbourhood Survey as part of the consultation activity – we are asking what changes people are making and can make to help make their neighbourhood greener and cleaner. We want to understand where and how people want to take climate action and we will use this information to help them make this happen.

Report sign off:

SHAZIA HUSSAIN
Assistant Chief Executive