



Cabinet
20 June 2022

Report from the Assistant Chief Executive

Brent Climate & Ecological Emergency Strategy: 2021-22 progress update, new 2022-24 Delivery Plan, and Carbon Offset Fund (CO₂GO) Allocations

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	<p>Six:</p> <p>Appendix A New 2022-2024 Delivery Plan</p> <p>Appendix B Place-based Approach: <i>Recommended Sustainable Neighbourhoods pilots (Neighbourhood-Led)</i></p> <p>Appendix C Place-based Approach: <i>Recommended Sustainable Neighbourhoods pilot (Development-led)</i></p> <p>Appendix D Place-based Approach: <i>Enhanced sustainability focus as part of regeneration plans</i></p> <p>Appendix E Brent Carbon Offset Fund (CO₂GO) Allocations</p> <p>Appendix F Climate and Ecological Emergency 2021-22 Delivery Plan Progress Report</p>
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officers:	<p>Tom Welsh Climate Emergency Strategy Manager 020 8937 6607 tom.welsh@brent.gov.uk</p> <p>Oliver Myers Head of Environmental Strategy, Commissioning and Sustainability 020 8937 5323 Oliver.myers@brent.gov.uk</p>

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is: firstly, to present Cabinet with an overview of progress made on the Climate and Ecological Emergency programme in 2021-22; secondly, to present Cabinet with the proposed new Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy 2022-24 delivery plan ('the Plan'); and thirdly, to seek approval from Cabinet to the allocation of grants from the council's Carbon Offset Fund as part of the CO₂GO Participatory Budgeting Process which concluded in January 2022.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet:

- (a) Agree the new 2022-2024 Delivery Plan for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy attached in Appendix A.
- (b) Agree to pilot a place-based Sustainable Neighbourhood approach in the areas set out in Appendices B, C, and D, and for officers to begin a phased engagement and co-production process with communities in the selected areas.
- (c) Agree the criteria set by the Resident Planning Group (as outlined in section 8 of this report) for this phase of the Brent Carbon Offset Fund (CO₂GO).
- (d) Agree the proposed allocations for funding in Pot 1 and Pot 2 of the Brent Carbon Offset Fund as set out in Appendix E, ratifying the public vote made on applications during the 'You Decide' Participatory Budgeting Decision Day on 29 January 2022.
- (e) Agree to delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to award and make grants from the Brent Carbon Offset Fund up to the value of £100k (*in line with the powers provided to the Assistant Chief Executive for award of grants at this level for the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy*).
- (f) That Cabinet note the progress made in the year one (2021-2022) Delivery Plan, the detail of which is set out in Appendix F.

3.0 Context and review of progress to date (Year One 2021-22 Delivery Plan)

- 3.1 Development of Brent's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy ('the Strategy') followed the council's declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019 and extensive engagement with the local community. The Strategy was approved by Cabinet in April 2021. The Strategy committed the council to yearly delivery plans of focused, costed and deliverable actions to contribute to Brent's aim to be a carbon neutral borough by 2030. Delivery plans were agreed to be refreshed and adopted by Cabinet each year.

- 3.2 There were 23 actions listed as part of the published 2021-22 delivery plan. A full summary of activity to date is provided in Appendix F. The highlights within each of the five key themes of the strategy are set out below.

Theme 1 – Consumption, Resources and Waste

- New Council Sustainable Procurement Policy launched
- 1,500 new internal food waste caddies delivered to Brent Housing Management blocks
- Development of new circular economy/waste initiatives: Fixing Factory launched at Abbey Road Household Re-use and Recycling Centre, two educational webinars held, expansion of Brent businesses on Restart Project's repair directory
- Four key waste educational initiatives run by Veolia in Brent Schools (E-learning lessons, Eco-Leaders programme, Sustainable Schools Competition, School Assemblies)

Theme 2 – Sustainable Travel

- 383 new Electric Vehicle Charge Points installed
- 50 new bike hangars delivered
- 30 school streets trialled, 26 to be made permanent
- Undertook three cargo bike trials in Harlesden – the participating organisations were: Sparks, Crazy Baker and Harlesden Mutual Aid
- Purchased the first council-owned Cargo Bike
- 26 'gold' accredited school travel plans; 5 'silver' accredited; 4 'bronze' accredited

