



Mayor and Cabinet

Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan update

Date: 9 March 2022

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Key decision: No

Contributors: Executive Director Executive Director for Housing, Regeneration and Public Realm

Outline and recommendations

This report provides Mayor and Cabinet with an update on delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan. Mayor and Cabinet is invited to note the update on progress and future plans.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

In February 2019 Lewisham councillors agreed a motion to declare a 'Climate Emergency' and asked Mayor and Cabinet to adopt an action plan with the aim of making the borough carbon neutral by 2030.

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>

On 11 March 2020 Mayor and Cabinet agreed Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

On 30 November 2021 Overview and Scrutiny reviewed the theme of Future Lewisham: A Greener Future in the context of the Council's climate emergency work

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s91270/Item3GreenerFutureClimateChange301121.pdf>

1 Summary

- 1.1. This report provides Mayor and Cabinet with an update on delivery of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan and the ambition for Lewisham to be net zero carbon by 2030.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Mayor and Cabinet is invited to note the update on progress.

3 Policy Context

- 3.1 In 2016, the UK Government ratified the Paris Agreement, part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which commits countries to taking action to prevent the global average temperature increasing 2°C above pre-industrial levels. In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the importance of holding global temperatures below 1.5°C and the significant increase in damage to health, the environment and the economy of a 2°C rise¹.
- 3.2 In 2019 the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order committed the UK to a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050.
- 3.3 In August 2021 the IPCC published its latest assessment of the scientific basis for climate change², described by UN Secretary-General António Guterres as a "code red warning for humanity".
- 3.4 In November 2021 the UK hosted COP26, the United Nations inter-governmental conference on climate change. COP26 achieved progress in terms of global action on reducing coal, deforestation and methane emissions, but concerns have been raised on whether COP26 achieved its main ambition of securing sufficient commitments to sustain the ambition of limiting warming to 1.5°C and whether enough progress is being made in delivering those commitments that have been agreed.
- 3.5 In October 2021 the Government published its Net Zero Strategy³ and a Heat and Buildings Strategy⁴. These strategies confirmed the Government's ambition to phase out new natural gas boilers beyond 2035 and included funding for heat pumps, electric vehicles, offshore wind and hydrogen for heavy industry. The strategies also include a commitment to 'deliver cheaper electricity by rebalancing policy costs from electricity to gas bills', with the promise of a call to evidence on 'Fairness and Affordability', although the details of this have not yet been published.
- 3.6 The Net Zero Strategy states 'We want to continue to empower our local leaders to take the actions which will lead to the biggest gains in emissions reduction, including the potential opportunities in building back greener and meeting our ambitions to level up the country. While the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our communities, it has also reshaped how we think

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-and-buildings-strategy>

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about place, community, and our natural and built environment.’ The Strategy makes a commitment to set clearer expectations about how central and local government work together on net zero.

- 3.7 London Councils through the Local Environment Directors Network and the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) issued a joint statement on climate change in 2019⁵ and established a programme of seven cross-borough working groups:
- Retrofit London: Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of EPC B.
 - Low carbon development: Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning.
 - Low carbon transport: Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel.
 - Renewable power for London: Secure 100% renewable energy for London’s public sector.
 - Reduce consumption emissions: Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds.
 - Build the green economy: Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy.
 - Creating a resilient and green London.
- 3.8 In January 2022 the Greater London Authority published an analysis of a Net Zero 2030 Target for Greater London⁶, setting out the pathways required to meet the target of net zero carbon by 2030 across London. This analysis estimated the cost of delivery at £75bn, needing 200,000 homes retrofitted a year, 2 million heat pumps installed by the end of this decade and a reduction in car use of 25%.
- 3.9 In January 2022 National Energy Action (NEA) released its latest assessment of rising energy costs and fuel poverty in the UK. The NEA calculate that the price of energy for domestic consumers over the last 12 months increased by £235, pushing over 500,000 more households into fuel poverty. Because of sharply rising commodity costs the rise in the price cap from April will add a further £600 a year to household energy bills. Combined with benefit reductions, and inflation at a record high, low income and vulnerable households face unprecedented challenge to heat their homes.
- 3.10 Lewisham’s Corporate Strategy priority ‘Making Lewisham Greener’ includes the following commitments relating to energy:
- We will maximise opportunities for energy efficiency in all council buildings and new developments;
 - We will explore working with publicly owned not-for profit energy suppliers that do not penalise poorer residents using prepay meters.
- 3.11 The actions and the values of Lewisham’s Climate Emergency Action Plan support delivery of outcomes across the Corporate Strategy, in particular:
- ‘Tackling the housing crisis’ and improved standards across all housing sectors
 - ‘Building an inclusive local economy’ and supporting the growth of a thriving

⁵ <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/36794>

⁶ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/climate-change/zero-carbon-london/pathways-net-zero-carbon-2030>

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- local economy
- ‘Making Lewisham greener’ and the increased use of environmentally friendly transport as well as better care for our local environment and planet.

