



**Resources and Public Realm
Scrutiny Committee**
20 October 2026

**Report from the Corporate Director,
Neighbourhoods and Regeneration**

**Lead Member – Cabinet Member for
Children’s Services, Employment
and Climate Action
(Councillor Jake Rubin)**

**Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme
and Strategy Update**

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	N/A
Open or Part/Fully Exempt:	Open
No. of Appendices:	Three Appendix A: Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Update (2026-2030) – Document for Engagement Appendix B: Brent Climate Action Annual Data Dashboard Appendix C: Overview Flood Risk Management in Brent
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a comprehensive update on Brent's Climate and Ecological Emergency programme. It focuses on the council's approach and achievements to date, particularly in relation to emissions reduction, nature and biodiversity, and climate resilience and adaptation.
- 1.2 The report also summarises the current draft framework for updating the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy for the next four calendar years, which is currently subject to a wider public engagement period (running from 28 September until 16 November). The full framework document can be found within **Appendix A**. The report also sets out the plan for this engagement period and the next steps for the development of the strategy. This includes how it will be implemented, governed and monitored going forward.
- 1.3 A specific focus on the council's Flood Risk Management arrangements, as requested by the Committee, can be found within **Appendix C**.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on the content of this report; and provide input on the proposals for updating the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (2026-2030).

3.0 Contribution to the Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1 The Climate and Ecological Emergency programme remains a strategic and corporate priority for the council. The programme has links to each of the current Borough Plan themes but is most directly reflected in the Borough Plan theme 'A Cleaner, Greener Future'. This theme outlines Brent's ambition to *'ensure sustainability is central to the growth of our borough and local economy'* through working to ensure that our borough is cleaner, healthier, and more climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable.
- 3.2 The current Borough Plan (2023-2027) is currently being updated to create a new Council Plan document. This is due to be adopted by Full Council in November 2026. The work to update the council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy will align with the new Council Plan.
- 3.3 The council adopted a [Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy \(2021-2030\)](#) ('the Strategy') in April 2021 which has acted as the overarching umbrella document and route map to delivering on the council's climate ambitions for the past five years. Part of the purpose of this report is to provide further information on the plans to create an updated Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy for the remaining period (2026-2030) and provide the Resources and Public

Realm Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to comment and feed into this process.

- 3.4 The council's existing Strategy also complements the objectives to a host of other key council strategy documents such as the Long-Term Transport Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Active Travel Implementation Plan, Air Quality Action Plan, Flood Risk Management Strategy, Recycling and Reduction Plan, Housing Compact, Local Plan, Youth Strategy, Culture Strategy and Equity and Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The council first declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019 and pledged to do all reasonable in our gift to aim for carbon neutrality by 2030, and work with government to achieve the national 2050 target.
- 4.2 Over the past seven years since this declaration, the council has worked alongside our communities to put this goal into action. This began with the Brent Climate Assembly in late 2019, where a demographically representative cohort of 53 residents came together over three weekends to provide community direction into the priorities for local climate action in Brent.
- 4.3 The Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy which followed mirrored the priorities for action put forward by the Brent Climate Assembly, and therefore aptly captured the views of Brent's residents. These five themes are set out below and have been the basis for arranging our Climate Action Delivery Plans to date.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Key Themes

- Theme 1 – Consumption, Resources, and Waste
 - Theme 2 – Sustainable Travel
 - Theme 3 – Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment
 - Theme 4 – Nature and Green Space
 - Theme 5 – Supporting Communities
- 4.4 The development of the Strategy also factored in two other key factors in its initial creation: the biggest greenhouse gas emission sources in Brent; and the London-wide climate workstreams which were borne out of the [climate change declaration](#) made jointly by the London Environment Directors/London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.
- 4.5 With regards to emissions sources, there are two main considerations for emissions reduction in Brent: direct territorial emissions and indirect consumption emissions. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is one of many greenhouse gases, but it is the biggest contributor to the climate emergency. Within Brent, direct carbon emissions arise from three major sources: energy use in homes, energy use in buildings and road transport.
- 4.6 The carbon emissions split of emissions within the borough boundary is as follows (*from the most recent dataset: 2024*):

- Domestic (Homes) = 38%
- Transport = 26%
- Commercial Buildings = 16%
- Industrial Buildings = 12%
- Public Sector Buildings = 7%

- 4.7 Indirect consumption emissions are greenhouse gas emissions which arise from the products we buy, how much we recycle, the types of food we eat and how we travel outside of the borough boundary. These wider indirect emissions arising from our daily behaviours are more difficult to measure but are estimated to be over four times as high as the direct emissions from homes, buildings and road transport.
- 4.8 We subsequently developed and delivered three sets of delivery plans 2021-2022, 2022-24 and 2024-26 which have underpinned the long-term Strategy and encompass all the considerations above.
- 4.9 As part of the 2022-24 and 2024-26 delivery plans, the council also began piloting a place-based approach to local climate action via a concept known as 'Green Neighbourhoods'. Brent currently has four Green Neighbourhood pilot areas, split into two types: Neighbourhood-led (Church End and Roundwood; and Kingsbury) and Development-led (St Raphael's Estate; and South Kilburn). These pilots have been running since early 2023.
- 4.10 Good climate action progress has been made in the two neighbourhood-led pilot areas, with progress slower than anticipated in South Kilburn and St Raphael's Estate due to the economic climate and slowdown in development schemes in recent years.
- 4.11 In the updated Strategy we are intending to retain the existing four Green Neighbourhood pilot areas. This will enable each area to complete key projects currently underway and for each area to realise its full potential of the concept. We will additionally review the potential for expanding the boundaries of the Church End and Roundwood and St Raphael's Estate areas to align to the Pride of Place programme, and the opportunities that this new programme may provide to make these local areas even greener and more environmentally sustainable.

5.0 The strategic role of the council on climate action

- 5.1 The core of comprehensive climate action can be broken down into three main elements: (1) emissions reduction, (2) supporting nature and biodiversity, (3) adapting to extreme weather. Via the five key themes, this is what the strategy's aims sought to tackle, with communities at the heart of each of these.
- 5.2 The council has a key role to play in tackling the climate and ecological emergency and leading by example wherever possible to affect the urgent and necessary change that is required. However, we have varying levels of influence over the three main elements listed above. The government's national climate advisory body, the Climate Change Committee, has identified six

'spheres of influence' that councils have over environmental sustainability in their local area. These include:

- Direct control: buildings, operations, fleet
- Procurement, commissioning and commercialisation
- Place shaping: using powers to control development and transport
- Showcasing: innovating, piloting, demonstrating and sharing good practice, scaling and replicating
- Partnerships: leading, bringing people and organisations together, coordinating and supporting others, joining others' partnerships
- Involving, engaging and communicating, translating global and national climate change targets for local relevance; with stakeholders to raise awareness, involving people and ideas for local solutions

5.3 We have always been clear that the council cannot tackle the climate emergency on its own. Tackling the climate emergency requires a joined-up response, ranging from international actors, national governments, regional governments, local authorities, schools, businesses, housing associations, voluntary organisations, faith communities and residents.