Theme 3 – Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment

- Secured £3.2m of government funding to improve the energy efficiency of 16 council-owned buildings, expected to complete by summer 2022
- The West London Green Homes Grant and Home Upgrade Grant schemes, which Brent is part of, were able to obtain around £40m in funding secured from government to upgrade 4,000 fuel poor homes from spring 2022, of which £3.5m is allocated to Brent homes (approximately 350 Brent homes). The schemes give homeowners the opportunity to transform their homes with a grant to pay for energy efficient improvements
- Three retrofit pilots completed in void properties in the council's own stock
- Undertook an energy assessment of the council's own housing stock to inform a new energy efficiency strategy

Theme 4 – Nature and Green Space

- 661 new trees planted in the borough in 2021-22
- Completed a new Green Infrastructure Vision for Brent for 2030, which aims to bring together a multitude of strands that provide an opportunity to expand and connect green infrastructure throughout Brent

- Developed a new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the borough to address the climate-related risks facing Brent

Theme 5 – Supporting Communities

- Launched the Brent Environmental Network which now has over 2,800 members – plus active sub-groups: Community Advisory Group and School Climate Champions Network
- Launch of two new grants schemes:
 - ‘**CO₂GO**’ Brent’s resident-led Carbon Offset Fund (£500k) – grants of up to £10,000 awarded to Brent residents to make energy efficiency improvements in their home and for educational initiatives in the borough; the process was driven by a participatory budgeting process with 15 sustainability projects being put forward to be allocated funding
 - Launch of the ‘**Together Towards Zero**’ Small Grants Scheme – community sustainability grants of up to £1,000, 18 local community projects have been funded so far
- Delivered a programme of over 20 public engagement events in a two-week period as part of the Brent Climate Festival
- Delivered the six-part ‘A beginner’s guide to the Climate Emergency’ series – all sessions which remain available as an educational resource on the council’s YouTube channel
- Published a set of Green Business Guides and ran a webinar series (‘Going Green to Survive and Thrive’) targeted at the five main business sectors in Brent

4.0 New 2022-2024 Delivery Plan and Key Areas of Focus

- 4.1 The need to accelerate action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency has never been more urgent and in order to achieve greater focus, pace, visibility and impact, a number of new areas of focus for the new Plan have been identified. The new areas of focus are:
- i) A place-based approach, through a) piloting up to three sustainable neighbourhoods b) a focus on ensuring the St Raphael’s Estate development is as green as possible and c) a review of Brent Local Plan Growth Areas to ensure that sustainability opportunities are maximised.
 - ii) Community wealth building, through climate action that supports local economic growth and helps reduce the cost of business for local businesses and other organisations.
 - iii) Supporting households with the rising cost of living, through specific climate action that aims to boost household income.
- 4.2 The Plan includes a range of actions linked to these areas of focus which support the following key ‘co-benefits of climate action’: cleaner air, greener spaces, warmer homes, healthier travel and a thriving local, low carbon circular economy.
- 4.3 The Plan also therefore serves as an ‘umbrella’ document that draws together the key strands from our various environmental sustainability strategies (set out

within the full Strategy document itself). The Plan will seek to reinforce other key strategic aims for the borough such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Youth Strategy and Black Community Action Plan in particular.

- 4.4 The Plan covers a two year period rather than one-year, which will allow more time and focus for operational delivery of a more ambitious programme. The next Plan is expected to be developed for 2024-2026 accordingly.
- 4.5 An engagement programme entitled 'Let's Talk Climate: Waste and Green Space' was undertaken between late 2021-early 2022 to gather the views of communities as part of the re-procurement process for Brent's Integrated Street Cleansing, Waste Collections and Winter Maintenance contract ("The Integrated Contract") and the Grounds Maintenance contract. Resident feedback from this process has also fed into the development of the Plan given the overlap on these key issues and new actions have sought to respond to this feedback where possible. Examples of this in the Plan include:
- CRW001 – We will open the first Library of Things in Brent
 - CRW003 – We will offer a free internal food caddy to every resident living in a flat
 - CRW004 – We will develop and pilot a new re-use and repair hub in a locality area, with support from the West London Waste Authority and third sector partners
 - CRW002 – We will deliver improved sustainability outcomes following the procurement of the new Integrated Contract and Grounds Maintenance contract
 - NGS001 – We will continue the borough's tree planting programme – aimed at areas of low canopy cover, poor air quality and deprivation
 - NGS002 to NGS008 – a number of actions to continue to improve the green natural infrastructure within the borough
 - SC007 – We will deliver a new sustainability communications programme with an increased focus on how going green can benefit our residents and communities in their daily lives at a local level.

