

Decision Maker: Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 19 January 2022

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: LBB's CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE – PLANNED BOROUGH-WIDE SIGNPOSTING FOR 2022/23

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Chief Officer: Colin Brand, Director of Environment & Public Protection

Ward: n/a

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report details recent progress made by the Carbon Management Team in helping to reduce borough-wide carbon emissions and recommends an approach to external borough-wide public signposting to support residents in reducing their emissions. An update is also provided on how the Council are working to help reduce supply chain emissions.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The ECS PDS is asked to:

- 2.1 Review the progress made by the Carbon Management Team;
- 2.2 Comment on the supply chain impacts of the largest environment contracts; and
- 2.3 Comment on the suggested approach to the public Carbon Management signposting information for residents and businesses (due to come back to Committee in June 2022 for scrutiny).

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: The work of the Carbon Management team in reducing the impacts of climate change will have a positive impact on all members of the community and the forthcoming signposting report will set out how some of the more vulnerable residents in Bromley and visitors to the borough will be positively impacted by improvements to our local environment.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. MBEB Priority: Managing Our Resources Well; A Safe, Clean and Green Environment and a Sustainable Future
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Financial

1. Cost of proposals: Existing Revenue Budgets: Production of the external facing signposting materials will be undertaken in house and published online and via email to residents.
 2. Ongoing costs: N/A
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Carbon Management Team
 4. Total current budget for this head: £142k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget 2021/22 for staffing costs, energy management software and project expenses.
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3 FTE
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory – Government guidance
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): This forthcoming signposting report will not only reduce Bromley's overall contribution to Climate Change but will bring benefits to the local community by achieving energy and financial savings for residents and businesses.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No (N/A)

3. COMMENTARY

Background

- 3.1 A Council Motion on 15th July 2019 unanimously approved a ten-year plan to ensure that the council reaches net zero carbon emissions by 2029 (organisational emissions).
- 3.2 A 2029 Net Zero Carbon Strategy was reviewed and approved at the Environment and Community Services Policy Development and Scrutiny (ECS PDS) Committee meeting on 29th January 2020, with an associated action plan being presented to Committee in the autumn (2020). Year two progress against the 2029 Net Zero Action Plan is reported on the Council's website: [Net Zero Action Plan performance reports | London Borough of Bromley](#)
- 3.3 At the ECS PDS Committee on 17th November 2021, it was agreed that the Carbon Management Team would draft a report setting out what the Council were doing with Contractors to save energy and reduce the carbon footprint of Bromley's supply chain.
- 3.4 The report would also seek to show how the Council could signpost residents to various grants, services and any other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing borough wide CO₂ emissions.
- 3.5 The report will also provide an update against various borough-wide carbon reduction activities.
- 3.6 This report therefore focuses on work with contractors (our scope 3 emissions¹) and outlines an approach for future engagement with the public, whilst also providing updates on the current borough-wide carbon reduction activities the Carbon Management Team is managing.

4. Supply Chain Impacts

- 4.1 During December 2021, the Carbon Management Team undertook an assessment of the council's environmental contracts in order to establish service providers' commitments to reducing their own emissions (including specifically through the delivery of their services in Bromley). The results of this analysis are shown in appendix A.
- 4.2 Having identified the high-level commitments of those largest providers, with some of the ambitions already presented to this committee through annual contract performance reports, the Council will now work with these organisations to monitor progress, identify new innovation that can be applied to service delivery and report any future achievements through the annual contract monitoring progress reports and carbon programme updates.
- 4.3 Training has also been delivered to all Council Contract Owners on the Social Value Act, covering topics such as encouraging the use of local employers, efficient material use and carbon reduction through the supply chain, ensuring that Contract Owners are aware of how to address these important issues through the procurement of new council goods and services.
- 4.4 The Procurement Board, chaired by the Assistant Director of Procurement and Commissioning (Vice Chair, AD Performance Management and Business Support, EPP) ensure that all contracts are scrutinised for their social value impacts (including carbon emissions and other

¹ The GHG Protocol categorises emissions into three different scopes, which helps define operational boundaries: **Scope 1:** Direct GHG emissions occurring from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation, such as the emissions from burning gas to heat a building, and the emissions directly entering the atmosphere from using company vehicles. **Scope 2:** Electricity indirect GHG emissions produced from the generation of purchased electricity. **Scope 3:** An optional reporting category that allows for the accounting of other relevant indirect emissions (i.e. emissions resulting from the consequence of an organisation's activities, occurring from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation).

environmental impacts) where relevant and proportionate, enabling us to ensure that the Council has a positive impact through responsible and sustainable procurement