4 Delivering Lewisham’s Climate Emergency Action Plan

- 4.1 Lewisham is a low carbon place to live. According to Government data on carbon emissions at a local authority level⁷ emissions from housing, transport and industry within the borough boundary have fallen by 37% between 2005 and 2019, and emissions per resident stand at 2.4 tonnes per person in 2019, the fourth lowest per capita carbon emissions in the UK.
- 4.2 In February 2019 Lewisham Councillors approved a motion declaring a Climate Emergency, setting the ambition for Lewisham to be carbon neutral by 2030⁸. Lewisham’s Climate Emergency Action Plan was developed over the course of 2019 and informed by a detailed study to identify and cost the pathway to delivering the ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030⁹.
- 4.3 Lewisham’s Climate Emergency Action Plan was approved days before the UK’s first lockdown in March 2020. While COVID-19 has changed the nature of some of the planned actions, and has reduced capacity within the Council and partner organisations, progress has been made, as set out below in paragraphs 4.9 onwards.
- 4.4 In January 2022 Climate Emergency UK published a scored assessment of all UK Climate Emergency Plans¹⁰. Lewisham was given an overall score of 77%, 4th highest in London and 12th nationally out of 184 UK single tier local authorities.
- 4.5 The impact of the pandemic has reinforced the central underlying principle of the Action Plan: that a changing climate will have greatest impact on our most vulnerable communities, and that taking action on climate must be framed in the context of social justice.
- 4.6 The principles that underpin our work on climate emergency remain as relevant as they were on the 11 March 2020. These principles are:
- The scale of threat from climate change requires us to be ambitious
 - Action on climate change is action on social justice
 - Responding to the climate emergency delivers across a range of Council priorities
 - The Council must demonstrate leadership through its own operations
 - Net zero Lewisham cannot be delivered by the Council alone

⁷ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/723c243d-2f1a-4d27-8b61-cdb93e5b10ff/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2019>

⁸ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%20%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>

⁹ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72556/Annex%20C%20Routes%20to%20Carbon%20Neutral%20Report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/>

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- 4.7 Delivery of the Action Plan has been based on these principles, on the available data for local emissions and the new funding opportunities that have emerged over the last two years. The following updates do not include all activity, but present the key strategic and operational achievements in relation to the five themes within the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- 4.8 Good progress has been made, but to achieve the ambition to be net zero carbon a further step-change is needed in the next phase of delivery to decarbonise the borough. This step-change is reliant on sustained investment from central government and by putting the climate emergency as the focus of how collectively we shape Lewisham's future. This report does not include the details of future plans which will be framed by the Council's new Corporate Strategy and set out in more detail in 2022.

Leading By Example

- 4.9 In 2020 the Council switched to 100% renewable electricity to power our corporate buildings and schools and installed new recycling and food waste facilities in Laurence House, invested in lighting and heating improvements in the building and upgraded our fleet to meet the highest emission standards.
- 4.10 In 2021 Lewisham was awarded £3.5m under the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund to deliver works in seven corporate buildings (Brockley Rise CEL, Granville Park CEL, Grove Park CEL, Leamore Resource Centre, Lewisham Crematorium and Chapel, Lewisham Town Hall Chambers, Sydenham Centre) and three schools (Dalmain, Downderry and Myatt Garden). Works including heating, insulation and ventilation are underway and scheduled to complete in Q1 of 2022/23.
- 4.11 Lewisham's Pension Fund has been refocused to low carbon and environmental investments with £800m divested from high carbon investments and into renewable infrastructure and decarbonising energy markets.
- 4.12 In 2021 the Council published a new Sustainable Procurement Strategy 2021-25, which includes new requirements for tenderers to disclose carbon emissions.

Sustainable Housing

- 4.13 The scale of retrofitting needed to get the borough's housing stock to a standard consistent with achieving net zero carbon is enormous. It is also a once in a generation opportunity to tackle fuel poverty. The priorities for housing retrofit in the borough are based on a worst-first and fabric-first approach¹¹ that seek to bring external funding into the borough to benefit our residents and deliver wider economic opportunities.
- 4.14 Lewisham Homes have undertaken an assessment of the investment needed to raise the minimum energy performance level of their stock to support the net zero carbon target. This work will inform a joint Asset Management Strategy between the Council and Lewisham Homes to improve energy efficiency, cut

¹¹ "Worst first and fabric first" is about prioritising the least efficient buildings and have a focus on reducing energy demand to enable buildings to switch from natural gas to zero carbon energy sources. This supports the transition away from natural gas as the source of heating and hot water, cutting energy demand to minimise running costs.

