Date   Monday 16th September 2019

Time   7.30 p.m.

Venue  Main Hall - Old Town Hall, Stratford

Rokhsana Fiaz OBE  Mayor of Newham

Althea Loderick  Chief Executive
LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

Members of the Council of the London Borough of Newham are HEREBY SUMMONED
to attend the Council Meeting on Monday 16th September 2019, at 7.30 p.m. in the
Main Hall - Old Town Hall, Stratford to transact the following business.

AGENDA

Chair of Council: Councillor Joy Laguda MBE
Deputy Chair of Council: Councillor Nazir Ahmed
NOTE TO MEMBERS
This Council Meeting is the first of two themed meetings that will be held this municipal year. The theme of this Council meeting is ‘Climate Change’. Members are asked to note the revised start time of **7.30pm** and order of business set out in the Agenda.

Following consideration of Item 1 (Apologies for Absence) and Item 2 (Declarations of Interest), the Chair will move that Council Procedure Rules 14.1.10 (to vary the order of business) be suspended (subject to Council agreement) to allow for

(a) The Council to receive the Newham Youth Assembly Item on Climate Change, following the Declarations of Interest item;

(b) The Newham Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Intent Part Two: Addressing Climate Change Item be considered following the Newham Youth Assembly item.

The Chair of Council will also move that Council Procedure Rule 15 (Rules of Debate) be suspended (subject to Council agreement) for the Newham Youth Assembly Item on Climate Change, with the following rules of debate to apply during that item only:

- A maximum of **50 minutes** will be allowed, as follows:
  - **15 minutes** for a presentation by the Youth Assembly
  - **10 minutes** Mayor and relevant portfolio holders to give initial response and for Council to receive questions from the youth assembly. *It is anticipated that Mayor and Members with related portfolios will initially field questions.*
  - **20 minutes** for general debate (Members can talk or pose a question up to two times up to 90 seconds each with up to 90 secs for members responding to any questions).
  - **5 Minutes** for closing remarks, 2.5 minutes for Youth Assembly and 2.5 minutes for the Mayor.

(c) The remaining order of business to be transacted as it appears on the Agenda.
1. **Apologies for Absence**

   To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

   In accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct this is the time for Members to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interests they may have in any matter being considered at this meeting having regard to the guidance attached to the agenda.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

   Council is invited to approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 15 July 2019.

4. **Newham Partners Update**

5. **Any Announcements by the Chair**

6. **Any Announcements by the Mayor**

7. **Any Announcements by the Chief Executive**

8. **Any Updates by Cabinet Members**

   To receive any updates by Members of the Cabinet.

9. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and Future Commissions**

10. **Deputations**

11. **Petitions**
12. Members' Questions

13. Questions by the Public

In accordance with Rule 26, the following questions were submitted by a member of the public:

Question 1 from Davide Restifo

“"I live in East Ham and I do believe that the north east neighbourhood doesn't have many trees. London has been crowned the world's first National Park City this year, but I wish it would be so in East Ham too. Can we please plant more trees?”

Question 2 from Resident (supplied name but chose to remain anonymous)

“Can individual house permits be introduced so that you can get a box put outside your house where only you can park. I certainly would pay for this option as houses on my road have multiple cars and I am often left struggling to find a place to park”

Question 3 from Pauline Rowe (Friends of Queens Market)

Can the Mayor give us an answer now to our letter (first sent 26 June) about the future of that popular and very necessary community resource Queens Market'

Question 4 from Aftar Ahmed

Does the borough have an air pollution related target and, if so, does this lead to an increased funding from the Mayor/Central Government?

What involvement have the local councillors had in this scheme and why were they not notified to feedback and start a dialogue with their respective wards?

Question 5 from Imran Asghar

“In regards to Browning Road Bridge - what is the cash generated from fines going to be used for? If this is for quality of air for local residents then what measures have been taken?”

Question 6 from Adeel Patel

What actual research has taken place for the implementation of restricted usage of the Browning Road Bridge? Where is the evidence? Why has this not been disclosed?
Previously, similar pilot schemes have run (Sherrard Road); this was made permanent with no consultation. As a result, we want to know what happens during these 6 months, what consultations take place during and after and how will the final decision be made?

**Question 7 from Tanvir Ahmed**

If there is a major accident/incident on Romford Road and the police close a large section of it down, how are people expected to navigate around it with restricted access on the bridge?

Naturally and unwittingly, thousands of drivers will use the bridge as per normal. How are they expected to be aware of the signs? The advertisement of this thus far has been atrocious, the boards went up 6 days prior to the launch, is this lawful?

**Question 8 from Nazim Ahmed**

Browning road bridge restriction: With these schemes, are we not dividing our communities and segregating our wards by dictating which routes people must take depending on where they live?

For what purpose will the hundreds of thousand pounds of fines that will be generated through the Browning Road restriction be used for - to replenish the depleted finances of the borough?

**Question 9 from Muhammad Khaliq**

Would the Council produce a document within a week providing explicit details of what happens during and after 6-month pilot scheme? Can you confirm in writing, that the pilot scheme will NOT be extended or made permanent without consultation?

How does this pilot scheme (Browning road bridge) tackle the air pollution for all residents? There are thousands of residents living on L&M zone. There's only two roads to access to Romford Road. Surely there'll be more pollution due to traffic queues.

**Question 10 from Rozob Ali**

Browning Rd bridge restriction was first launched without consultation with Little Ilford ward. After protests, it was postponed, only to be back 2 weeks later with no consultation. Despite promise by lead members why were residents never consulted?
Question 11 from Resident (supplied name but wishes to remain anonymous)

The Restriction on Browning Rd Bridge will increase traffic through Romford Rd. How does that reduce air pollution, especially since nothing is done to improve traffic flow in Romford Road. Hasn't the pollution simply just been moved?

Question 12 from Nawaz Hussain

The inception of ULEZ was designed to tackle this issue as well as the increased fees for having a diesel car, and with it coming to effect in two years’ time, why is this restricted road usage needed?

Romford Road is heavily congested, by increasing the traffic flow towards there, are we tackling the air pollution concerns? What about those that live on Romford Road? Do the air pollution they consume matter less than those on Browning Road?

14. Speeches from Members

15. Motions

The following motion has been submitted in accordance with Rule 12 of Part 4.1 of the Constitution:

Motion on the Governance Referendum and Proposed Governance Arrangements

Council notes that, on 15th April 2019, Council noted the Governance Referendum report which outlined some of the risks involved in holding the Governance Referendum on the same day as the London Mayoral and Assembly elections (1). Council also noted the report on the Democracy and Civic Participation Commission, part of whose remit is to propose different models of governance for Newham (2).

Council believes that the referendum should be held on a different day from the London elections and that a decision on the type of governance model proposed in the referendum should not be taken before the proposals of the Democracy and Civic Participation Commission can be considered.

Council therefore resolves:

to hold the Governance Referendum on a date between June 2020 and May 2021, with an indicative date for 1st April 2021 following consultation
to decide upon a proposed governance model to offer in a referendum, after taking the conclusions of the Democracy and Civic Participation Commission into account that the timetable must be tightly maintained to guarantee that the implementation of any referendum result takes effect from May 2022.