- 4.5 The Council's Sustainable Procurement Policy, reviewed in 2021, provides useful guidance to be applied by officers when tendering for goods and services and includes a commitment that the council will strive wherever possible, for a reduction in carbon emissions.
- 4.6 The Carbon Management team have been developing a sustainable procurement tool to be used by officers to support with decision making when tendering for goods and services. The tool is designed to assist contract managers in embedding sustainability into their tender documents by providing wording for the specification, evaluation questions, suggested contract KPIs and also propose alternative, more sustainable business models. The tool considers social, environmental and financial implications across key categories, with a particular emphasis on resource management and the local economy.
- 4.7 It is a future ambition of the team to apply a social value scoring mechanism to already established larger contracts in order to identify areas of improvement and provide further transparency on the environmental credentials of providers. This will also highlight considerations for future tender exercises.
- 4.8 The council plans, during 2022, to jointly deliver Circular Economy² Training in partnership with Re:London for officers involved in procurement decision making.
- 4.9 The Council's committee report writing template has been updated to align with the Making Bromley Even Better Corporate Plan. There will be a requirement for future reports to contain considerations of Carbon Reduction and Social Value measures, ensuring a sustainable approach to Council decision making and scrutiny. These changes are being taken forward now with democratic services and should be in place before the June committee cycle.

5. Existing Borough Wide Carbon Reduction Activity

- 5.1 Through the Council's Green Recovery Working Group, established in December 2020, a group of officers from key service areas are working together to build back better from Covid-19, aligning LBB with national aspirations which place climate and ecological policy at the heart of an economic and socially resilient recovery. Officers aim to improve the sustainability and social value of their departments to reduce emissions and achieve co-benefits on borough wide initiatives, which include: The Big London Energy Switch; Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, the Tree Planting and Woodlands Establishment Programme, Maintained Schools Decarbonisation Programme, external funding for Solar PV appraisals on community buildings, the Local Authority Delivery Scheme (LAD2) retrofit programme.
- 5.2 The council promotes the Big London Energy Switch which provides residents across the borough with an opportunity to get a better deal on gas and electricity bills through a group energy auction. When many residents register as a group, they have greater bargaining power than they would individually. The scheme uses this group buying power to get energy companies to compete for customers by offering the lowest prices. Electricity supplied to homes signing up to the scheme is backed by 100 per cent renewable electricity, helping residents achieve cheaper and greener electricity tariffs. Average savings in London are £250 per annum with tariffs fixed for one year.
- 5.3 As part of the LBB Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, adopted in November 2021, a 'Residential Charging Pilot', to trial a variety of residential charging solutions will be launching in 2022. The aim is to develop insights from the pilot to scale up the public charging network in Bromley to meet projected increases in electric vehicles due to the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans.

² <https://ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/topics/circular-economy-introduction/overview>

- 5.4 The Carbon Management Team are represented at the London Councils 'Renewables for London' Steering Group and associated Working Group. The role is to provide advice, endorse and make decisions to enable the delivery of the Renewable Power programme outputs for London and the achievement of associated programme outcomes. Scope of the group includes accessing or buying more affordable renewable energy, providing energy advice (access to fairer renewable tariffs & reduction in carbon usage of buildings) and decentralised energy projects, which covers opportunities relating to district heating and power networks. An action plan for collective work across London to reduce boroughs' emissions has been drafted.
- 5.5 The Council's four-year tree planting programme (see report ES20130, 17 November 2021) which is underway, will support a reduction in carbon emissions as well as contributing to the Queen's Green Canopy as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These events will encourage increased resident participation in the tree friends scheme and in supporting planting initiatives locally which will further contribute to local environmental and health improvements.
- 5.6 In addition to this, some 24 hectares of unused land have been identified for potential woodlands establishment, not only capturing carbon but enhancing the borough's eco-systems. The Forestry Commission have awarded the board grant funding to conduct further ecological studies so that a compliant Woodlands Management Plan may be developed. This plan will enable the Council to access considerable grant funding for planting and the subsequent maintenance to ensure woodland maturity.
- 5.7 The Carbon Management Team has developed a decarbonisation programme for the Council's maintained schools. Anecdotally, it represents a first in London as it is a holistic programme which includes innovative data collection, educational development and bespoke net zero pathways for each school – these will inform any future grant funding applications - making applications more attractive due to the granularity of the data recorded and the identified decarbonisation pathways. The inclusion of the educational development means the children will be brought along their school's journey to net zero, making for a holistic educational approach. The programme also includes government kick-starter employment opportunities for two young Bromley residents. The kick-starters are employed by the partners who will be managing the programme. The government is funding their wages and the Council will incur no costs in this regard.
- 5.8 In summary, for each of the Council's maintained schools:
- Energy monitoring equipment for: electricity, gas, carbon dioxide levels, lighting levels, humidity, PM 2.5 and the outside temperature, at each school
 - Data collection, monitoring and consumption report generation
 - Geography and science lesson plans based on collected data
 - Bespoke net zero action plans/pathways for each school
 - 2 Kickstarter employees (government funded, managed by partners, at no cost to the council), both of whom are Bromley residents
 - Behavioural change feedback surveys
- 5.9 The Carbon Management Team also successfully applied for £920,000 under the Local Authority Delivery scheme (LAD2). The programme will enable the retrofit of an estimated 130 domestic properties. The funding criteria will ensure works tackle poorly insulated homes – ensuring residents save money on their energy bills whilst also mitigating the most amount of

carbon emissions. Some 50 homes have already been identified for site visits and further evaluation.