5.0 Key area of focus 1: A place-based 'Sustainable Neighbourhoods' approach

- 5.1 Perhaps the most innovative and efficient way of demonstrating greater focus, pace, visibility and impact on the climate and ecological emergency agenda is through the designation and implementation of a new place-based approach. This would be delivered through piloting 'Sustainable Neighbourhoods' in a number of areas within the borough in which the council would seek to target a dedicated proportion of its sustainability investment and activity.
- 5.2 Part of the rationale for this is to forge a strong partnership with local communities within these localities, demonstrating how tackling the climate and ecological emergency relates to local areas in Brent and showcasing the holistic benefits it can bring. Another benefit of this approach is that it would provide the opportunity to learn lessons for delivery in order to replicate the actions undertaken in these pilots in other areas of the borough beyond 2023.

5.3 There are two key differential elements within Brent’s approach to selecting suitable locations. The first is that we propose to undertake two ‘*Neighbourhood-led*’ pilots, that would be delivered and completed by the end of 2023, and the second is to undertake one ‘*Development-led*’ pilot, that would be longer-term and focused around the new development pipeline, aiming to complete by the end of 2025/26.

Neighbourhood-led pilot(s) (To be delivered by end of 2023)	Development-led pilot (To be delivered by the end of 2025 or 2026)
<u>Identifying quicker ‘wins’ ie:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing sustainability infrastructure or initiatives in place • Demand / scope for additional sustainability infrastructure or initiatives • Active local community groups and scope for community buy-in • Mixed demographics (IMD 2019) 	<u>Enhancing sustainability initiatives within development pipeline ie:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by timeline of new development– where there are still opportunities to integrate into design stage • Identifying longer-term opportunities to influence New Council Homes Programme or partnership planning opportunities • Opportunities for net zero new builds, active travel infrastructure, green spaces and infrastructure, retrofit to any council stock in the vicinity • Opportunities for heat networks, electricity supply, more complex infrastructure etc

Selecting ‘Neighbourhood-led’ pilots

5.4 In the process of drawing up proposals for the proposed pilot areas, officers considered a range of datasets and drew up a longlist of 24 potential locations before whittling this down to the areas proposed within this report. The key measures/datasets which were considered are outlined below.

Selecting a <u>Neighbourhood-led</u> Pilot
Key Measures/Dataset
Active Community Groups
Schools/Colleges
Town Centre/Business Presence
Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Considerations
Council Housing Stock
Sustainable Travel Infrastructure and Demand
Access to Parks and Open Spaces

5.5 As a result of this analysis, it is proposed to undertake two neighbourhood-led pilots, one in the north of the borough (north of the North Circular Road) and one in the south of the borough (south of the North Circular Road). This would aim to provide us with learnings from different parts of the borough in terms of geography, demographics and community assets within these localities.

North of the Borough

5.6 When considering the north of the borough, an area around **Kingsbury/Roe Green** is considered to be a highly suitable area to undertake a neighbourhood-led pilot. The area selected would encompass parts of Queensbury and Kingsbury wards.

South of the Borough

- 5.7 When considering the south of the borough, a locality in and around **Church End/ Roundwood** is a strong candidate for a neighbourhood-led pilot. The area selected would encompass parts of the Roundwood and Harlesden & Kensal Green wards.
- 5.8 The boundaries for the areas identified for these two neighbourhood-led pilot areas, as set out in **Appendix B**, remain flexible at this stage and it may be the case that the boundaries are altered slightly following engagement with residents and further project delivery planning with officers.

Selecting a 'Development-led' Pilot

- 5.9 The process of selecting a 'development-led' pilot area was more dependent on the milestones within the development pipeline and in particular, the timing of the design stages and opportunities to integrate new sustainability considerations. The best opportunities to embed environmental sustainability and potential for net zero new builds is felt to be through incorporating these objectives into the New Council Homes Programme, in particular those schemes which are currently being considered for feasibility.
- 5.10 Following review of eight schemes within the council's New Council Homes development pipeline, **South Kilburn** was identified as the most suitable area for undertaking a development-led pilot. It is also proposed that an increased emphasis on sustainability is placed on the regeneration plans for **St Raphael's Estate**.
- 5.11 Finally in respect of the place-based approach, the Plan includes a commitment to review the development pipeline for Growth Areas in line with the provisions of the new Local Plan, to ensure that all aspects of sustainability are being addressed wherever possible.