Proposed: Cllr John Whitworth
Seconded: Cllr Daniel Blaney

[Note to Members:
For the sake of clarity, whilst the Council can express a view on any matter, if action is proposed or needs to be taken as a result of a motion which concerns an executive function, this will be referred to the Mayor.]

16. Youth Assembly on Climate Emergency

(Please see above note to Members )

17. Newham Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Intent Part Two: Addressing Climate Change

(Please see above note to Members )

18. Appointments

To receive any appointments by the Mayor or Chief Whip and to make any related decisions.

19. Conclusion of Business of Council Meeting

Adrian May, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance - 020 3373 4643
Newham Dockside, 1000 Dockside Road, E16 2QU.

Background papers used in preparing the Agenda
None
Members' Declarations of Interest

Matters for Consideration
Revised Guidance – February 2016

The following is offered as a guide to Members. Further details are set out in the Members’ Code of Conduct, attached as Part 5.1 of the Council’s Constitution.

1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) are covered in detail in the Localism Act 2011. Breaches of the law relating to these may be a criminal offence.

1.1 If you have a DPI in any matter on the agenda you must not participate in any discussion or vote on that matter. If you do so without a prior Dispensation (see below) you may be committing a criminal offence, as well as a Breach of the Code of Conduct. The Council's Constitution requires any Member declaring a DPI to leave the meeting (including any public seating area) during consideration of the matter.

1.2 Members will be asked at the start of the meeting if they have any declarations of interest. The Council's Code of Conduct requires you to make a verbal declaration of the fact and nature of any DPI. You are also required to declare any DPIs before the consideration of the matter, or as soon as the interest becomes apparent, if you were not aware of it at the start of the meeting.

2. Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest

2.1 The Council's Code of Conduct requires you to make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any "Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest". Any Member who does not declare these interests in any matter when they apply may be in breach of the Code of Conduct.

2.2 You may have a "Non-Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Non-Pecuniary Interest" in an item of business where:

2.2.1 A decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well-being or financial standing, or a member of your family, or a person with whom you have a close association with to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council taxpayers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or

2.2.2 It relates to interests which would be a DPI, but in relation to a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association and that interest is not a DPI. If the matter concerns your spouse, your civil partner or someone you live with in a similar capacity, it is covered by the provisions relating to DPIs.

2.2.3 It could also cover membership of organisations which you have listed on your Register of Interests (including appointments to outside bodies), where there is no well-being or financial benefit accruing to you but where your membership might be said to be relevant to your view of the public interest.

2.3 A person with whom you have a close association is someone who is more than an acquaintance, and is someone you are in contact with over a period of time, whether regularly or not. It is someone that a reasonable member of the public might think you would be prepared to favour or disadvantage when discussing a matter which affects them and so covers friends, colleagues, business associates, or someone you know through social contact.
2.4 Family should be given a wide meaning. In relation to the family of both you and your partner, it would include the parents, parents-in-law, children and step children, brothers and sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, nephews or nieces, together with the partners of any of these persons.

2.5 You should make a verbal declaration of any such interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting at the start of the meeting, or before the consideration of the item of business, or as soon as the interest becomes apparent if you are not aware at the start of the meeting of the interest.

3. **Register of Members interests**

Members are required to complete the Register of Interests and to keep this register up to date by informing the Monitoring Officer in writing within 28 days of becoming aware of any change in respect of their DPIs.

4. **Dispensations**

In certain circumstances the Monitoring Officer is able to grant a dispensation to you which will enable you either to participate in the discussion on a matter, to vote on the matter, or both. Dispensations can only be granted in limited circumstances. If you believe that you are able to claim a dispensation you must seek advice as soon as possible from the Monitoring Officer, who will consider your request.

The Monitoring Officer, under Section 33(2) of the Localism Act, has granted the following general dispensations to all Members until the Annual Council meeting in 2022, on the grounds that the dispensation is in the interests of the inhabitants of Newham and/or it is appropriate to grant the dispensation to maintain a similar position as applied under the previous code of conduct. This means Members do not need to leave the meeting if their Disclosable Pecuniary Interest arises and is:

- An interest common to the majority of inhabitants in their ward.
- An interest so remote that it is not likely to prejudice their judgement of the public interest.
- Council housing unless related to their own particular tenancy.
- School meals and/or transport unless relating to their own child’s school.
- Statutory sick pay for members.
- Members allowances.
- Setting Council Tax or precept.
- Agreeing any Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme.
- Interests arising from membership of an outside body to which the authority has appointed or proposes to appoint them.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme unless relating specifically to their own circumstances.

5. **Bias and Predetermination**

If in relation to any decision, your outside connections may make it appear to a reasonable person that there is a real danger of bias, or predetermination you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate for you to participate in any discussion about the matter and in the decision, regardless of whether or not you consider that you should declare an interest as defined above.

For further advice about these matters please contact the Monitoring Officer, Daniel Fenwick on 01708 432714
Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Member (Councillor) of an authority must attend a meeting of the authority as a whole (i.e. Council) or a Committee, Sub-Committee or a Joint Committee at least once every six months. Attendance at a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee of Council listed below would count in lieu of a meeting of Council provided that the Councillor was an appointed member of that Committee or Sub-Committee

Standards Advisory Committee
Local or Strategic Development Committee
Licensing Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Scrutiny Commission
Investment and Accounts Committee
Chief Officers Appointment Committee
Audit Board
Health & Wellbeing Board
Corporate Parenting Board
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

Members of the Executive (the Mayor and Cabinet Members) also need to attend a meeting of the Executive i.e. Cabinet at least once every six months.

If you have any queries with regard to this guidance you should contact:

Daniel Fenwick, Monitoring Officer – 01708 432714
(E-mail: Daniel.Fenwick@Onesource.co.uk)
The meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m. and closed at 8.27 p.m.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

   Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brayshaw, Clark, Easter, Gray, Murphy, Rahman and T Wilson.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

   There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

   The Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council, held on 17 June 2019, were approved as a correct record.

4. **Newham’s Partners - Update**

   Council welcomed to the meeting, Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), who delivered a talk on the work of CND.

   Ms Hudson, firstly, congratulated the Mayor and Council for its opposition to arms exhibitions in the Borough, and globally. She said that there were
around 1,600 companies licensed to sell weaponry, “electro shock” and equipment used to torture people. Despite this, she said, the United Kingdom Government had refused to withdraw its support for arms fares.

She added that dealing in arms was big business with some £35.7 billion having been spent on arms in 2017 alone.

Ms Hudson advised Council that, alarmingly, BA Systems and Rolls Royce, both leading UK manufacturers, built parts used in weaponry available in the UK.

Council thanked Ms Hudson for her interesting and informative talk.

5. **Any Announcements by the Chair**

There were no announcements by the Chair.

6. **Any Announcements by the Mayor**

The Mayor made the following announcements:

(i) **The Newham Show**

The Mayor said that everyone had had an amazing weekend at the Newham Show, with thousands of people participating this year. She said it had been fantastic to see Newham’s amazing young people take centre stage, and the Youth Zone had been brilliant. The Mayor expressed her thanks to everyone who had made the Show possible and to everyone who had come along.