5.4 The section below will set out more detail on both the key strategic and delivery considerations and steps that the council has taken for each of the three core aspects to climate action. To a certain extent, these priorities overlap in different ways and should ultimately complement each other from an environmental sustainability perspective.

6.0 Emissions reduction

6.1 As outlined in paragraph 4.5, the main territorial emissions sources within the borough boundary are from energy use in homes, energy use in buildings and road transport. This means that 73% of the borough's emissions are derived from homes and other buildings, with the remainder coming from transport. The key consideration for reducing emissions in homes and buildings is for these settings to become more energy efficient, either through retrofitting existing homes and buildings, or through designing new builds to be as efficient and weather resilient as possible from the outset.

Homes – Domestic Retrofit (Social Housing)

6.2 There are approximately 127,000 properties in Brent. 22% are social rented, 37% private rented and 41% owner occupied. There are around 8,000 council properties and our overall housing stock is therefore just 6% of the borough's total number of domestic properties. Retrofit work is unfortunately prohibitively expensive given the level of capital resources at our disposal, and work on our stock is heavily dependent on the council obtaining grant funding to be able to undertake this. External grant funding is also typically dependent on match funding being provided by the council. Brent's housing stock energy efficiency average is EPC C, and in 2022 we commissioned work to better understand what it would take to get the stock to EPC B. It was estimated that this would

cost a minimum of £60m, but this is now likely to be substantially more in the current economic climate.

- 6.3 To date, we have successfully obtained around £2.5m in grant funding for 180 council properties via the two main government schemes which have been available to retrofit social housing in the past five years – the Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme 2.1 and Warm Homes Social Housing Grant. Retrofit work has also been integrated into existing maintenance schemes and at least 1,729 properties are estimated to have received at least one energy efficiency measure within the same timeframe. The government's flagship Warm Homes Plan may provide further opportunities for social housing within this parliamentary term. Other social housing providers such as Housing Associations also face similar financial constraints.

Homes – Domestic Retrofit (Private Rented Sector/Owner Occupiers)

- 6.4 Without direct control of this tenure type, the council's role has been to seek to educate, encourage, incentivise and, where necessary, enforce private homeowners to improve the energy efficiency of their properties. We have developed the Brent Well and Warm Energy Advice service which has supported 1,667 households (across different tenure types) to access free, bespoke energy efficiency support with the aim of cutting both bills and emissions. The council is also part of the London-wide consortium for accessing the Warm Homes Local Grant (and Green Homes Grant prior to this), which can provide households with up to £30,000 for retrofit work. 31 Brent properties have been retrofitted as part of current Local Grant scheme, and the number of residents seeking to access the grant are among the highest in London. We also delivered retrofit work to 35 properties as part of the council's previous CO2GO energy efficiency scheme financed through the Brent Carbon Offset Fund.
- 6.5 We have also delivered educational webinars on improving energy efficiency, newsletters dedicated to different technologies and tips for keeping homes warm, held stalls at the annual Private Rented Sector Fair in the borough and provided signposting via the council's website to other available external grants and initiatives when they are available. The government has also confirmed that private landlords in England and Wales must meet a minimum EPC C rating by October 2030 for all rental tenancies, which should also support this move towards greater energy efficiency standards within the sector.

Homes – Heat Networks

- 6.6 A district heat network is a system that pipes hot water from a central energy source to multiple buildings for heating and hot water. Heat Networks are becoming an increasingly important component of decarbonising local energy systems and Brent's primary scheme is developing a new Heat Network as part of the South Kilburn Regeneration scheme. This is a £36 million scheme (part grant funded by the government's Green Heat Network Fund) which will pump low carbon, efficiently generated heat to homes across South Kilburn, replacing old heating systems with a modern network designed to protect residents from the volatility of the energy market. It is anticipated that carbon emissions will

also be cut by around 980 tonnes every year, delivering a total saving of more than 39,000 tonnes over the project's 40-year lifespan. We are also exploring potential opportunities for Heat Networks at appropriate locations in the borough in the future, such as part of the Staples Corner Regeneration Scheme.

Homes – New Builds

- 6.7 To support the delivery of new builds being as environmentally sustainable as possible from the outset and therefore avoiding the need to retrofit these properties in the future, the council has adopted a comprehensive Sustainable Environment and Development Supplementary Planning Document. This document brings together environmental sustainability requirements within the London Plan and Brent's Own Local Plan that developers must consider as part of the planning process. The document details the specifications covering Energy, to support emissions reduction, but also Air Quality, Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity, Water Management, Sustainable Movement, Waste and the Circular Economy and other environmental impacts.

Buildings – Non-Domestic Retrofit (Own Estate)

- 6.8 The council's own carbon footprint from its corporate estate and operations (buildings, fleet, streetlights) comprises around just 0.5% of the borough's overall carbon footprint. We have led by example through reduction of 75.8% of our carbon footprint since 2010, with a 13.8% reduction in the timeframe since the climate strategy was adopted. We have been successful in previous years in obtaining grant funding from the government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, but this grant has been discontinued for the remainder of this parliament. We are currently working with Turner and Townsend on developing a comprehensive plan on the requirements of getting to net zero emissions across our estate and operations by 2030. This is presently expected to require between £6.6m and £7m of capital expenditure – the funding strategy and possibilities for this level of expenditure are currently being worked through by officers. Our ambition remains to do all reasonable in our gift to get to net zero across our corporate estate and operations by the 2030 target.

Buildings – Non-Domestic Retrofit (Schools)

- 6.9 There are 89 community schools in Brent, of which 34 are council maintained across 36 sites. Retrofitting school buildings is even more complex than the corporate estate and is also heavily funding dependent. For example, the council undertook a study in 2022 which outlined that to get our schools estate to PassivHaus standard (the gold standard for energy efficiency) this would cost an estimated £100million. This is likely to now be significantly higher in the current economic climate. Where possible, the council will continue to identify and incorporate energy efficiency works in Brent-maintained schools as part of the schools' capital delivery or maintenance programme. For example, we installed new Heat Pumps in Uxendon Manor Primary school in 2025, and 16 Brent-maintained schools already have solar panels. We are also in the process of following up this work and identifying a potential pipeline of opportunities,

should further grant funding become available from either the government's Local Power Plan or Education Estates Strategy (expected to launch in 2027).

- 6.10 We also support schools on improving their energy efficiency through our Schools Climate Action Guide, through the 'Our Schools, Our World' programme, of which 19 schools are a part, and have bought licences for five schools to access a tool called 'Energy Sparks' which allow schools to view their energy consumption in real-time. We are also aware that schools and pupils also undertake their own initiatives on their sites, like campaigns to switch lights off and moving to LED lightbulbs where possible.