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bills and decarbonise the stock.

- 4.15 In 2021 Lewisham was awarded £825k under the Government's Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery funding to upgrade windows and insulation in Lewisham Homes stock, this work is underway and expected to complete in Q1 2022/23.
- 4.16 In 2021 Lewisham was awarded £125k funding under a Government competition to boost engagement and enforcement work on the Private Rental Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards. This funding is supporting additional capacity within the Crime Enforcement Team and an engagement campaign to raise awareness of the legally enforceable minimum standards that exist and support landlords to improve their properties.
- 4.17 Lewisham Council is a member of the Greater London Authority consortium awarded grant under the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme, funding heating, insulation and ventilation measures for low income households living in qualifying properties.
- 4.18 A new officer post has been created working across Lewisham, Southwark and Lambeth on a programme of work to boost the local economic impact of retrofit. This has also been a focus of the Lewisham Deal climate forum which brings together the Council, Lewisham Homes, Phoenix Community Housing, Lewisham College, Goldsmiths and Lewisham Hospital.
- 4.19 A Task & Finish Group reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken a review of the opportunities and challenges involved in housing retrofit – the Task & Finish Group is expected to make recommendations shortly. Officers have worked with the Group and will review priorities and projects in the light of the recommendations.
- 4.20 in 2021/22 the Council completed a second phase of energy master-planning designed to support heat decarbonisation through district heat networks. This master-planning reinforces the Local Plan policies for carbon reduction and will shape new developments in three key opportunity areas as well as create opportunities to connect existing buildings to decentralised, clean, sources of energy. The first phase of energy master-planning completed in 2020¹² and delivered a borough-wide assessment identifying clusters of high demand. The second phase, which will be published on the Council's website in March 2022, provides a technical and economic assessment of the opportunities in a central spine running from Catford through Lewisham Town Centre to Deptford.
- 4.21 In 2018 Lewisham and Veolia signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership to develop opportunities for heat networks in the borough. In 2020 Veolia were awarded £5.5 million Government funding to deliver a core network from South East London Combined Heat and Power facility to 3,500 homes in Convoys Wharf in Deptford. Construction of the network has been delayed but is now expected to start in Q3 2022/23.

Sustainable Transport

- 4.22 In 2021 the Council consulted on the Lewisham and Lee Green Low Traffic

¹² <https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/files/imported/accessible-lewisham-energy-masterplan.ashx>

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Neighbourhood (LTN) scheme¹³ and in January 2022 approved proposals for a permanent traffic order retaining the revised Lewisham and Lee Green LTN. The proposals included converting physical barriers to automatic number plate recognition camera enforcement and a package of complementary environmental improvements including greening, electric vehicle charging, bike hangers and cycle stands and additional and/or improved pedestrian crossing points. These complementary measures are intended to encourage more walking and cycling and reduce unnecessary car journeys, thus reducing traffic-related emissions. The Lewisham and Lee Green LTN scheme has been a major focus of work because of the externally-driven challenging timetable for delivery, and the widespread implications the pandemic has had for travel across London. Other achievements across the transport thematic since the Action Plan was published include:

- The start of construction on Cycleway 4 and creation of a pedestrian and cycle zone in Rolt Street as part of the wider Deptford Park Liveable Neighbourhood, which closes the street to motor vehicles
- 112 cycle hangers installed including at least one in each ward
- 45 school streets delivered at 37 schools enabling safer and healthier travel to school
- 100 electric vehicle charging points installed with more planned
- 21 Dr Bike sessions repairing 550 bikes supporting key workers during the pandemic with 250 adult 1-to-1 cycle skills lessons completed

Green and Adaptive

- 4.23 The Catford Town Centre Framework Regeneration Masterplan¹⁴ published in 2021 includes the ambition for Catford to be the greenest town centre in London.
- 4.24 The Council has allocated £1.1m to redevelop the eastern side of Beckenham Place Park. Applications have been submitted to the Environment Agency and the Mayor of London for a further £1.6m with decisions expected shortly. Plans for the park include creating a new flood storage area capable of holding 25,000m³ of water, a new wetland habitat, trees and a wild flower meadow as well as a range of improvements to facilities for park users. Enhancements to the entrance on this side of the park will create scope to connect to the nearby Downham Woodland Walk. Work is planned to start in late 2022 and complete in summer 2023.
- 4.25 Phase 1 of the Greening Fund has delivered £288k funding to successful community projects within 37 parks, open spaces, nature reserves and allotments. The Council has approved 41 new bids under Phase 2 of the Greening Fund that will improve access, biodiversity and play in the borough's