(ii) **Newham’s Partners – Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**

The Mayor welcomed and thanked the Council’s guest partner speaker this evening, Kate Hudson, the General Secretary of CND – the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. She said that Kate had a long record of campaigning for peace and justice internationally and that her contribution this evening had been very welcome and timely, following last month’s motion of opposition to the Arms Fair at the Excel, and which committed the Council to work with partner organisations including CND, Newham Against the Arms Fair, and others.

The Mayor said that Council had had a really stimulating discussion last month, and that she was proud that, as a Council, it was one that stood for peace and working together, and for putting its energies into developing a peaceful, sustainable future, and for a peace dividend rather than wasting billions of pounds on weapons of mass destruction. She said that she very much looked forward to how the Council could work together to achieve this.
(iii) Driving Forward the Change Agenda and Restructure

The Mayor said that, as Members would be aware, she had gathered from her recent email update, her message, as the Administration took forward its second year, was very much one of keeping up the momentum, to deliver on its promises.

She said that the Administration was continuing to drive through its absolutely essential change agenda. As with everything, she said, there were challenges on many fronts, and there was always more to be done, but the Administration was making progress. The Mayor reported that the latest developments in rolling out the Council’s corporate restructure, which was being driven forward by the Chief Executive, saw many changes afoot as the Council embedded the new structure and assemble an absolutely stellar senior team, and which Newham’s residents absolutely deserved.

She said that, among new appointments to the Council was Conrad Hall, as Director of Resources, who would be taking forward the Council’s approach to budget planning, a strategic approach with greater grip and certainty, which would be absolutely key in delivering the Administration’s promises. She added that, as part of the Council’s affordable housing delivery plans, it had appointed Deborah Heenan as permanent Chief Executive for Red Door Ventures. This, she said, was central to the Council’s regeneration projects linked to both the Council’s community wealth building agenda and its sustainability goals in light of the climate emergency.

The Mayor congratulated Amanda Reid on her appointment to the permanent post of Chief Planning Officer.

She went on to say that the Council was embedding its restructure with new directorates already established, of Resources, People, Policy and Performance, Adults and Health, and Children and Young People. There were, she said, some shifts in other functions as a result, and these all pointed to the fact that the Council’s structural and culture change was well under way, and it would soon have many of the permanent roles in place.

The Mayor said that she was especially proud that the recruitment for the Council’s 33 new full-time youth workers was also well underway. She said that nothing illustrated more vividly what was at the heart of the Council’s mission – the largest recruitment campaign for youth workers it had ever had, and the largest in England and the Borough’s young people deserved nothing less.

(iv) Celebrating Pride in Newham

The Mayor said that this part of the year was very much a celebratory time, as Pride in London was marked this month in
some lovely warm weather. She said she had been delighted, as ever, to have joined LGBT+ colleagues at a whole host of community events, with this year’s events being even more significant in the context of the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall. She said that underlining the Borough’s united community, and standing for equality for all, was as important as it ever had been.

(v) Relationship Education Issues

The Mayor was pleased to report upon the work that the Council was doing with schools in terms of Relationship Education. She said that it would be doing this with the support of Claire Clinton, who was a Religious Education expert and who supported the Council’s SACRE Board, and would be working with schools to ensure that the changes coming into law in September 2020 were taken forward in the best possible way.

The Mayor said that the Council would also be co-funding, with its schools, a dedicated consultant to work with Claire in providing advice and support, to consult with parents, and help provide materials and give any other necessary advice.

The Mayor said that she was aware of the question on this which would come up later, and what she did say was that she was confident that the Council was taking forward steps to positively ensure that the important and necessary work was done within the Council’s schools and communities, to ensure that Newham was an inclusive Borough, and that its children were taught to understand and respect difference and celebrate diversity.

The Mayor went on to say that the Council’s Social Integration Strategy would also be central to ensuring that a number of voices were heard, and importantly that of the LGBT+ community.

(vi) London Black Women’s Project and Building Community Capacity

The Mayor referred to another question to be taken later on the agenda, concerning the London Black Women’s Project. She said that, from the outset, she was limited in what she could say on the specific issue of the tender for the refuge provision, because this was a live process and therefore it would not be appropriate or proper for her to get into the detail.

She said that she was also acutely aware of the issues and concerns which had been raised by the Project and their supporters, and that she had met representatives just two weeks ago.

The Mayor said that she wanted to recognise the longstanding presence of the London Black Women’s Project in the borough, and the important place historically that it had in Newham. She said that
the London Black Women's Project, formerly the Newham Asian Women's Project, had a thirty-year history in Newham, and its backgrounds in a generation of black and Asian women, first generation diaspora community from the 1960s, and who organised in response to the specific circumstances and needs of women in particular, which were not provided for elsewhere. She said that, like many other Black and Asian organisations in the voluntary sector, they had been able to provide a unique service which originated from the experience of those who had been well placed to understand the needs.

The Mayor said that, across the board, the voluntary sector had faced a huge assault in terms of funding and resources, as part of the Government’s austerity offensive, and the black voluntary sector had often borne the brunt of that.

The Mayor said that, whilst it was not possible for her to speak about the details of a live procurement, and this decision would be made fully in accordance with the requirements of procurement law, what she could say was that she was committed to working with this and other organisations to build the capacity of the voluntary sector including an active commitment to consider the needs of Black and ethnic minority residents. She said that this needed to be done strategically, and that is why it would form part of one of the Council’s key, overarching initiatives -- its Community Wealth Building Programme. She stated that the Council was at the beginnings of this new approach, looking at genuinely building wealth from within the Borough, which would empower and enrich its residents. This, she said, also meant the Borough’s local organisations, businesses and, importantly, the voluntary sector. The Mayor said that, with Cabinet and officers, the Council had been working hard to drive this agenda and she was pleased to announce that the Council would be launching its strategy on 14 October. This strategy, she said, would outline how the Council aimed to use its procurement spend to benefit the local economy, how the Council would tackle low pay, its approach to skills and employment, as well as a range of cutting edge initiatives. She said that the Council had engaged with key stakeholders in the Borough, including trade unions, businesses and voluntary sector organisations to ensure that its strategy reflected the needs and opportunities in Newham.

In addition, the Mayor advised that the Council had also begun to develop its Social Integration Strategy, which would involve reinvigorating its relationship with voluntary sector organisations, and through both of these major initiatives, the Council hoped that it could build its capacity and therefore the valuable work they did for Newham’s residents.

There were, she said, many challenges, and of course the Council
needed to do things better than had been done in the past, but this work was under way. She said the Council would not be able to change things overnight and it needed to respect its legal obligations but this would be the start of a major change in strategy to strengthen wealth within Newham’s community. She said that the Council wanted to build capacity within the Borough: for communities, for its voluntary sector, for businesses, and for individuals.

(vii) Focus E15 Deputation and Housing

The Mayor was delighted to take the opportunity to welcome all of those at tonight’s meeting from “Focus E15” for their deputation on behalf of five of the residents from Victoria Street, formerly Brimstone House, who Council would hear from later.