Buildings – Non-Domestic Retrofit (Commercial/Industrial)

- 6.11 Commercial and industrial buildings comprise 28% of territorial emissions within Brent's boundary. 99% of Brent's businesses are either micro-businesses or Small and Medium Enterprises Businesses (SMEs). Much like our approach to private landlords/homeowners, the council's role is largely to seek to educate, encourage and incentivise businesses, where funding allows, to improve the energy efficiency of their properties.
- 6.12 We have supported businesses to decarbonise through: providing direct funding of between £9,000-£18,000 to 26 Brent businesses via two energy efficiency grants schemes. 33 Brent SMEs were accepted onto Camden and Brent Business Climate challenge, with a further 27 carbon reduction audits delivered as part of this scheme. We have supported businesses through developing five key Green Business Guides which were tailored to each of the five key business sectors operating in Brent. We run regular information webinars for businesses on reducing energy to reduce their operating costs. 126 organisations have signed the Brent Climate Charter and are being supported with free energy audit tools, and 41 Brent-based organisations are listed on our new Brent Green Directory.

Transport – Active Travel

- 6.13 27% of our direct territorial emissions are from petrol and diesel-powered modes of transport. The Climate programme complements Brent's wider ambitions for a healthier borough with cleaner air, reflected in a substantive shift towards cycling, walking and wheeling and away from petrol and diesel vehicles. There are two key factors to this: delivery of new sustainable travel infrastructure; and empowering people to travel sustainably.
- 6.14 The council's physical active travel infrastructure has improved in the last five years with 34 new school streets schemes, new green corridor routes in Church End and Roundwood and Kingsbury, 233 new bike hangars, new cycle parking, and 150 new Lime Bike docking bays, amongst other initiatives. The council's Parking Policy is also due to be reviewed in the coming years. From a strategic transportation planning perspective, the borough also works closely with TfL and other key stakeholders on the strategic routes for improving cycling in the borough, with funding confirmed for a flagship scheme known as Cycleway 72 from Wembley to Harlesden which is due commence in the next few years.

- 6.15 We also empower people to consider taking up active travel modes through for example improving access to cycling equipment (through initiatives like Brent Revive and Ride), providing more opportunities for beginner's rides and wider cycle training, and supporting schools in developing Sustainable School Travel Plans. We are proposing to also renew our focus on improving walking routes as part of the updated Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. This work to date has contributed to the highest numbers of people utilising Sustainable Travel methods on a day-to-day basis in Outer London (71%) and air quality in the borough is improving across every key measurement.

Transport – Electric Vehicles

- 6.16 We know that the transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles will require a mix of travel modes. Electric vehicles are a lower emission alternative to petrol and diesel and are supported in Brent through the installation of 1,312 electric vehicle charge points. This is one of the highest numbers of installations of all London Boroughs. We intend to continue this work into future years supported by an additional £1.3m of Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding (LEVI funding) which is anticipated to deliver an additional 2,000 additional electric vehicle charge points.

Consumption Emissions

- 6.17 As stated in paragraph 4.7, consumption emissions are wider indirect emissions arising from daily behaviours of Brent residents that aren't covered by energy use in homes, energy use in buildings and road transport. We know that for many, a lack of understanding can make the climate emergency seem like a large, complex and overwhelming concept. We have sought to work with all our communities to make it as easy as possible for people to adopt simple sustainable changes to lifestyles that can make a big difference.
- 6.18 Brent's recycling rate remains lower than the national average and there remain issues with contamination in the waste stream. To support addressing some of these issues, the Waste and Recycling Team have delivered a new recycling service – collecting on average 500 tonnes of paper and card from the blue sack each month and a participation rate of 80%. The council has also delivered 24,000 new food waste caddies, 140 new communal food waste units on estates, and a new trial for food waste bins in flats above shops.
- 6.19 We have also supported these projects with communications campaigns such as the Contamination Monsters' communications campaign which was launched in July 2024. This campaign was directed at educating residents on the types of items which should not be placed in the recycling bin. We have also sought to move Brent towards a greener, more circular economy where items are re-used, repaired and recovered before recycling is even considered. This has been delivered through initiatives such as our successful Repair Café programme, Sharing Spaces, Clothes Swap Shops, partnering with Real Nappies for London who are giving Brent families a £50 voucher towards reusable nappies and the installation of the Library of the Things at Willesden Green Library which has been used 2,150 times by residents since opening in summer 2023. We will explore developing a new Re-use and Repair Hub in the

borough as part of the new 2026-2030 Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Document.

- 6.20 These initiatives have been promoted to the almost 5,000 residents who are part of the Brent Environmental Network and receive a monthly newsletter packed with ideas and practical tips for residents to reduce their environmental impact, as well as inspiring stories from local people who are taking on the climate emergency. The newsletter also signposts residents to local environmental events and further opportunities to get involved in tackling the climate emergency in Brent. We have also delivered educational webinar series', co-produced three local documentaries to bring climate action to a local level, and co-developed the Brent to Bowl Community Cookbook, amongst other initiatives.
- 6.21 In the most recent Resident Attitudes Survey of Brent, there was a nine percent increase in residents agreeing with the question: *'the council makes it easier for me to be environmentally friendly'* since the previous Resident Attitudes Survey in 2021, which would indicate that this approach and these initiatives are paying off and are beneficial to residents.

Other Policies

- 6.22 In line with some of the other 'spheres of influence' for councils mentioned under paragraph 5.2, we have also adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy and are signatories of the West London Sustainable Procurement Charter. Both are requirements for bidders to adhere to if they wish to be successful in major council procurements. This policy will be reviewed and updated as part of the wider update to the Climate Strategy.
- 6.23 Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations are also embedded within the council's Pension Fund Investment Strategy and Responsible Investment (RI) Policy, and climate-risk considerations are integrated into all major investment decisions. The Pension Fund Sub-Committee have committed to continue to develop the climate-risk roadmap which sets out how the Fund will continue to address climate-related risks and support the climate action agenda in a way that remains aligned with its duty to safeguard returns and protect members' pensions.
- 6.24 Many of the initiatives in this section have contributed to the borough's in boundary carbon emissions falling by 18% since 2019, with an estimated reduction of 185,600 tonnes per annum, according to the most recent government dataset (2024).

7.0 Supporting Nature and Biodiversity

- 7.1 Brent has around 90 parks and open spaces, 21 council-managed allotments, and the River Brent, Wealdstone Brook, Wembley Brook, Grand Union Canal and Welsh Harp Reservoir as significant watercourses within the Borough. Natural green infrastructure and waterways play a vital role in creating healthier, more climate-resilient communities.