¹³

<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s92713/Lewisham%20and%20Lee%20Green%20Low%20Traffic%20Neighbourhood%20Consultation%20and%20next%20steps.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/catford-regeneration>

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green spaces. In the 2021 Good Parks for London report¹⁵ Lewisham's parks and green spaces were described as "outstanding" with Lewisham ranked top performing of all the 32 London boroughs.

- 4.26 Working with Street Trees for Living and local communities over 750 trees aged between 5 and 15 years old have been planted in the borough since the publication of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan. These trees have an extremely high survival rate of 95% due to the focus on 'right-tree-in-the-right-location' and the community-based approach to care. 24,000 young trees have also been planted across the borough, the majority in Beckenham Place Park.
- 4.27 In 2021 the Council consulted on and published a new Waste Management Strategy¹⁶ for the borough, with over 1,700 respondents to the consultation. The Council also consulted on a new Air Quality Management Plan in 2021¹⁷ and published a new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy in 2020¹⁸.

Communications and Engagement

- 4.28 In 2020 Lewisham's Community Energy Fund supported 11 local community projects across schools and community organisations, funding solar panels, lighting improvements, feasibility studies, community engagement work and a school engagement project at St Winnifred's School.
- 4.29 Lewisham's energy advice service provides practical support to vulnerable residents helping them cut the cost of staying warm in winter. In 2019 we expanded the service to the whole of South London, working in partnership with other boroughs and community groups. In the last two years the South London Energy Efficiency Partnership, led by Lewisham, has supported over 5,000 low income and vulnerable households and secured funding in excess of £500k.
- 4.30 In October 2021 in the lead up to COP26, the United Nations climate conference hosted by the UK, the Council launched a 'Lewisham Climate Conversation'¹⁹ a user-friendly guide to practical action encouraging residents and local organisations to engage in a discussion around the theme of climate change and the local environment.
- 4.31 Climate emergency is one of the core strands of Lewisham's Borough of Culture 2022. A diverse range of creative events and art works are now underway designed to showcase talent across Lewisham and boost cultural activism on climate change and the environment.
- 4.32 In November 2021 Overview and Scrutiny discussed Future Lewisham: A Greener Future²⁰ in the context of the Council's work on climate emergency and made a number of recommendations designed to strengthen a Council-wide approach to aligning service delivery and decision-making.
- 4.33 Council officers have been involved in the London Councils Climate Emergency

¹⁵ <https://parksforlondon.org.uk/resource/good-parks-for-london/>

¹⁶ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5930>

¹⁷ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/air-pollution/consultation-on-our-draft-air-quality-action-plan-2022-2027>

¹⁸ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/openspaces/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy>

¹⁹ <https://lewisham.gov.uk/ClimateConversation>

²⁰ <https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s91270/Item3GreenerFutureClimateChange301121.pdf>

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working groups outlined above in 3.7 as well as with other boroughs across London through the Association of Local Energy Officers and the Local Environment Coordinators Forum. Locally, a Lewisham Schools Climate Conference was held during COP26 with participation of 20 schools. A Lewisham Deal sub group on climate emergency was formed in 2021 bringing together officers from the Council, Lewisham Homes, Phoenix Community Housing, Lewisham College, Lewisham Hospital and University of Goldsmiths. Discussions with Climate Action Lewisham and XR Lewisham have helped inform the Council's project development and communication activity.

5 Financial implications

- 5.1 The delivery of an ambitious programme to cut emissions across the Council's corporate estate and the borough as a whole has potentially significant cost implications. Work undertaken to support the development of Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan estimated a minimum cost of £1.6bn over 10 years.
- 5.2 Lewisham Council's funding from government has been hugely cut since 2013/14, while at the same time, the Council has faced increased costs population growth, changes to government policy and, since 2020, the COVID19 pandemic. Considering the minimum cost required to achieve the action plan, there is a need to find creative ways to find the resources needed to support this work. For example, as mentioned about the Council has brought in over £4m of Government funding in 2021/22 to fund investment in Council buildings, schools and housing.
- 5.3 Responding to the Climate Emergency is about making better use of resources and creating an alternative to a high-carbon consumer economy. In this context there is a clear connection between delivering on a low carbon agenda and the Council's need to cut expenditure and secure greater financial stability.

