

Audit and Risk Management Committee: 8th March 2023.

Questions from the public for written response:

1) Question from Susan Sulis:

(Note: This question is based on the Internal Audit Net Zero Report)

“Some information recorded on both the Corporate and ECS risk registers for the Climate Change risk is out of date, or not reflective of the current situation”.

What is the evidence for this claim?

Response to Question 1:

The issues with the risk recording that we found are summarised in the ‘findings’ section of the first recommendation, reproduced below for ease:

Finding:

Some information recorded on both the Corporate and ECS risk registers for the climate change risk is out of date or not reflective of the current situation.

One of the existing controls noted on the Risk register is the ‘Adoption of adaptations best practice as identified through London Climate Change Partnership, UK Climate Impacts Programme, and the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel’. The Carbon Programme Manager informed that this is not in place yet and the Carbon Management Team are currently developing a briefing note to support the case for an adaptation strategy. Whilst some Council departments are delivering services to adapt to the changing weather (e.g. flood risks) there does not appear to be an umbrella strategy in place to bring everything together in a joined-up fashion.

Another existing control on the Risk register is that a Council-wide Green Recovery Working Group (GRWG) has been established to build back greener, following the COVID-19 pandemic. The remit of the GRWG is to bring services together to identify further opportunities for environmental improvement. The Carbon Programme Manager informed that currently the GRWG meetings are paused as the Carbon Management Team has not had sufficient resources to keep driving the GRWG forward.

One further action required noted on the Corporate Risk register as at 20/09/22 is the ‘Roll out of Carbon Literacy Training to all staff to assist in the identification of climate change risks and opportunities at an individual, team and service level.’ The Carbon Programme Manager advised that the Carbon Management Team delivered an online Climate Change staff webinar

on 11th Nov 2021 attended at the time by 400 staff. The webinar was recorded and is still available on LBB's intranet site for all staff to watch. Currently no further training is planned.

2) Question from Susan Sulis:

'Some Council departments are delivering services to adapt to the changing weather (e.g. flood risks)'. What is the evidence for this?.

Response to Question 2:

The changing climate can be categorized across five main themes: extreme weather, flooding, water scarcity, pests and diseases and loss of natural capital. As a local authority, Bromley has a statutory duty to address these climate risks, thus it is already delivering services to adapt. The objectives to address environmental challenges, with particular focus on addressing climate adaptation in the third bullet point, are summarized in Bromley's Local Planⁱ as follows:

- *Reduce environmental impacts and the use of precious resources in the design and construction of new development.*
- *Support the development of local energy networks and low-carbon and renewable energy generation.*
- *Improve the resilience of buildings and places to cope with a changing climate, ensuring flood risk is managed and potential problems of extreme weather are minimized. Reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill, particularly biodegradable waste, and increase self-sufficiency.*
- *Reduce air pollution and minimize problems of noise and light pollution.*
- *Ensure contaminated land can be remediated where possible*

While it would be difficult to list all the services that the Council is already delivering to adapt to climate risks, we can use flooding as an example. The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) places responsibilities on Local Authorities to manage and lead on local flooding issues.ⁱⁱ Local Authorities have a duty to complete a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and to avoid development in flood-prone areas, and to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan. The London Borough of Bromley Strategic Flood Risk Assessment outlines this in more detail and can be accessed here:

[strategic-flood-risk-assessment-Bromleyⁱⁱⁱ](https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/303/strategic-flood-risk-assessment-bromley).

ⁱ [Local Plan \(bromley.gov.uk\)](https://www.bromley.gov.uk).....

ⁱⁱ Managing Flood Risk: roles and responsibilities. Source <[Managing flood risk: roles and responsibilities | Local Government Association](#)>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/303/strategic-flood-risk-assessment-bromley>