- 7.2 They can help to: support biodiversity by providing food, shelter and habitats for wildlife; cool urban areas and reduce the “urban heat island” effect (materials such as concrete and asphalt absorb and retain heat, making cities much hotter during heatwaves); improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and filtering harmful particles from the air through the natural processes of trees and plants; reduce flood risk by absorbing rainfall into the soil and slowing surface water runoff, helping to prevent or lessen flooding during heavy rain.
- 7.3 To support nature and biodiversity in the borough, we created a separate Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) as a more detailed extension of the ‘Nature and Green Space’ theme within the council’s Climate Strategy. The Green Infrastructure Vision considers connecting with nature through engagement; flood management and alleviation programmes; active travel and the creation of green corridors; re-wilding Brent; expansion of the Bee Corridor and reduction in pesticide use; engagement in the planning process; developing community involvement and partnerships; sustainable buildings in parks; and air quality.
- 7.4 The GIV acting a focal point for the delivery of actions within the Nature and Green Space theme has seen us take tangible action to make Brent a greener and biodiverse borough. We have planted 3,600 new trees in past four years – including numerous community planting days, developed new community gardens and community orchards, delivered new climate-resilient rain garden schemes and swales, enhanced biodiversity and nature-based activities – such as bird, bat box and planting with schools and young people, piloted new wildflower verges and have funded 47 community projects which have nature and green space as their key focus, via the Together Towards Zero Small Grants scheme. Brent’s parks are biodiverse and award-winning - we have won a total of 25 Golds, 12 silver gilts and a category winner at the annual London in Bloom awards which have occurred since 2025 and awarded two Green Flags (King Edward VII Wembley and Bramshill Open Space, Harlesden) and a third Community Green Flag for Roe Green Walled Garden in 2025.
- 7.5 The delivery of the GIV and Nature and Green Space theme is also supported by several strategic planning policies. For example, the borough’s Sustainable Environment and Development Supplementary Planning document sets out in detail both the London Plan and Local Plan policies which are aimed at supporting local natural green infrastructure in the borough. These include considerations around the use of designated open spaces, the Urban Greening Factor, Biodiversity Net Gain, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), trees and woodlands, food growing, mitigating impacts on green infrastructure and biodiversity and development management.
- 7.6 Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) came into force in April 2024 to introduce nature-based solutions to developing land so that nature forms an integral element to developing land, making sure the habitat for wildlife is in a better state than it was before development. Developments were required to deliver a minimum 10% BNG compared to the baseline from 12 February 2024, unless exempt. It applied to small sites from 2 April 2024. However, changes to the National Planning Policy Framework in August 2026 have resulted in changes which have expanded the provisions for developments to be exempt. Brent has

established the Brent statutory BNG procedure for securing biodiversity and ecology enhancements through the planning process. To date, we have secured 15 s106 agreements with monitoring fees pending (dependent on if the developments are built out) amounting to £270k, with four additional agreements in the pipeline.

8.0 Climate Resilience: Adapting to extreme weather

- 8.1 What is clear, is that the climate emergency can no longer be considered a faraway concept. The effects of this have been felt acutely over the past two summers, and the El Niño extreme weather phenomenon is likely to make its presence known in Brent through what is predicted to be a very wet and stormy autumn/winter. The need to adapt and prepare for extreme weather future is therefore more important than ever. In December 2025, a new Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework (CARF) for the borough was adopted. The Framework builds upon the previous Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (published in 2022 - we were the second London borough to develop a dedicated plan for climate adaptation and resilience) and focuses primarily on three direct climate hazards: flooding, extreme heat, and drought and water shortages. It also considers the growing risk of interconnected and unpredictable impacts caused by extreme weather.
- 8.2 These hazards are expected to have the most significant and immediate impacts on Brent's communities, affecting the health of our residents, the borough's property and infrastructure, the local economy (impacting the cost of living and cost of doing business), and the natural environment – all of which provide a risk or increased pressure on the day-to-day operation of council services. The London Climate Resilience review estimates that the effects of extreme weather are likely to impact London's GDP through a 2-3% reduction every year by the 2050s, with costs increasing further in late century.
- 8.3 The Framework is also informed by the latest climate projections for Brent, as provided by the Met Office Local Authority Climate Service and other authoritative sources. These projections indicate that, even in a best-case scenario, Brent will experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers due to climate change, with more frequent and severe extreme weather events.
- 8.4 In response to the key climate hazards set out above, the Framework sets out four long-term strategic priorities to guide Brent's approach to climate adaptation:

Priority 1: Supporting People and Communities	We will support Brent's residents, communities, schools and businesses to prepare for and reduce the risks of climate impacts, with a focus on those who are most vulnerable and most exposed. Key goals include: Supporting vulnerable residents to stay healthy and safe during climate-related events through targeted interventions.
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	• Informing and empower residents to take steps to reduce their own climate risk. • Equipping schools, community groups and local organisations with tools and knowledge to prepare for and respond to climate impacts. • Supporting Brent's business community to build climate resilience and reduce disruption to local economic activity.
Priority 2: Adapting Infrastructure, Buildings and the Built Environment	We will focus on making Brent's homes, buildings, infrastructure and public spaces more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Key goals include: • Improving and upgrading Brent's highest risk homes and buildings to be resilient to extreme heat, flood, and drought. • Embedding climate resilience into planning, development, and regeneration projects to future-proof Brent's built environment. • Adapting Brent's public realm to reduce direct climate risks and protect vulnerable communities. • Working with partners to strengthen the resilience of transport networks and utilities against climate hazards.
Priority 3: Enhancing the Natural Environment	We will protect and enhance Brent's parks, green spaces and ecosystems, and deliver nature-based solutions that reduce climate risks, support biodiversity, and promote public health and community wellbeing. We will prioritise expanding green infrastructure in areas with low green cover and high vulnerability to ensure fairer access to nature. Key goals include: • Ensuring Brent's green spaces, trees and ecosystems are as resilient to climate change as possible. • Expanding and connecting Brent's green infrastructure to manage climate risks, support biodiversity, and increase equitable access to nature.
Priority 4: Embedding Adaptation and Resilience in Local Services and Governance	We will integrate climate risk into council services, operations and decision-making to ensure Brent is prepared for the challenges ahead. This means improving service resilience, strengthening partnerships, and enabling long-term, joined-up action across the borough. Key goals include: • Integrating climate risk into the council's day-to-day operations and decision-making to ensure that services remain resilient to climate impacts and disruptions. • Strengthening partnerships and borough-wide coordination to deliver joined-up climate adaptation.

- 8.5 Delivering on the ambitions set out in the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework will be challenging, particularly given the extremely difficult financial context facing the council and its partners. The Framework adopts a “now, next, later” approach, prioritising immediate, practical steps, while also outlining aspirations for the medium and longer term. These aspirations are heavily dependent on securing additional funding, building strong partnerships, and identifying viable financial solutions. The council will actively seek ways to fund or finance these actions, but flexibility will be central to ensuring actions remain relevant and achievable.
- 8.6 Delivery of the Framework (and entire climate programme) is overseen by the Corporate Sustainability Board, which provides strategic oversight for the council’s wider Climate and Ecological Emergency Programme, and is supported by a new Climate and Wellbeing workstream. This group brings together officers from across the council, including but not limited to: Public Health, Emergency Planning, Adult Social Care, Highways, Healthy Streets and Parking, Parks, Planning, Housing, Property, Children and Young People, Climate Action, Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Management.
- 8.7 This structure supports joined-up delivery, enables cross-service collaboration, and ensures that adaptation actions are embedded across council operations and services. The workstream will also provide a mechanism for ongoing review and refinement of the Framework as new evidence, risks, and opportunities emerge.
- 8.8 In the nine months since the CARF was adopted, the following initial actions have been delivered to support the aims of this document:
- Circa 700 new trees planted
 - Delivered 350-400m² of new climate-resilient rain gardens on Church Path as part of the Church End and Roundwood Green Corridors Scheme
 - Improved communications around heatwaves, including delivering 2 x Brent HeatWise community education events
 - Developed a new Extreme Heat Vulnerability Study with Arup, to better understand the types of interventions to tackle extreme heat in Harlesden and Stonebridge, and apply these learnings to the rest of the borough where possible
 - Increased Brent’s Cool Spaces to 10 community locations around the borough
 - Ran an internal Extreme Heat Simulation Exercise in March 2026, to bolster the council’s internal preparation for the heatwaves this summer
 - Ran a Climate Adaptation and Resilience workshop for Brent’s Schools in March 2026, to consider future adaptation and resilience requirements to extreme weather on school sites
 - Included strong requirements around climate resilience in the procurement of the South Kilburn Single Delivery Partner
 - Commissioned CIVIC Engineering to undertake an opportunity mapping study in the borough for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) *(project ongoing)*