6 Legal implications

- 6.1 The report refers to the Climate Change Act 2008 and regulations under that Act. The Act establishes a legal framework that underpins the UK's commitment to tackling climate change, including reducing CO2 emissions and addressing climate risks. The provisions of the Act apply at central government level, at least at the moment.
- 6.2 Local authorities can use their own powers to take actions. The relevant powers are likely to include 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. The existence of the general power is not limited by the existence of any other power of the Council which (to any extent) overlaps the general power.
- 6.3 The Council has a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty - The Equality Act 2010, or the Act). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

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- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.4 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The decision maker must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

6.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found on the EHRC website.

6.6 The EHRC has issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty. The 'Essential' guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice.

7 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising directly from this report but it should be noted that the risks and impacts of a changing climate will not fall equally, and without action the consequences will exacerbate poverty and health inequalities globally and locally.

7.2 In addition, given the fundamental nature of the changes needed, there are considerable risks that the actions taken deliver net zero nationally, regionally or locally could create inequalities. The COVID19 pandemic resulted in a 6% global decrease in energy demand in 2020, a reduction in carbon emissions that has come at huge social and economic cost. This impact underlines that delivering on a climate agenda needs the UK Government to break the links between economic prosperity and carbon, and that locally, our strategy should be to address climate change as an issue of social justice and the focus of our

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Climate Emergency actions should be on our low income and vulnerable individuals and communities. Further work is needed to fully identify the equalities implications of climate change for Lewisham residents.

8 Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1 The environmental implications of the climate crisis are summarised in the Action Plan. Embedding action on the climate within wider Council strategies and service delivery has been a key priority, particularly in relation to air quality, waste and recycling, biodiversity, flood risk and sustainable transport.

9 Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10 Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan will deliver a range of health and wellbeing benefits to residents, including actions to improve air quality, increased participation in active travel as well as support for low income and vulnerable households to cut the cost of staying warm in winter.

11 Background papers

- 11.1 Declaration of a Climate Emergency at Full Council (February 2019)
<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s62942/Motion%202%20proposed%20Cllr%20Anwar%20seconded%20Cllr%20Krupski.pdf>
- 11.2 Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan (March 2020)
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s72555/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>
- 11.3 Lewisham's Climate Emergency Action Plan update 2021 (March 2021)
<https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s78637/Lewishams%20Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Carbon / Carbon dioxide	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂) is a naturally occurring gas fixed by photosynthesis into organic matter and is a by-product of fossil fuel combustion, land use changes and other industrial processes. CO ₂ is the principal greenhouse gas (see below) associated with human activity and climate change (see below) and the reference against which other greenhouse gases are measured. Unless otherwise indicated the terms 'carbon' or 'carbon dioxide' are used in this report to refer to a combined measure of greenhouse gases (CO ₂ e or CO ₂ equivalent), of which carbon dioxide is the most common.
Carbon Neutral	The term "carbon neutral" is used in this report in line with the original declaration of a Climate Emergency in Lewisham. Carbon neutrality balances greenhouse gas emissions with carbon removals. As defined by the Committee on Climate Change, a net-zero or carbon neutral target requires "deep reductions in emissions, with any remaining sources offset by removals of CO ₂ from the atmosphere". In the context of Lewisham's target this means additional carbon removal and storage activity at the borough level or 'carbon offsets' funding an equivalent removal outside the borough.
Carbon Offsetting	Carbon offsetting enables individuals and organisations to compensate for any emissions they cannot avoid by paying for a carbon credit, typically a payment for an equivalent amount of emissions to be reduced or removed elsewhere. These emissions savings are generated through the implementation of a variety of projects such as planting trees and installing solar panels. Offsetting should be seen as an option of last resort and there is no commitment by Lewisham Council to fund carbon offsets to meet the aspiration to be carbon neutral by 2030.
Climate	Climate is usually defined as the average weather, or more rigorously, as a statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind.
Climate Change	Climate change, as used by the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change, refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.
Fuel Poverty	The Government's definition of fuel poverty for England and Wales states that a household is said to be in fuel poverty if: they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level), and, were they to spend that amount they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line. There is a direct link between living in cold and damp conditions and poor health outcomes.
Greenhouse Gases	Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere which absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, by the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This raises global temperatures with a consequential impact on climate. Water vapour (H ₂ O), carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), methane (CH ₄), and ozone (O ₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.
Scope 1, 2 & 3 emissions	Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are a method of defining, measuring and reporting carbon emissions on an organisational or an area basis. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions including in particular the supply chain.

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