5.10 Bromley Council has provided funding from their Section 106 Carbon Offsetting fund to set up a Library of Things (LoT) in Bromley Town Centre. This will be co-located in the proposed Sustainability Hub being established in the Glades shopping centre by the Greener and Cleaner Bromley and Beyond group.

5.11 LoT aims to enable people to save money and to make a positive environmental impact through borrowing things rather than buying them. Items for hire might include the following:

- Sewing machine
- Sound system
- Tents and Camping Equipment
- Carpet cleaner
- Pressure washer
- Steam cleaner
- Hedge trimmer
- Drill
- Hand Sander
- Projector

5.12 LoT's direct impact is a reduction in carbon emissions through unnecessary purchases, avoiding the creation of embodied carbon and therefore a reduction in waste sent for disposal (with financial savings to councils). Indirect impacts are behaviour change and a reduction in use of natural resources. LoT will be run by Library of Things and will be self-funding after three years of business activity at the Sustainability Hub.

6. Residential Signposting

6.1 The Carbon Management Team propose that an online signposting satellite site is developed and hosted on the Bromley Council website. This will contain information on how residents and businesses can reduce their carbon emissions and make a positive difference.

6.2 Due to the breadth and dynamism of sustainability and carbon reduction initiatives, grant funding availability and advice, a website is preferred to static guides and reports.

6.3 The LBB website is undergoing a refresh with a new site launching around May 2021. Initial example site content of the resident and business signposting information will therefore be developed in time for presentation to this committee in June 2021 and initiatives may include examples such as the following:

- Information relating to the retrofit of residential properties with more efficient heating and cooling, including funding sources
- Home energy efficiency advice
- Advice on avoiding or reducing waste
- Tips on how to reduce emissions from travel around the borough and abroad
- Recipes and nutrition information supporting people to make healthier choices that support the environment (for example reducing meat intake) and planning meals to cut down food waste
- A directory of local retailers selling pre-loved items
- A directory of Zero Waste shops
- A directory of locally grown food produce stockists
- Example Circular Economy models that can be adopted by local businesses

- Links to training providers that can upskill residents and businesses on climate change related issues
- A 'Community Decarbonisation Fund' using the S106 Carbon Offset Fund (COF). Satisfying current COF guidance, the fund would be open to bids from community groups to support projects which reduce carbon emissions across Bromley.

6.4 It should be noted that the above list is not exhaustive and due to the ever-evolving nature of carbon reduction initiatives, funding and advice, the public facing climate change signposting website will need to regularly evolve and be updated to ensure advice remains relevant and useful. This ongoing content review will be managed by the Carbon Management Team.

6.5 In support of the online advice, the Carbon Management Team will also work closely with local environmental groups to develop community-based workshops and events which provide the public with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions and take personal action to reduce their own impacts.

7. GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

7.1 The annual 'Bromley's GHG Emissions Performance' report will continue to quantify the Council's performance in reducing their emissions and provide yearly progress statistics against the net zero target. It will include project specific information and report on actions taken to help reduce both scope 3 and borough-wide emissions, ensuring that reporting is accurate, complete, and transparent (via the Council's website).

7.2 The Green Recovery Working Group, established in December 2020 to help align council services with national aspirations to sustainably recover from Covid-19, will also support in the governance and project delivery of initiatives. Providing a platform for internal discussion, sub-groups are being formed to drive projects forwards, which address our organisational emissions. It is worth noting that the GRWG group also aims to address borough-wide emissions.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Aligning with the Transforming Bromley Agenda, the initiatives proposed complement the following corporate priorities:

Responsible Financial Management Strategy: reduced future costs to the council through improved efficiencies and resilience.

Effective Resident Engagement: Demonstrates our environmental commitments to the wider public.

Improving the Public Realm, maintaining our Green Spaces and Promoting Economic Growth: Safeguarding the environment and promoting a green recovery.

8.2 Whilst supporting all five of the ambitions in Bromley's corporate plan: 'Making Bromley Even Better', the initiatives proposed within this report primarily deliver against our ambition 'For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.'

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The development of any new public facing information sharing initiatives covered here will be funded through the business-as-usual revenue staffing costs of the Carbon Management Team, for example web content research, development and ongoing review.
- 9.2 Initiatives that are promoted to residents and businesses should lead to financial savings for those households or organisations, as well as the clear environmental benefits.
- 9.3 The financial implications of Council initiatives already approved were addressed in those respective reports. Potential funding streams available to the Council for initiatives to reduce its own carbon footprint have been set out in previous update reports, most recently to this Committee at its meeting on 1 September 2021 (report reference ES20113).
- 9.4 The cost and funding of non-Council borough-wide carbon reduction measures is not known. It is anticipated that more funding options will become available over time as the Government introduces further green deals to accelerate national and regional decarbonisation.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Legal Implications Personnel Implications Procurement Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Carbon Management Programme: Executive Report ED98067 (7 October 2008) <u>Bromley Council's GHG Emissions Reporting</u>