9.0 Regional and sub-regional partnerships

- 9.1 We will continue to collaborate ever more closely with our communities and with London Councils, the Greater London Authority, west London partners and to seize on any new opportunities introduced by national Government. Brent is represented at each of the four new key London Councils workstreams: Energy, Adaptation and Resilience, Green Growth and Investment and Public Support and is active within other regional and sub-regional climate networks.

10.0 Embedding climate action into our operations

- 10.1 Detail on action we are taking to reduce the council's overall carbon footprint across our estate is provided within paragraph 6.8. We have also made progress since the adoption of the current climate strategy in ensuring that climate action is better embedded more widely across the council's day-to-day operations.

- 10.2 Examples of this include:

- Prominence of environmental sustainability within the council's Borough Plan;
- All key committee reports now having a 'Climate Change and Environment' considerations section;
- Development of an internal Corporate Environmental Policy (which will also be reviewed and updated alongside the updated Strategy);
- Setting up of the Corporate Sustainability Board and underpinning cross-council workstreams to drive progress and internal oversight on climate action;
- Embedding climate work within departmental service plans;
- Environmental indicators within the quarterly corporate performance reporting;
- A quarterly assessment of climate-related risk within the council's overall Corporate Risk Register;
- Climate Action being embedded at corporate induction for new starters;
- The development of a new Green Corporate Travel Plan – including purchasing the council's first e-cargo bike for staff use;
- An annual staff awards category for 'outstanding contribution to reducing the council's environmental impact';
- Greater consideration of the impacts of extreme weather within specific business continuity plans;
- Refreshed engagement with staff and re-launched eco-champions scheme (*planned*)

11.0 Thematic summary of key achievements to date

- 11.1 Further *headline* achievements against each of the five strategy themes are detailed in the table below. This is not an exhaustive list, a longer list of achievements since 2022 can also be found on the council's website.

Theme 1 - Consumption, Resources and Waste	Theme 2 – Sustainable Travel
• New waste recycling service rolled out – collecting on average 500 tonnes of paper and card from the blue sack each month and a participation rate of 80%, • 24,000 new food waste caddies rolled out • Installed 140 new communal food waste units and are in the process of purchasing another 150 • Launched the Library of Things at Willesden Green Library with 2,150 borrows from 1,948 borrowers since opening • Free programme of re-use and repair cafes – 11 delivered to date • 10 x Eco-Refill Shops set up in Brent Schools • From Brent to Bowl Community Cookbook created • Street Swaps and Sharing Spaces events delivered, in some settings now on a weekly basis • Launched the 'Monsters' contamination communications campaign in July 2024	• Highest proportion of residents utilising Sustainable Travel in Outer London (71%) • 34 school streets schemes delivered • 233 bike hangars installed • 1,312 electric vehicle charge points installed • 150 new lime bike docking bays installed • Borough-wide air pollution improvements across NO₂, PM2.5, PM10 • 53% of Brent schools now hold a gold, silver or bronze School Travel Plan • Launched the Brent Revive and Ride scheme, with 40 refurbished bikes donated for free to local faith and community groups • Phase 1 of Church End & Roundwood Green Corridors scheme almost completed, with transformation of Church Path as an active travel route • 47 electric vehicles introduced as part of new integrated cleansing/waste, Grounds Maintenance and Parking Contracts • Ran the Brent for Business e-cargo bike scheme, engaging with 272 Brent businesses, 18 of which made the switch to e-cargo bikes
Theme 3 – Homes, Buildings, and the Built Environment	Theme 4 – Nature and Green Space
• 76% reduction in the council's own carbon footprint since 2010 with a variety of energy efficiency measures installed across council-owned sites • £36m allocated to the delivery of the South Kilburn Heat Network scheme • 1,729 council properties retrofitted with at least one energy efficiency measure	• Delivered award-winning enhancements to Brent's parks • 3,600 new trees planted since 2022 • New community gardening initiatives (e.g. North Brent Community Garden) • New community orchards (e.g. Fry's Orchard) • Enhanced biodiversity and nature-based activities – such as bird, bat box and planting (e.g. Willesden New Cemetery)

• 1,667 households supported by the Brent Well and Warm Energy Advice Scheme • Developed a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework for Brent • Developed and implemented a Sustainable Environment and Development Supplementary Planning Document • Local Area Energy Plans created (Phases 1 and 2) • Brent Energy Efficient Grant for Buildings small grants scheme launched	• New rain gardens and swales (e.g. Kensal Corridor, Church Path, Leybourne Open Space) • 4 new Green and Healthy Streets initiatives at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Infants School, Oakington Manor Primary School, Crownhill Road and Leopold Primary School • Developed a Green Infrastructure Vision for Brent • Delivered award-winning enhancements to Brent's parks, we have won a total of 25 Golds, 12 silver gilts and a category winner at the annual London in Bloom awards which have occurred since 2022 • Awarded two Green Flags (King Edward VII Wembley and Bramshill Open Space, Harlesden) and a third Community Green Flag for Roe Green Walled Garden in 2025
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Theme 5 – Supporting Communities

• 4,800 members of the Brent Environmental Network • 105 projects funded by the Together Towards Zero Small Grants Scheme • 127 organisations signed up to the Brent Climate Charter • 26 Brent businesses supported with energy efficiency grants • 40 businesses are part of the Brent Green Directory • Developed and launched the Brent Schools Climate Action Guide in March 2024 – which has supported 53% of our Schools to now have completed or draft Climate Action Plans • 19 schools have continued with the Our Schools Our World programme, with 14 earning a bronze award for their commitment to the programme so far • The first ever Brent Schools Climate Summit took place, bringing together 16 primary and secondary schools/over 170 pupils from across the borough. Schools that attended were eligible to apply for a climate action grant of up to £2000, with just under £10,000 being shared with schools to reduce emissions through pupil-centred projects • 25 Faith organisations utilising the Brent Faith Climate Action Plan • Community co-design of the Church End & Roundwood Green Corridors and community tree planting days