The Mayor said that whilst she was not in a position to refer to any individual matters, she could, of course, say that these would be referred to the Council’s Director of Housing and Lead Member, Councillor John Gray. She added that she had met residents and Focus E15 last year in relation to a number of strong concerns about housing in Brimstone House, and that she had agreed to meet twice a year with them. The Mayor apologised that whilst there should have been a meeting earlier in the year, this unfortunately did not happen and she was in the process of arranging a further meeting with them on a date that suited all parties.

The Mayor said that she been informed by officers that they had been working on 31 separate issues from last July onwards, which the Council had been dealing with individually, and on a range of matters and that the Council’s officers had been working to resolve these, with residents.

Of course, she said, there were some very challenging and difficult issues in relation to housing, and not least the situation with the Council’s temporary accommodation at Victoria Street. She said that there was a massive housing crisis across the country and that, here in Newham, the Council was tackling some of the worst aspects of this, where the borough had more people in temporary accommodation than the whole of the north of England combined.

The Mayor confirmed that the Council had initially purchased Brimstone House/Victoria Street so that it could accommodate people in temporary accommodation within the Borough, rather than having to house people outside of Newham. She acknowledged that the Council was operating in very difficult times, year on year cuts were impacting, along with policies such as right to buy, which drained the Council’s social housing, and a failure of government to do anything about soaring rents, leaving many people in
increasingly desperate situations. But, despite all of this, she said that the Council was doing all that it could to address the housing crisis as a priority, most notably by building new council homes. The Mayor referred to the meeting of the Cabinet held last month, at which, it approved a significant report, which related to the construction of 1,000 new homes at social rent. She said that the Council’s ambitious plans, funded by a £276 million cash boost to assist its intervention, put Newham within the top two or three Councils in London in relation to council house building.

The Mayor recognised that this would not solve the immediate problems for every person, or for every family, who were bearing the daily brunt of the affordable housing shortage, rising rents and exploitative landlords. She appreciated that there was much to be done, but she was proud of the incredible start that the Council had made. She added that the Council’s housing company, Red Door Ventures, had been turned from an organisation developing market rent properties with an affordable element to solely delivering affordable homes at social rents.

The Mayor said that the Council would also be stepping up its campaigning against Right to Buy and for rent controls – something which would be centre stage as the London mayoral election approached over the next year. She said that the Council was also taking forward its Task Force on Homelessness, which had been agreed at the last Full Council Meeting.

(viii) Democracy and Civic Participation

The Mayor wished to bring Members up to speed with progress in relation to the Democracy and Civic Participation Commission, with an update of where the Council was at since the report, which was considered at last April’s Full Council, and which set out the scope and basis for the work. The Mayor was pleased to report that the Council had been working to establish the Commission, to look at potential composition and to explore best practice in relation to this area.

This, she said, had included engagement with leading figures and organisations in the field, such as former MP Graham Allen from the Citizens’ Convention on UK Democracy, the Democratic Society, and other interested local stakeholders such as Birkbeck College, who had hosted a very stimulating evening on Remaking Democracy at its Stratford Campus. There were, she said, some really exciting ideas and practices developing which could help inform the framework of the Council’s own Commission.

In addition, the Mayor said that the Council also had a new principal policy officer, appointed to work with her in delivering this work. She said that a list of potential commissioners had been compiled and
that they would be invited to a first meeting in September.

The Commission, she said, would meet for up to six months from September, and would form part of the timeline for taking forward the proposals for our the Council’s own democracy and governance system in advance of the referendum, and further proposals on that would be brought forward to the September Full Council meeting, but a lot of work was underway to ensure that this happened in line with her manifesto commitment.

To conclude, the Mayor advised that there were no Full Council meetings in August and wished everyone an enjoyable Summer break for those who were going on holiday, and she looked forward to Members collectively continuing to build the momentum needed on all of these, and other, issues over that time and when the Council met again in September.

7. Any Announcements by the Chief Executive

There were no announcements by the Chief Executive.

8. Any Updates by Cabinet Members

There were no updates from Cabinet Members.

9. Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme and Future Commissions

Councillor Anthony McAlmont, Chair of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee, made the following statement:

“Thank you Chair,

Since the last update I provided to Full Council, I can report that work has been ongoing to develop the scrutiny work programme for 2019/20.

Scrutiny work will primarily be undertaken through the four themed scrutiny commissions. Each of which, have met since the last meeting of the Council, to carry out their work planning workshops.

Topics for scrutiny have now been selected by the commissions and a report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 July for consideration and final approval of the Scrutiny Work Programme. May I take this opportunity to thank those Cabinet Members and senior officers that assisted with our work planning process. I will present the finalised Scrutiny Work Programme to a meeting of the Full Council in September.

The next stage for us is to fully scope those topics, setting out the objectives for the scrutiny work and how the scrutiny will be undertaken. As
part of this, we are working with the various departments determine what aspects within the work plan are time-critical, so we can timetable accordingly.

This year I plan to build on the developments in scrutiny that we started last year and continue to include as many non-executive councillors as possible in the Scrutiny process, so that we can engender an inclusive approach to influencing the Council’s policy programme and holding decision makers to account in an open and transparent manner.

In addition to work programming, other aspects of scrutiny work has been on-going. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is due to meet tomorrow evening to consider the issues of rough sleeping homelessness, with a particular focus on issues relating to the Stratford Mall.

The Committee is also due to meet on 23 July, as I previously mentioned. At this meeting, the Mayor and Chief Executive have been invited and the Committee will be questioning them on issues regarding the Corporate Plan, the Mayoral Priorities and gaining an update on the Council restructure.

In addition to this, we are holding our Scrutiny Family event on Wednesday for all Members of Scrutiny. At this event, we have arranged a Scrutiny Member Development session with the Centre for Public Scrutiny and we also intend to discuss the aspirations and expectations for the year ahead for Scrutiny.

Thank you and I look forward to reporting further on our upcoming activities to you in future.”

10. Deputations

The Council had received a request for a Deputation on behalf of “Focus E15”, which had been referred to Council by the Chief Executive.

The Council welcomed to the meeting, five local people from the Council-run temporary accommodation building in Victoria Street, Brimstone House, and addressed the Council about their housing and experiences there.

In addressing Council, members of the Deputation said that the living conditions at Brimstone House were damp, cramped, infested, unsafe and totally unacceptable for the residents, which included disabled and pregnant women. They added that there was a lack of freedom for young persons that lived there, who had little or no space to amuse themselves and that this impacted upon the physical and mental health of the children.

They stated that they were aware of other empty properties in the Borough, and cited the Carpenter Estate.
The deputation also commented on the alleged bullying and threatening nature of Council staff and the number of residents' complaints which remained unanswered.

The Deputation then responded to questions from Members.

11. **Petitions**

The Council received three petitions as detailed below. In respect of Petition 1, the Chair moved (and it was subsequently agreed) that Council Procedure Rule 25 be waived to allow for students from the NEWVIC to present the petition in person.

**Petition 1**

Councillors Lofthouse and N Wilson had accepted a petition on behalf of students from the NEWVIC, entitled “Support Cycling to Help Tackle Air Pollution”, and had requested that they be allowed to present it to Council in person. Seven students spoke on the petition, which was then formally presented to Council.

**Petition 2**

Councillor Mushtaq presented a petition on behalf of residents of Lancaster Road, who did not support the two hours free parking provision on their road.