Engagement and Co-production for Sustainable Neighbourhoods

- 5.12 Engagement and co-production with the local community will be key to the design and delivery of the pilots which will begin following Cabinet's approval of these areas. This engagement work is provisionally planned to begin from 27 June 2022, and run until 30 September 2022, with the initial engagement phase being undertaken with communities within the Kingsbury/Roe Green area boundary area, and Church End/Roundwood boundary area due these 'neighbourhood-led' pilots having a shorter delivery timeframe (completion envisaged by end of 2023).
- 6.0 Key area of focus 2: Community Wealth Building: climate action that can support local economic growth**
- 6.1 Community wealth building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development which redirects wealth back into the local economy.

- 6.2 The importance of transitioning to a Low Carbon Circular Economy model is central to tackling the climate and ecological emergency, and recent events around the world, particularly in relation to energy costs and inflation, show that this shift could happen earlier than anticipated. It is therefore proposed to prioritise new actions and initiatives that will help to reduce carbon emissions from the commercial/industrial sector (28% of Brent's overall carbon emissions) whilst simultaneously supporting businesses in ways which will help with the rising cost of business. For example, by cutting their operating costs, growing their operations and creating more secure and sustainable 'green' job opportunities.
- 6.3 When considering the business make-up of Brent, the big opportunity to deliver something ambitious and at scale is at the Park Royal industrial estate. Alongside colleagues from neighbouring councils, and the Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC), a working group is exploring the development of a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) and opportunities for low carbon projects.
- 6.4 Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) make up the vast majority (99%) of businesses operating within the borough and we will expand and accelerate our support and engagement offer with this type of enterprise. In particular through providing support for businesses to audit and understand their carbon footprint, to enable businesses to make energy efficiency improvements in their operations through our small energy efficiency grants pilot (under the Business Support Fund) and to develop a green climate charter scheme for businesses, to encourage businesses to visibly demonstrate their green intentions or credentials to local consumers and partners.
- 6.5 When considering community wealth from a resident perspective, upskilling and job creation is a key focal point. Central to this within the new Plan, will be the launch of the Green Skills Centre in Willesden, which has been developed alongside United Colleges, and a new sector based pathways scheme for unemployed people to encourage more people to take up green jobs as a career option. By placing greater focus on green skills and green job creation, we would create a supply of individuals for organisations to utilise, which can link to a host of potential areas of demand for work that are set out in the paragraphs below. This could also expand opportunities for local economic and wage growth.
- 6.6 We will also continue to promote local supply chain opportunities, ensuring that council procurement activity is made more accessible for local businesses wherever possible.
- 7.0 Key area of focus 3: Climate action that can reduce household costs and thereby help households with the rising cost of living**
- 7.1 The development of Brent's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and implementation of our first year delivery plan has also coincided with a serious cost of living crisis which is likely to worsen before it improves. A number of

climate actions can boost household incomes, simultaneously supporting people with the cost of living crisis and contributing to emissions reduction.

- 7.2 As part of the new Plan, we propose to develop a new Library of Things from an appropriate community location plus new 'give, take and mend' re-use and repair hubs, with support from West London Waste. Respectively, this will encourage people to consider using the Library of Things to borrow items to use at a lower price than buying new. By enhancing our offer on repair and re-use initiatives, this will aim to save people money on buying new and provide new green skills in the growing reuse sector. We will also roll-over plans to deliver a free internal food caddy to every flat in Brent in order to tackle this long-standing issue within Brent's waste stream and provide the necessary infrastructure, accompanied by education, to encourage people to waste less food, saving money in the process.
- 7.3 Similarly, the costs of energy will increase significantly in April and again in October through changes to the energy price cap. We have reviewed the existing energy advice provision in Brent, and in advance of next Winter we will have in place a better coordinated and targeted advice service, still using the Brent Hubs, which builds in the opportunity for frontline health, care and housing professionals to refer households in need for support and provides more free home energy advice to the most vulnerable households. We will also undertake new retrofit projects via the Carbon Offset Fund, Tower Blocks Programme and a dedicated energy efficiency programme targeting the council housing stock with the lowest energy ratings, augmented by external grants.
- 7.4 Finally, we will reinforce in our campaigns that taking up active travel is not only positive for the environment and healthier for our residents, but can also save money given the increase in petrol prices. An accelerated shift to active travel measures and supporting infrastructure can save people money now and into the future.