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 community focused Climate Action Films: This Ain't Normal, Roots of Brent, Faces of Climate Change |
|--|

12.0 Ongoing Challenges

Funding

- 12.1 Funding remains the most significant barrier to accelerating climate action. A Local Area Energy Plan for Brent has recently estimated that it would cost between £10.2billion and £10.6billion of investment on a borough-wide scale to achieve carbon neutrality in the borough, across varying timeframes.
- 12.2 Estimates of the cost breakdowns for retrofit work and new infrastructure that would be required across domestic homes, non-domestic buildings and wider public realm within this plan include:
- 46,300 properties requiring wall insulation – £157million
 - 55,400 properties receiving loft insulation - £42million
 - 2,100 properties receiving glazing upgrades - £12million
 - 89,400 properties receiving low carbon heating upgrades - £1billion
 - 3,300,000 metres squared of non-domestic buildings requiring low carbon heating upgrades - £1.2billion
 - Borough-wide Heat Network Infrastructure - £500million
 - Energy Generation (including solar potential) - £170million
- 12.3 This is a level of capital investment that the council simply cannot provide on its own. We have been successful in obtaining £17million in external grant funding to support climate action in the borough, but this highlights the discrepancy between what is available and what is required.
- 12.4 Supporting nature through biodiversity initiatives and adapting the borough to enable it to become more resilient to extreme weather, also require funding both in terms of initial delivery and ongoing maintenance.
- 12.5 We do not have investment estimates in the same way as the Local Area Energy Plan sets out for these elements, but the upfront investment costs are likely to be a similar challenge, as will ongoing maintenance costs for natural infrastructure initiatives that support cooling (like tree planting).

Lack of statutory powers

- 12.6 Despite the government committing the UK to be net zero by 2050, tackling climate emergency at local level is not a statutory function for local authorities.
- 12.7 In 2025, the Local Government Association (LGA) opened a consultation on local government and legal responsibilities to act on climate change. The consultation closed in May 2025 after receiving 318 responses, including responses from 160 councils. Independent analysis found significant support for some form of statutory duty, but also unresolved questions about scope, funding, accountability and implementation.

- 12.8 Further work is being undertaken by the LGA to consider whether any duty or duties should be pursued via lobbying of the government and, if so, their form, statutory location and required new-burdens funding. The work is expected to conclude at some point in autumn 2026.

Behaviour Change

- 12.9 As this report has outlined, there are many positive shifts and action being taken by individuals and communities in the borough. However, this is still below the level required to move away from the dangerous climate trajectory that is currently predicted from experts. Significant, transformative behaviour change is still required for modal shift from polluting vehicles, adopting energy efficient behaviours in homes and buildings, and protecting the natural environment through a reduction in littering and fly tipping. The presence of fly tipping and litter continues to create a damaging perception of the council and the local area more widely when trying to engage with residents on climate/environmental issues.
- 12.10 Behaviour change is also challenging to monitor with limited resources, and we are reliant on the indicators with the annual Brent Climate Data Dashboard to provide an indication of the direction of travel where possible.

Capacity and Capacity Building

- 12.11 Despite progress being made, we have not yet reached the optimum point where widespread community climate action becomes self-sustaining without the council's input. However, there is scope to build on our innovative climate engagement work to both achieve greater reach into our communities and to create sustained, community-led action which will build on the work to date and have a greater chance of long-term success. Community stewardship of initiatives to support maintenance of infrastructure, alongside community-led grassroots activity to both lead the development and delivery of projects, plus support behaviour change within communities are proposed to be key aspects of the updated strategy.

13.0 Updating the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (2026-2030)

- 13.1 As detailed in section seven of this report, the climate strategy to date has been effective in providing a clear framework for delivery across a host of different environmental themes. The programme has successfully brought together disparate strands of work under one coherent document and driven progress to ensure that the borough is lower emission, greener and more climate-resilient than when the Strategy was adopted in 2021. The learnings over the past five years of delivery have helped to shape and inform the delivery plans that have underpinned this document and helped to drive action forward on the ground.
- 13.2 However, we know that the risks posed by the climate emergency are clearer than ever before – with extreme weather records of all kinds continuing to be broken regularly. We also recognise that with 2030 fast approaching, the current borough-wide carbon neutrality goal is no longer realistic and needs a reset.

- 13.3 We therefore believe it is the right time to be reviewing our existing Climate Strategy, and work with communities towards the creation of an updated document which will be the focal point for the next four calendar years. The challenges facing councils in 2026 are like those which faced us during the creation of the initial Climate Strategy in 2021 but have in many ways intensified. The rationale for constructing a four-year document (running in calendar years from early 2027 until the end of 2030) rather than another long-term strategy is to ensure that the programme has a sharper focus on what is realistically achievable, deliverable and will continue to accelerate pushing the borough's climate and environmental goals in the right direction within this period.
- 13.4 We want to go even further in the next four years in placing communities at the heart of this programme. We will seek to ensure that climate action reaches the broadest number of people and communities in the borough as possible and making sure that it is reflective of the diversity of our borough.
- 13.5 Our aim is to continue to make sure that climate action is inclusive, equitable and that communities are ultimately empowered with the knowledge, skills and resources to be able to act themselves wherever possible.

New draft key delivery priorities

- 13.6 As stated in paragraph 4.3, the five key themes in the current Strategy mirrored the top five priorities put forward by the Brent Climate Assembly. Based on our experience of delivery over the past five years, and how valuable the Climate Assembly was, we believe there is a strong rationale for retaining the existing five themes. All of them remain as relevant now to accelerating climate action as they were in 2021 and cover the breadth of topics where environmental action should be focused in the borough.
- 13.7 It is currently proposed that underneath each of the five key themes, there will be three Key Delivery Priorities, which will ultimately be supported by a Delivery Plan of specific actions as part of the final updated Strategy documentation.
- 13.8 The proposed Key Delivery Priorities that we will be engaging with the community on are set out below:

Key Theme 1 – Consumption, Resources and Waste

- Delivery Priority 1: WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE
- Delivery Priority 2: COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY
- Delivery Priority 3: EXPLORE DEVELOPING A NEW RE-USE AND REPAIR HUB

Key Theme 2 – Sustainable Travel

- Delivery Priority 1: NEW SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE
- Delivery Priority 2: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO TRAVEL SUSTAINABLY
- Delivery Priority 3: GREEN CORRIDORS

Key Theme 3 – Homes, Buildings and the Built Environment

- Delivery Priority 1: A NET ZERO COUNCIL ESTATE (NON-DOMESTIC)
- Delivery Priority 2: DECARBONISING HOMES AND OTHER BUILDINGS
- Delivery Priority 3: CLIMATE RESILIENT BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC REALM

Key Theme 4 – Nature and Green Space

- Delivery Priority 1: TREES, NATURE CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY
- Delivery Priority 2: BLUE SPACES AND WATERWAYS
- Delivery Priority 3: NATURE-AWARE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Key Theme 5 – Supporting Communities