**Petition 3**

Councillor Firoza Nekiwala presented a petition on behalf of residents opposed to fly-tipping.

12. **Members’ Questions**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.2 (Members’ Question Time), the following questions were submitted by Members:

**Question 1 from Councillor Rohit DasGupta to the Mayor**

“I have recently been made aware of the devastating news that the London Black Women’s Project (LBWP), has lost its tender for its accommodation based refuge provision in Newham. LBWP (formerly Newham Asian Women’s Project) has been delivering its independent, specialist and dedicated ‘by and for’ accommodation based services for Black and minoritised women in Newham for over 30 years. The loss of LBWP’s specialist life-saving provision in Newham, will be huge blow to Black and minoritised women and children, the BME ending VAWG sector and the wider VAWG sector. Can the Council respond how we can continue providing this important specialised service for the borough?”
Published Response

The Council has a legal duty to re-procure services when existing contractual arrangements are coming to end if the Council seeks to continue service provision. The alternative being to decommission provision. In this case, the Council chose to re-procure the Refuge service. This ensures that we are able to meet needs, including for some of our most vulnerable groups.

Like all other procurement the Council arranges, the refuge service procurement was agreed by Cabinet at its meeting of 21 January 2019. As part of the procurement process a detailed Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to ensure “the decision” complies with the Council’s legal responsibilities and that any impact, positive or negative, as a result of a proposed decision is fully considered and mitigated against.

The proposed service specification tendered made no change to the level of refuge provision sought in the most recent procurement activity. In addition, the Mayor wants to make clear that under this administration a revised policy position is in the process of being developed that may in future change the method by which tenders are assessed. One of the things this will look at is social value from a local perspective.

This revised policy position will incorporate the Mayor’s Community Wealth Building agenda as a strategy to rebuild the local capacity of the community and third sector in Newham.

The Council will always make decisions in accordance with its legal obligations and procurement process. Given that this is still a live procurement process it would be inappropriate to comment any further at this point.

Supplementary Question

Councillor DasGupta questioned the Council’s tendering process itself.

In response, the Mayor said that the Community Wealth Programme would return £1 out of £4 back to the local economy. She said she hoped that, in subsequent conversations on the procurement process, Members would engage with her.

The Mayor said that she had noted in the letter from a representative of the London Black Women’s Project, a reference to the procurement procedure, relating to the quality impact statement, which she had passed on to the Chief Executive to investigate.

In conclusion, the Mayor said that work was currently being undertaken on a review of the current procurement evaluation process in response to the community wealth building agenda, as it currently did not reflect the aspiration her administration had for the people of Newham.
Question 2 from Councillor Rohit DasGupta to the Mayor

“Energy centres in the new developments around Canning Town and broadly this borough has been seen by residents as anti-competitive and pricing them out. These energy centres charge residents well above the market price for energy and given the development blocks have long running contracts there is no way for residents to change providers. Private and social housing residents have complained about this. What can the Council do for the present residents in this predicament and can the Council make sure new developments being given planning permission does not have the provision to tie their residents to these exploitative energy centres.”

Published Response

Any major developments are determined in accordance with local and regional planning policies and proposals and the National Planning Policy Framework which promotes the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat; particularly for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential lead customers and suppliers. The Local Planning Authority is unable to depart from the legislative framework it functions within. Additionally as a planning authority Newham Council cannot compel a developer to choose a particular energy supplier as this would be in contradiction to competition law. However, the Mayor is minded as the portfolio lead for planning to write a letter of concern to Ofgem regarding the concerning matter raised by Councillor DasGupta.

On the subject of community heat contracts, I know that there are issues. Officers have recommended that you refer the matter to Ofgem, as regulation of utility charging is not something the Council has any power over.

Supplementary Question

As most of these companies had 25 year leases, could the Council ensure that no application proposing a 25 year lease would be supported?

In response, the Mayor said that, as set out in the published response, the Council had to be mindful not to breach competition law.

The Mayor did say that she shared Councillor DasGupta’s concern about being tied into 25 year contract, as there was something anti-competitive about that. She said that the letter she would write to Ofgem, would also mention the contradiction.

The Chair allowed a question, without notice, to be put by Councillor Shah, as follows:

“I understand that women were placed outside of the Borough when they
faced domestic violence.

_We have women who live in Newham who go to the London Black Women’s Project. Is there any way of letting them continue, to provide the services they have been providing for the last 32 years?_

In response, the Mayor said that she had taken an interest in these issues. Whilst she did not want to talk about the detail of procurement process, the Mayor said she was committed to having conversations to ensure there was survival in Newham. She said she understood they had a cultural insight to enable women, and to give them a voice.

In conclusion, the Mayor said that she deeply regretted that the process had led to this situation and that she was committed to resolving this.

**Due to public disturbance, the meeting adjourned at 20.27 and reconvened at 20.32**

**Question 3 from Councillor Rev Quintin Peppiatt to Councillor Julianne Marriot**

_“I welcome the possible employment of an expert advisor in RSE working with Clare Clinton, Local Authority and schools to help with consultation and to develop a common approach across the schools surrounding the introduction of the new RSE curriculum by September 2020. Could the Mayor explain how the LGBTI+ community will be consulted in the drawing up of this curriculum?_"

**Published Response**

The Government has stated that from September 2020 relationship education will be compulsory in all schools. Statutory guidance sets out the content of relationship education but does not stipulate when and how topics should be taught leaving schools responsible for delivering the curriculum in consultation with parents.

In preparation for the change in September 2020, we will be working in partnership with our schools to create a common approach and template policies for the teaching of relationship and health education and sex education. This will include healthy friendships and relationships, family, boundaries, bullying and online relationships in line with age appropriate expectations set out nationally. Our schools also need to abide by the Equality Act 2010.

In creating these materials we will be consulting with a wide range of communities groups, organisations and stakeholders which will, of course, include LGBT groups, as well as members of the Council. We are in the process of mapping out those stakeholders and will be able to update in the autumn. In the meantime I would welcome any suggestions from Councillor Peppiatt.
Supplementary Question

Could the Cabinet Member explain the make-up and the remit of the Equality Board, and how it feeds into this process?

In response, Councillor Marriott said she would need to look again to see what that involved, however, as always, she was very happy to talk to Councillor Peppiatt outside of the meeting.

The Mayor added that the review would be undertaken by expert consultants. She said that there was no Equality Board at present but she had mooted that a Committee take forward the proposal, with the Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) to ensure discussions. There would, she said, be no formal Equality Board outside of the Council.

The Mayor said that what had been seen in some parts of Newham did not compare to Birmingham and that Newham was stronger than Birmingham.

In conclusion, the Mayor said that the issue of equality would be discussed at SACRE, at local safeguarding boards and with teachers.

Question 4 from Councillor Daniel Blaney to Councillor Mas Patel

“In managing corporate risk, what is the assessment of the threat of any legal challenges with regard to our statutory requirements in relation to air quality, sustainability and climate change?”