8.0 Brent Carbon Offset Fund

Background

- 8.1 Since 1 October 2016, under the London Plan any development that fails to achieve on-site zero carbon must make cash in lieu contributions to a Carbon Offset Fund within the borough that they are operating, collected via Section 106. These contributions are used to fund local carbon reduction projects, thereby offsetting the development's carbon emissions shortfall. Brent has collected approximately £1,700,000 (as of end of March 2022) in carbon-offset contributions. The Carbon Offset Fund is explicitly ring-fenced for carbon reduction activity and Brent is required to report on progress to the GLA.
- 8.2 The GLA has specific guidance on the Carbon Offset Fund which is available online. The fund should ideally be used for tangible carbon reduction projects in buildings, although education projects are also eligible. There are specific criteria related to the carbon reduction achieved. To date, Brent is yet to spend any of its Carbon Offset Fund, and therefore an action in the 2021-22 Delivery

Plan committed the Council to launching its fund as a means of incentivising domestic and non-domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

'You Decide' Participatory Budgeting Process and Criteria

- 8.3 Officers in Strategy and Partnerships have worked over the past year to develop and deliver a participatory budgeting process in Brent, as a pilot for using Participatory Budgeting to decide the allocation of funds such as the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) in future. An initial tranche of £500k of Brent's Carbon Offset Fund was designated for Brent's first participatory budgeting pilot.
- 8.4 Local residents were placed at the heart of this process from the start, including being involved in the decision-making on setting the criteria for allocation of the funds. A recruitment process was launched to appoint up to 50 residents as members of a planning group. Officers sought to ensure targeted activity to ensure a diverse representation across Brent communities. 18 residents regularly took part in the planning group process.
- 8.5 The resident planning group were tasked with:
- Developing the eligibility criteria and programme
 - Designing all communications materials
 - Promoting the programme and application process to local groups and residents
 - Promoting the decision day event across the community
- 8.6 The resident planning group agreed the name of the project as 'CO₂GO'. In terms of the eligibility criteria, the resident planning group agreed to target those in fuel poverty but also felt that the fund should not be means tested. The resident planning group also agreed that no funds would be released directly to individual households, and that a specialist third party contractor would be engaged to manage the energy efficiency works for successful applicants.
- 8.7 The resident planning group agreed the best use of the fund would be to cover the cost of surveys on all the properties in a bidding cluster. Once the survey is complete, the individual clusters will meet to discuss the findings and agree the approach for spending their budget. The fund will cover the cost of measures and will pay the contractor directly (in accordance with procurement rules). At no point will individual residents in the energy efficiency group be given money directly. A further agreed objective was to look at the clusters as a whole as there are significant economies of scale e.g. cost of external wall insulation for a cluster of ten properties, should be less than external wall insulation for ten individual properties.
- 8.8 The planning group agreed on two pots of funding to be made available as part of the process:
- Pot 1 - A total of £400k was available to reduce carbon and save energy costs to households and community buildings across Brent. Residents were able to apply for up to £10,000 per household and were able to join up with

others in their community to form clusters of connected houses, flats or a combination.

- Pot 2 - A total of £100k was available for organisations and groups of residents to apply for between £500 and £20,000 for projects that deliver education and awareness to reduce the carbon footprint in Brent.

- 8.9 Face to face and online support sessions were held to explain the You Decide Programme and provide support to residents completing application forms. Residents had 11 weeks to submit applications. 26 applications were submitted for Pot 1 and 24 applications were submitted for Pot 2.
- 8.10 Officers attended the Participatory Budgeting planning group meetings. The role of the officers was to ensure that the planning group's proposals were in line with GLA guidelines around Carbon Offset Fund spending and ensure that the proposals would not be contrary to any council policies.