- Delivery Priority 1: ESTABLISHING A NEW BRENT CLIMATE ACTION FORUM
- Delivery Priority 2: SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE
- Delivery Priority 3: EMPOWERING EVERYONE TO TAKE ACTION

Key Principles

13.9 Taking action to tackle the climate emergency has wider ‘co-benefits’ for our communities beyond just emissions reduction. It is our intention that eight key principles will run through all council and community climate activity that will be delivered over the next four years. The proposed key principles are set out below:

1. Climate action that supports households with the cost of living and health and wellbeing
2. Climate action that boosts the local green economy and helps local businesses with the cost of doing business
3. Taking climate action within communities via the Green Neighbourhoods model, continuing and expanding the existing schemes in Church End & Roundwood; Kingsbury; St Raphael’s Estate; South Kilburn
4. Leading by example as a council with emissions reduction across its own corporate estate and operations
5. An intelligence-led approach to borough-wide action where it is needed most
6. Improving Brent’s resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly in support of the most vulnerable
7. Connecting people with nature via Brent’s open spaces and waterways
8. Inspiring and empowering Brent’s communities to deliver climate action by continuing to build community capacity and break down barriers

Engagement proposals for the development of a new strategy

13.10 Engaging with Brent’s communities on the development of an updated Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy is being undertaken through a combination of workshops, roadshows and online consultation, with participation seeking to reflect Brent's diverse communities throughout.

13.11 The aim of the public engagement is to seek the views and ideas of residents, businesses, community organisations and public sector partners, ensuring the

strategy reflects local priorities, addresses inequalities and supports collective action towards Brent's climate ambitions.

13.12 The success criteria of this public engagement centres around five key points:

- Attaining good level of engagement on updating the climate strategy with a wide cross-section of our community (i.e. residents, faith groups, schools, young people, businesses, trade unions etc)
- Obtaining community feedback on the proposed delivery priorities and shaping these with community buy-in and input
- Community-based ideas and feedback which will feed into the development of the underpinning delivery plans which will accompany the final version of the updated Strategy document
- Community feedback on whether a carbon neutrality target on a borough-wide basis should be retained, and if so, to which date. We are retaining our aspiration for doing all reasonable in our gift to achieve net zero across our corporate estate and operations by 2030
- An up to date understanding of the barriers for people acting on the climate in 2026, and how we can continue to build in ways to break these down within future delivery plans

13.13 The key objectives of the engagement are to:

- Engage at least 300 residents and stakeholders through a combination of workshops, roadshows and online engagement, with participation reflecting Brent's diverse communities, including young people, faith groups, disabled residents and other seldom-heard groups.
- Establish a Brent Climate Action Forum (BCAF), initially to contribute ideas to the climate strategy update, prior to its continuation as a Forum to share ideas and collaboration on climate action.
- We aim to deliver the following engagement sessions:
 - 1 x borough-wide Climate Strategy Workshop with the inaugural BCAF
 - 5 x community engagement events/roadshows across Brent Connects areas
 - 1 x youth engagement session – Brent Youth Parliament and SOS UK (a youth climate leadership organisation)
 - 1 x schoolteacher engagement session
 - School pupils focus groups
 - Business engagement
 - 1 x Trade Unions session / Teachers Unions
 - Staff engagement session(s)
 - Members engagement
 - 1 x online survey via the Have Your Say page

13.14 The membership of the BCAF as proposed will be open and is intended to be drawn from (but not limited to): Community, faith and voluntary sector organisations, local environmental sustainability groups, business networks, trade unions, housing providers, health sector representatives, residents' groups, local and regional partners, protected characteristics groups and schools and young people.

13.15 The engagement and consultation activities will be focused on shaping our approach to collaboration, seeking community views on the Delivery Priorities for each of the five strategy themes and informing our consideration around adopting a new borough-wide carbon neutral goal.

13.16 As part of this, we will also seek to understand the issues that communities feel that they themselves want to be empowered to do more on, and how we can collectively break down barriers to achieving this.

Phase 1 (End September 2026)

13.17 Launch an online engagement questionnaire via the council's Have Your Say web page where residents and organisations can provide their views. This survey is now live.

Phase 2 (October - November 2026)

13.18 Undertake a series of workshops and community engagement events across the borough – this will include a borough-wide Climate Strategy Workshop, at least one engagement event in each Brent Connects Areas, youth engagement sessions, schools focus groups, business focus groups, an engagement session with Councillors, engagement with council staff, and engagement with the borough's main trade unions.

Phase 3 (November 2026-January 2027)

13.19 The public engagement process will close, and the council will analyse and reflect on the feedback received, before using this feedback to form the updated Climate Strategy document. We will ensure that we close the feedback loop by demonstrating how the feedback informed the Strategy.

Phase 4 (February/March 2027 onwards)

13.20 Effective community engagement does not just stop there. With the ambition of the community continuing to be at the heart of climate action, the adoption of the strategy at Cabinet in early 2027 will see us turn to delivery in collaboration with the whole community.

13.21 Please note that the engagement timeline above may be subject to change.

14.0 Key questions for Members

14.1 The Framework for Engagement on updating the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy forms **Appendix A** of this report. As part of this engagement process, we would welcome Member input into the development of this document. A bespoke Member and Learning Development Session is organised for 2 November, and Councillors can attend the roadshow events in the Brent Connects areas. There are 14 questions on the Have Your Say portal, which Members are also welcome to complete, but key considerations for

Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee at this stage in the process are:

- What do you think of the 15 overarching delivery priorities? (listed in the table under paragraph 13.8)
- Do you have a view on Brent setting a new carbon neutrality goal on a borough-wide basis? (2040, 2050, no definitive goal, or other)
- What do you feel are the biggest barriers preventing people from taking climate action locally, what are opportunities and solutions in tackling this?

15.0 Governance and Monitoring

- 15.1 The UK government produces an annual breakdown of carbon dioxide emissions by Local Authority area as a subset of its annual inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The complexity of carbon accounting means that this dataset is only available with an 18-month time lag. It is through these figures that we have been able to deduce that Brent's territorial carbon emissions have reduced by 18% since 2021, when the current Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy was adopted. Providing that the government does not change this reporting system, this will be retained as a core measure that progress will be measured against over the coming four years.
- 15.2 Since the creation of the current Strategy, we have also created a new Climate Action Data Dashboard which outlines progress against 47 key indicators across each of the five key themes and covering all elements of climate action - emissions reduction, supporting nature and biodiversity and adapting to extreme weather. Where it is possible to do so, the dashboard not only shows Brent data, but provides benchmarking data against other Local Authorities – split according to the West London sub-region, and Inner/Outer London Boroughs.
- 15.3 The current dashboard has been live for approximately two years and is updated on an annual basis. It is published annually due to the capacity required to collate new data and because many of datasets are only available on an annual basis. An updated iteration for 2026 is included as **Appendix B**.
- 15.4 The data dashboard will be retained as part of the monitoring of a new Climate Strategy, with the current datasets to be comprehensively reviewed in advance of the 2027 iteration to ensure that they align with the updated Strategy.
- 15.5 The updated Strategy will be accompanied by a delivery plan that will be kept live and fluid for maximum flexibility, and we will report on delivery progress annually.
- 15.6 This will be complemented by regular news updates which are provided through the council's existing communications and engagement channels, such as, but not limited to, council news, social media, local Environmental network meetings, and the Brent Environmental Network newsletter.