Published Response

Air quality is captured through legislation and statutory requirements under Clean Air Act 1993 and Environment Act 1995 as outlined in the background information paragraph below. The Government’s Clean Air Strategy 2019 makes various announcements for reform of the air pollution framework. In particular, new powers will be granted to local authorities to take action in high pollution areas. In addition, a new Air Quality Bill will be put forward in 2019, updating the legislative framework for air pollution under the Clean Air Act 1993. Although the focus has been on the UK Government for non-compliance with EU air quality directives so far it is important that LB Newham follows closely the new Air Quality Bill proposals and corporate risk responsibility devolved to LAs as taken by Non-government organisations (NGOs) as detailed in the background information.

From the planning and development service area perspective, topics of sustainability and climate change are captured through consideration of policy requirements set at national, regional and local levels. Legal challenges would arise through the judicial review process available to applicants via the High Court.
Supplementary Question

Can I ensure that Newham Officers and Cabinet Members are conscious of the levels of accountability the Council could expect in the years ahead on this area?

In response, Councillor Mas Patel said this was an excellent question, which tied-in with the petition presented earlier in the meeting by the NewVic Students. He referred to photographs taken of the Council’s Members and Mayor supporting last weekend's demonstration in Stratford.

Councillor Patel went on to say that Newham Council had supported a motion in April on declaring a Climate Emergency and that a report on the Strategic Intent would be presented to Council in September, along with a range of initiatives, some soft, some harder hitting. In conclusion, Councillor Patel said that nothing was off the table in this regard.

Question 5 from Councillor Lester Hudson to Councillor James Asser

"Unite The Union has served notice on Newham Council for strike action in Waste Services. Has this dispute been resolved? Should the strike go ahead will agency staff be used to avoid rubbish piling up?"

Published Response

The Council has undertaken constructive negotiations with staff and Unite over a historic grading issue. All parties have recently entered into talks with the conciliation service ACAS in a further attempt to reach a binding and amicable agreement.

A jointly agreed resolution has been reached and Unite are currently consulting with their members to seek agreement for the proposal. Unite have suspended strike action whilst a ballot on the proposed resolution takes place.

If the strike were to proceed, the Council would put in place a contingency plan to ensure refuse collection across the borough was not disrupted. The use of agency workers is not permitted during strike action and therefore would not be considered.

Supplementary Question

Was the Council still paying for the previous Chief Executive, Katherine Kerswell or, if not, when did the Council stop paying for Katherine Kerswell?

At this point, the Council’s Monitoring Officer said he thought, to be fair to Councillor Hudson, Officers could provide Members with an answer to that
question in writing, if that was acceptable.

In response, the Mayor said that a response would be provided, in writing, and it would be circulated to every single Member, so that everyone was aware of the current situation.

13. Questions by the Public

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 (Questions by the Public), the following questions were submitted by members of the public:

Question 1 – from Briony Crush to Councillor James Asser

“Newham Council is currently one of the worst London boroughs at recycling. What plans are the Council soon to action to improve recycling and creating a more sustainable future for local residents?”

Published Response

The Council is aware that we lag behind most other boroughs in terms of recycling and we have identified this as an area we must address and try to improve. We have been working with expert help to identify the challenges that Newham faces to improving its recycling and looking at things we can do to overcome them or reduce their effect.

A key issue for the borough remains the Private Finance Initiative contract between the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) and waste contractor Renewi which has been in place since 2002 and which runs until 2027. When this contract was drawn up national policy was focused on reducing the use of landfill rather than increasing recycling. Our current waste contract therefore focuses on ensuring we reduce waste to landfill.

The current facility extracts food waste, metals and glass from the waste and sends them off for recycling elsewhere and then treats the remaining waste to create a fuel used in energy generation. The four east London boroughs in the ELWA area successfully reduced landfill use long before the majority of other councils, and whilst recycling rates are low we continue to see over 95% of our waste avoiding landfill.

ELWA and the four boroughs in the area have already begun the process of developing a new strategy that will shape the future contract. The next ELWA waste contract will determine the type of recycling services available after 2027 and will be designed to ensure that recycling is increased.

More immediately the Council are looking at a range of projects to encourage people to recycle more, to reduce the amount of contamination in recycling bins, to expand the range of materials we recycle, to promote recycling, to reduce the amount of waste and to look at how we currently offer recycling facilities and services to produce a better strategy for recycling.
Question 2 from Briony Crush to Councillor James Asser

“Why does Newham Council not recycle food waste currently? With new housing developments arising locally and hence more food waste generated and methane gas pollution, does the Council not agree that food waste collection would benefit the community?”

Published Response

We are currently unable to offer our residents a separate food waste collection. Our current waste contract delivers waste to a facility that uses a mechanical-biological treatment process (MBT) that converts the waste into a fuel known as refuse derived fuel (RDF).

The food waste that is disposed of in your bin is an important component in the RDF that is produced from this process and at the moment can’t be collected and treated separately.

We are currently working with our three neighbouring boroughs in East London Waste Authority (ELWA) on developing a new strategy for ELWA which will include reviewing all opportunities to increase recycling and change the way we collect waste (including food waste) in the future.

In the short term we are looking at what opportunities we can take to encourage and educate households on reducing their food waste. We are also looking at options on helping households with home composting.

14. Speeches from Members

There were no speeches from Members.

15. Motions

No motions were received in accordance with Rule 11 of Part 4.1 of the Constitution.

16. Appointments

There were no appointments made by the Mayor or the Chief Whip.

17. Conclusion of Business of Council Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.47pm.
1 Executive Summary

1.1 The attached report (Appendix 1), which was considered at the Cabinet on 3 September 2019, summarises the main implications for the council of climate change and the climate emergency. It identifies a number of issues for further development.

1.2 The Cabinet agreed the report's recommendations.

1.3 Full Council is asked to note the contents of the report to the Cabinet and to agree Recommendation 2.1.1, namely the adoption of the national government target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e. a reduction in GHGs by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050), whilst maintaining the previously agreed target of making the borough ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030. This has the effect of amending the terms of the resolution passed by the council on 15 April 2019, on the grounds that making the borough ‘carbon zero by 2050’ is impracticable, as some processes will inevitably continue to produce greenhouse gas emissions, and that, consequently, some degree of carbon offsetting will continue to be necessary. The proposed new target also gives a clear baseline year (1990), against
which to measure progress.

2 Recommendations

2.1 To note the contents of the report presented to the Cabinet on 3 September 2019 (see Appendix 1) and the decisions taken at that meeting.

2.2 To agree to adopt the targets set out in Recommendation 2.1.1 of the Cabinet report, namely the adoption of the national government target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e. a reduction in GHGs by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050), whilst maintaining the target of making the borough ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030.

3 Background

3.1 At its meeting on 15 April 2019, the Full Council passed a resolution, which called upon the Mayor to declare a climate and health emergency and to pledge to make the borough ‘carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050’. The resolution also called on the Mayor to work in conjunction with national and other government bodies to achieve the 2030 target to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

3.2 At the same meeting, a report was agreed, which outlined a draft Air Quality Action Plan for the borough. This was described as Part One of the borough’s strategic intent regarding air quality and climate change. The attached report, which was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 3 September, focuses on climate change and complements the work on air quality.