Decision Day

- 8.11 The Decision Day was held as a virtual event on 29 January 2022. The event attracted a total number of 75 attendants to the Pot 1 voting event and 127 attendants to the Pot 2 voting event.
- 8.12 All applicants submitted pre-recorded films ahead of the decision day event. During the online event, each project presented their 2-3 minute video and at the end of each film, all voters were asked to vote on 'How well do you think adaptations to these houses will support reduction of carbon and support local residents?'
- 8.13 Appendix E outlines the bids in Pots 1 and 2 that garnered the highest level of community support via the public vote. The first pot of £400k included a total of 39 flats, maisonettes and houses that will undergo sustainability works to reduce their carbon footprint. These properties have combined as a cluster to maximise the benefits of green measures. Two community buildings in Willesden were also selected for energy saving makeovers. The second pot of £100k was awarded to community groups who will run educational projects to help residents reduce carbon emissions, save money, and make positive and healthier lifestyle changes.

Next steps

- 8.14 Subject to Cabinet approval of the applications put forward in Appendix E, arrangements will be made to release funding directly to Pot 2 projects in line with the council's grant procedures and a contractor will be engaged and appointed (in line with procurement rules) to undertake the work required for the projects agreed for Pot 1. Monitoring of the project outcomes will be undertaken and reporting of spend will be provided to the GLA as required under existing processes.
- 8.15 There is further work required to determine the use of remaining Carbon Offset Fund monies. At this stage, a further £1.2M is available in the Fund. Officers

will develop proposals for how these monies can best support the delivery of the priorities in the new Plan in the coming months.

9.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 9.1 It was considered whether it would be feasible to designate one pilot Sustainable Neighbourhood within each of the five Brent Connects areas, so as to ensure a wider geographical spread. This was not favoured as this would be too difficult to manage within existing resources, and could end up diluting the engagement, impact and learning in the areas which are selected.

10.0 Financial Implications

- 10.1 The financial implications for each action is set out in Appendix A. Overall, of the 41 actions proposed, 29 can be delivered within existing service budgets, 10 have external funding secured and 2 require further scoping work. Of these latter two actions, one involves identifying an opportunity for an exemplar net zero new build within the New Council Homes Programme (HBBE008), which is at a very early stage of project scoping. The second relates to the action to finalise plans for the council to achieve net zero carbon emissions from the council's own estate and operations by 2030 (HBBE011) which has been rolled over into 2022-24 from 2021-22 due to the complexity of this work. Both of these actions are likely to have significant revenue and capital financial implications, which will be assessed as the detailed plan and recommendations are developed.
- 10.2 There are two projects that are dependent on funding from Transport for London's (TfL) Active Travel Fund (TP002, TP003). The current short term funding settlement between TfL and the government runs until the end of June 2022, with a new funding settlement expected after this point. The viability of these actions will continue to be assessed depending on the amount of funding made available following future anticipated funding settlements between TfL and the Government.

11.0 Legal Implications

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 enables the council to enter into a legal agreement with developers to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. The Council enters into section 106 agreements with developers to secure carbon offsetting contributions on the basis that they are to be spent on the implementation of projects to reduce carbon emissions in its area to offset the proposed shortfall in meeting London Plan targets. The proposals set out for the expenditure of those carbon offsetting contributions secured through the section 106 process are in compliance with the terms of the Council's section 106 agreements.

12.0 Equality Implications

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was published on the council's website upon the adoption of the Climate and Ecological Strategy in April 2021. This EIA remains relevant to the development of the new Plan, with new areas of focus and actions being put forward which are likely to further support those identified in the EIA as being more vulnerable to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change.

13.0 Property Implications

- 13.1 There are number of proposed actions in the new Plan which will have a positive impact on greening the council's corporate estate.

14.0 Environmental Sustainability Implications

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

15.0 Proposed Engagement with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 15.1 As noted in paragraph 4.5, engagement with residents via the 'Let's Talk Climate: Waste and Green Space' programme took place between late 2021-early 2022 and the feedback received from residents has informed the development of the new Plan.

- 15.2 As noted within this report, the local community will be fully engaged as part of the process for developing and implementing the new pilot Sustainable Neighbourhoods.
- 15.3 A Members' Learning and Development session will be held to reinforce councillors' role as community leaders in leading by example on tackling the climate and ecological emergency and embodying the council's carbon neutrality aims.
- 15.4 Relevant ward members for the proposed pilot Sustainable Neighbourhood areas will be briefed and engaged accordingly as key stakeholders.

Report sign off:

Shazia Hussain
Assistant Chief Executive