16.0 Next steps

- 16.1 As outlined in paragraphs 13.17 to 13.20, it is the council's intention to complete the process for refreshing the council's strategy and for Cabinet approval to be obtained by February or March 2027, although the exact Cabinet meeting is subject to change depending on the number and nature of responses received. All residents who engage with this process, should they provide their contact details, will be kept up to date on the progress of this document and how community engagement feedback has supported the creation of a final document.

17.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 17.1 The background on how Brent has consulted, engaged with and delivered projects relating to the Climate and Ecological Emergency programme over the past five years is set out throughout report.

All Brent residents, businesses and other organisations are encouraged to engage with and respond to the engagement process on updating Brent's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy which is currently underway. Further detail on the specifics for engagement across different sectors and key stakeholder groups is set out within section nine of this report.

18.0 Financial Considerations

- 18.1 Detailed financial implications were provided as part of the April 2021, June 2022, January 2023, and October 2024 Cabinet reports when the 2021-2022, 2022-2024 Delivery Plan, 2024-26 and the Green Neighbourhoods Action Plans were approved respectively.
- 18.2 The climate emergency team has an annual revenue budget in 2026-27 of £852k, and the programme is supported by approximately £102k in a dedicated climate reserve.
- 18.3 The costs of undertaking the current engagement proposals will be met from existing council budgets. The development of an updated strategy will be comprehensively costed as part of the governance process seeking Cabinet adoption in early 2027.
- 18.4 £17million has been raised as income from external grant funding to support different parts of the climate programme over the past five years.

19.0 Legal Considerations

- 19.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 (the Act) is the statutory basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to the climate and ecological emergency. 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. The Council's commitment to carbon neutrality and the actions towards this as set out in the report are consistent with the Governments Net Zero Strategy and are

indicative of the important role local authorities play in achieving carbon neutrality.

- 19.2 Where consultation is carried out it must comply with the following 'Gunning' Principles and Common Law:
- Consultation must be undertaken at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage
 - Sufficient reasons for any proposal must be provided in order to allow proper and intelligent consideration and response
 - Adequate time must be given for consideration and response
 - The decision maker must give conscientious consideration to the responses.
- 19.3 The above principles apply to the public engagement we are currently undertaking as part of the update to the council's Climate Strategy.
- 19.4 The data provided from those who sign up to the Brent Environmental Network is managed in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant Data Protection legislation.
- 19.5 In delivering the Brent Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, the Council continues to have regard to internal governance procedures and the Procurement Act 2023, in respect of any procurement.
- 19.6 Local authorities have a range of powers to support the approaches outlined in the report. In addition to the wide general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows local authorities to do anything that individuals generally may do, there are specific powers to include those relating to Biodiversity Net Gain which now has a statutory footing in the planning system, having been created by the Environment Act 2021 and inserted on 12 February 2024 into the Schedule 7A Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 19.7 The climate programme has previously been supported by Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding via the Green Corridors schemes, and will explore this as future funding source to support eligible aspects of the 2026-2030 programme. Local authorities must spend the Community Infrastructure Levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area; accordingly the Council will decide what infrastructure is needed. The levy can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support development.
- 19.8 The levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities as set out in section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, as amended. This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities. This flexibility gives local

areas the opportunity to choose what infrastructure they need to deliver their relevant plan.

- 19.9 The council has an existing Carbon Offset Fund to support delivery of the Climate Programme. 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 can enter 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.
- 19.10 The council is working towards a decarbonisation strategy for Brent's estate and is proposing 'A Net Zero Council' as key delivery priority under the Homes, Buildings and Built Environment theme. Further consideration of the requirements for this delivery priority will be set out in due course should this be recommended as a delivery priority in the final strategy document which is developed with the community and presented to Cabinet for adoption in early 2027.

For appendix C

- 19.11 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA2010) aims to provide better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses. The FWMA 2010 identifies risk management authorities, which are bodies with an interest in flood risk management. It also places duties and responsibilities onto the Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority ('LLFA'). One of these duties is to maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for managing local flood risk within its area. Section 9 in the FWMA2010, sets out the components that Local Flood Risk Management Strategies should include.
- 19.12 Such matters are:-
- (a) the risk management authorities in the authority's area,
 - (b) the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities in relation to the area,
 - (c) the objectives for managing local flood risk (including any objectives included in the authority's flood risk management plan prepared in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 when they were in force),
 - (d) the measures proposed to achieve those objectives,
 - (e) how and when the measures are expected to be implemented,
 - (f) the costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for,
 - (g) the assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy,

(h) how and when the strategy is to be reviewed; and

(i) how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental

19.13 Brent council is the LLFA and has the 'lead' role in managing local flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses across Brent. The Act outlines the responsibility of it to "develop, maintain, apply and monitor" a strategy for local flood risk management as detailed above. Brent's Flood Risk Management Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 7 April 2025, the approval of which evidences the fulfilment of this duty.

20.0 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

20.1 The council, as a public authority exercising public functions, is subject to a public sector equality duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (EqA). A full Equalities Impact Assessment was provided upon the adoption of the Climate and Ecological Strategy in 2021 and has been published on the council's website. We also undertook a subsequent EIA for the adoption of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Framework, which has also been published on the council's website.

20.2 Both EIAs identified groups at greater risk from the impacts of climate change, including:

- Older adults, young children and babies
- People with disabilities or long-term health conditions
- Pregnant people
- Low-income households and those living in poor-quality housing
- People from ethnic minority backgrounds, who may face compounded risks due to existing social and economic inequalities
- Outdoor and manual workers, carers, refugees, asylum seekers, people experiencing homelessness, and those facing digital exclusion or language barriers

20.3 The updated strategy will be designed to reduce existing inequalities and support vulnerable groups, with positive or neutral impacts expected for those most at risk. The second key proposed delivery priority under theme 5 of an updated strategy will be 'Supporting the most vulnerable' and this should act as the focal point for actions in relation to this work.

20.4 As part of the process for adopting a new Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, we will provide an updated EIA to supplement the new programme for 2026-2030.

21.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

21.1 Climate change and environmental considerations are integral to the purpose, content and recommendations in this report.

22.0 Human Resources Considerations

22.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

23.0 Communication Considerations

23.1 A communications and engagement plan has been developed in support of the engagement programme described within this report. The council will utilise existing council communication channels and our networks, whilst also encouraging communities to spread the word about engaging with this process, during the time the engagement period is open. We will ensure that we close the feedback loop with residents by outlining how the feedback informed the Strategy.

Report sign off:

Jehan Weerasinghe

Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods and Regeneration