3.3 The report begins by briefly setting the scene nationally and locally. In Section 4, it describes the foundations of the proposed approach to addressing climate change. This includes a ‘Green Audit’ of the council’s functions, as agreed by Full Council in April and a planned communications strategy. The report then outlines the borough’s planning framework and how it will overlay a corporate approach to tackling climate change, before giving consideration to the implications of climate change to specific service areas, setting out current and planned activity.

3.4 The Cabinet report should be seen as contributing to the establishment of a baseline and as a precursor to a detailed action plan. It is not a strategy yet - hence the use of the term strategic intent. The focus of the report is predominantly on the short to medium term. The planned Green Audit and the other work outlined in the report is expected to help clarify priorities for the longer term, which will then need to be costed and built into the council’s service and financial planning arrangements.

3.5 The implication of the report is that major changes will need to made to contemporary ways of life – for example, much lower energy consumption, much less distance travelled both for commercial and domestic purposes, much less meat consumption, much more energy efficient housing, a re-
greening of the land, and a change of attitude towards economic growth as
the main measure of economic development.

3.6 Much of the activity outlined in the report concerns things happening or
need to happen within the council, but to succeed, it will be necessary to
secure the active involvement and support of the local community and other
stakeholders, not least businesses.

3.7 The council has a major role to play, as a provider and consumer of services,
but also as the leading representative body of the local community. In this
latter regard, powerful and effective communications and engagement with
local people and other stakeholders will be essential.

4 Policy Implications & Corporate Priorities

4.1 These are considered in Section 5 of the report to the 3 September 2019
Cabinet meeting (attached).

5 Alternatives considered

5.1 This is addressed in Section 6 of the report to the 3 September 2019 Cabinet
meeting.

6 Consultation

6.1 This is set out in Section 7 of the report to the 3 September 2019 Cabinet
meeting.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial Implications

7.1.1 These are considered in Section 8.1 of the report to the 3 September
2019 Cabinet meeting.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 These are considered in Section 8.2 of the report to the 3 September
2019 Cabinet meeting.

7.3 Equalities Implications

7.3.1 These are considered in Section 8.3 of the report to the 3 September
2019 Cabinet meeting.

7.4 Other Implications relevant to this report:

7.4.1 These are set out in the body of the report to the 3 September 2019
Cabinet meeting.
8 Background Information used in the preparation of this report

8.1 The report to the 3 September 2019 Cabinet meeting entitled ‘Newham Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Intent Part Two: Addressing Climate Change’, which is attached to the present report as Appendix 1.
Appendix 1

LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM
CABINET

Report title | Newham Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Intent Part Two: Addressing Climate Change
---|---
Date of Meeting | 3rd September 2019
Lead Officer and contact details | Steve Tennison, Principal Policy Officer E: steve.tennison@newham.gov.uk DDI: 020 3373 7496
Director, Job title | Kevin Kewin, Interim Corporate Director of People, Policy and Performance
Lead Members | Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz
Key Decision? | Yes Reasons: Many of the initiatives referred to in this report will have significant impact on those living or working in two or more wards in the borough.
Exempt information & Grounds | No
Wards Affected | All
Appendices (if any) | 1. Resolution of 15 April 2019 Council: Motion: Declare a Climate Emergency

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The report summarises the main implications for the council of the Climate Emergency, and identifies a number of areas for further development. It has been produced in response to the resolution carried at the Full Council meeting on 15 April 2019, attached as Appendix 1, which called on the Mayor to declare a climate and health emergency and to take a number of actions.

2 Recommendations

2.1 For the reasons set out in the report and its appendix the Cabinet is recommended to agree:

2.1.1 To agree to recommend to Council the adoption of the national government target of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e. a reduction in GHGs by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050), whilst maintaining the target of making the borough 'carbon neutral' by 2030 (see Section 3 (ii) and Footnote 1).
2.1.2 That a Green Audit of council services be undertaken, in addition to the development of a strategic Green Infrastructure Plan for Newham, which encompass the principles of a Green Economy and a ‘Just Transition’, with an annual report published to track progress.

2.1.3 That the council’s communications strategy on climate change be developed under the banner Newham Climate Now to raise awareness, initiate behaviour change and engage with Newham residents, alongside the work that Newham is doing on air quality and the Climate Emergency.

2.1.4 To use Citizens’ Assemblies to assist the council to develop its approach to climate change mitigation, including a specific Citizens’ Assembly on the Climate Emergency to be organised by the end of 2019.

2.1.5 That the council should promote the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone as an incubator for the green technology sector and a ‘beacon’ of the green economy in London, working in conjunction with the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority.

2.1.6 That the council should work with local training providers and the FE and HE sectors in Newham to encourage the development of courses that will enable local people to develop their skills and secure jobs in the green technology sector, in line with ‘Just Transition’ principles.

2.1.7 That consideration be given to strengthening the local planning framework in the light of the Climate Emergency, when the council’s Local Plan is next reviewed, including supporting investment in the borough by green technology firms.

2.1.8 That the council should develop an Energy Management Plan to reduce carbon emissions from its operational buildings and minimise energy consumption through the use of innovative technologies.

2.1.9 Together with its economic partners, the council should develop a green assessment framework for businesses in the borough.

2.1.10 That the Pension Committee be requested to undertake a review of its current investment policies and the existing investment portfolio from the perspective of the climate emergency.

2.1.11 That future reports within the council should contain a section that considers the environmental impact of any proposals together with their contribution to the carbon neutral and net carbon zero targets that the council has set itself to meet by 2030 and 2050 respectively.

2.1.12 That the work on climate emergency be integrated into the council’s Community Wealth Building initiative.
3 Background

3.1 As stated by the UN, ‘Climate Change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale. Without drastic action today, adapting to these impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly’.

3.2 In October 2018, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a Special Report on Global Warming which found that human activities have already caused a 1 degree temperature rise above pre-industrial levels. If this trend continues, the Earth is likely to reach 1.5°C of warming between 2030 and 2052. A further 0.5°C of warming would significantly increase the risk of extreme weather events, irreversible ecosystem and biodiversity loss, water scarcity and climate-related poverty for millions of people. At the current rate, global temperatures may rise by as much as 3°C by the end of the 21st century. However, this is not inevitable: the UN report maintains that the corrective actions needed to avert such impacts are within our technical and financial capacities. Ambitious and decisive action from governments, cities and individuals will be required to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and ‘rapid and far-reaching’ transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities will be required.

3.3 Later this month (29th September 2019), UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, will convene a Climate Summit to bring world leaders of governments, the private sector and civil society together to support the multilateral process and to increase and accelerate climate action and ambition. The Climate Summit will focus on key sectors where action can make the most difference, namely: heavy industry, nature-based solutions, cities, energy, resilience, and climate finance. World leaders will be expected to report on what they are doing and what more they intend to do when they convene in 2020 for the UN climate conference, where commitments will be renewed and may be increased.

3.4 In December 2019, the Committee of Parties on Climate Change (COP25) will meet again, bringing together all those countries that have signed up to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), alongside civil society, private sector and environmental organisations to call for more ambitious actions to tackle climate change.

(i) The National Picture

3.5 In the UK, the Committee on Climate Change - an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Change Act 2008, which advises the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and reports to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change - recommended to the Government that it should amend the Climate Change Act to adopt a net zero greenhouse gas (GHG)
emissions target for the UK. This was done by statutory instrument on 25 June 2019, and was passed unanimously by members of Parliament.

3.6 The Government has stated that emissions should reach net-zero across the whole economy (i.e. including international aviation and shipping) and that the aim is to reach net-zero emissions without recourse to international credits (or ‘offsets’). The net zero target requires a reduction in GHGs by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050. Overall, the Committee on Climate Change calculates that reaching net-zero emissions in 2050 will require an average emissions reduction of around 3% of 2018 emissions across the economy per annum.

3.7 In 2018, UK greenhouse gas emissions were 44% below 1990 levels (UK carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 39 per cent). This decrease has resulted mainly from changes in the mix of fuels being used for electricity generation, with a shift away from coal and growth in the use of renewable energy sources. This has been combined with lower electricity demand, owing to greater efficiency resulting from improvements in technology and a decline in the relative importance of energy intensive industries.

3.8 In 2018, provisional figures indicate that an estimated 33% of carbon dioxide (CO\(_2\)) emissions were from the transport sector; 27% were from energy supply; 18% from business and 18% from the residential sector. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are generally measured in terms of their carbon dioxide equivalence, as CO\(_2\) represents 98% of all greenhouse gas contribution to climate change. Policy papers often use the term CO\(_2\)e (CO\(_2\) equivalent) which 'translates' the impact of the other five greenhouse gases into the equivalent greenhouse impact of CO\(_2\).

3.9 Over the period 1990-2018, CO\(_2\) emissions by sector changed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>1990-2018 % change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy supply (inc power sector)</td>
<td>-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sector</td>
<td>-39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.10 The minimal reduction of transport emissions – just 3% since 1990 - stands out. This derives from a continual growth in vehicle kilometres travelled on roads, albeit offset by improvements in new car fuel efficiency and an increase in the number of electric vehicles to over 200,000 in 2019. Transport carbon dioxide grew to a peak in 2007, 8.5 per cent higher than in 1990. Since then emissions from this sector have fallen back to around 1990 levels. These estimates do not include emissions from international aviation and shipping (IAS), which future data will need to do. Domestic aviation and shipping, however, are included. (It should be noted that IAS emissions have increased by over 80% since 1990.)
3.11 A significant proportion of the reduction in the UK’s CO₂ emissions by businesses is derived from deindustrialisation and the transfer of industrial production overseas. The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs estimates that the UK’s consumption emissions in 2016 (including international aviation and shipping) were around 56% higher than territorial emissions. The difference is primarily due to international trade. The production overseas of goods that are imported into the UK releases nearly three times more emissions than the production of goods produced within the UK that are exported. Although of critical importance, consumption emissions relating to overseas products imported into the UK are not included in the UK’s climate change targets.

3.12 In its report, *Net Zero: The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming*, the Committee on Climate Change stated that:

“A net-zero GHG target is not credible unless policy is ramped up significantly. Most sectors will need to reduce emissions close to zero without offsetting; the target cannot be met by simply adding mass removal of CO₂ onto existing plans for the 80% target.”

It also stated that: “Delivery must progress with far greater urgency. Many current plans are insufficiently ambitious; others are proceeding too slowly, even for the current 80% target:

- 2040 is too late for the phase-out of petrol and diesel cars and vans, and current plans for delivering this are too vague.
- Over ten years after the Climate Change Act was passed, there is still no serious plan for decarbonising UK heating systems and no large-scale trials have begun for either heat pumps or hydrogen.
- Carbon capture (usage) and storage, which is crucial to the delivery of zero GHG emissions and strategically important to the UK economy, is yet to get started. While global progress has also been slow, there are now 43 large-scale projects operating or under development around the world, but none in the UK.
- Afforestation targets for 20,000 hectares/year across the UK nations (due to increase to 27,000 by 2025), are not being delivered, with less than 10,000 hectares planted on average over the last five years. The voluntary approach that has been pursued so far for agriculture is not delivering reductions in emissions.”

And that: “Challenges that have not yet been confronted must now be addressed by government. Industry must be largely decarbonised, heavy goods vehicles must also switch to low-carbon fuel sources, emissions from international aviation and shipping cannot be ignored, and a fifth of our agricultural land must shift to alternative uses that support emissions reduction: afforestation, biomass production and peatland restoration. Where there are remaining emissions these must be fully offset by removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and permanently sequestering it, for example by using sustainable bioenergy in combination with CCS.”
3.13 The table below shows graphically the UK’s progress since 1990 in reducing emissions and the distance still to travel.

![Figure 1.1. Indicative rates of decarbonisation required to achieve 80% and 100% reductions by 2050](image)


**Notes:** Includes emissions from international aviation and shipping. Outturn data are based on the current emissions inventory and therefore do not reflect forthcoming revisions to peatland emissions or global warming potentials (Box 1.1).

(ii) The Local Response

3.14 At its meeting on 15 April 2019, the Full Council passed a resolution (see Appendix 1), which called on the Mayor to declare a climate and health emergency. This reflected a recognition that human activity has resulted in an increase in global temperatures that, left unabated, is likely to result in significant, and, in some cases, severe and adverse changes to the environment, resulting in a threat to plant and animal life across the planet.

3.15 The Full Council called on the Mayor to pledge to make the borough ‘carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050’; to work in conjunction with national and local government bodies to achieve the 2030 target, and to determine and implement best practice methods to limit global warming to less than 1.5°C.

3.16 Carbon neutral means that, while some emissions are still being generated by a building/process, these are offset somewhere else, making the overall net emissions zero. This could be through the use of green tariffs, green infrastructure projects or carbon offset programmes. The term ‘carbon zero by 2050’ used in the council resolution is challenging, given the difficulty in eliminating entirely emissions from some sectors of the economy. The
The committee on Climate Change and the government therefore use the term ‘net-zero’ emissions by 2050, by which is meant that ‘the total of active removals from the atmosphere offsets any remaining [GHC] emissions from the rest of the economy’. It is recommended that the council adopts this national definition for the 2050 target, instead of the term used in the 15 April resolution and set out in the previous paragraph, while maintaining the target of making the borough ‘carbon neutral’ by 2030. (In practice, there is little in principle between the two targets, but the implication is that carbon offsetting will be reduced to a necessary minimum by 2050.)

3.17 The council also called upon the Mayor to:

- commit to a Green Audit of all council services, in order to ensure that weight is given to their environmental and sustainability impact, as well as to their cost;
- provide air quality monitoring devices in all schools; (NB This has now been implemented, as part of the work being driven by the Air Quality and Climate Change Taskforce)
- explore local renewable energy grid systems to provide free renewable energy for residents in social housing, maximising the use of industrial land in the borough;
- lead by example to remove single use plastic items from the council’s premises;
- encourage plastic free initiatives and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the borough;
- produce an annual report on progress towards reaching the carbon neutral target.

3.18 In the course of the discussion at the council meeting, it was asserted that addressing climate change and ensuring a healthy, sustainable environment locally and across London is a high priority for the Mayor and Council. It was also acknowledged that limiting the rise in global temperatures and reducing the levels of pollution in the atmosphere requires immediate action, for the health and wellbeing of residents today and in years to come.

3.19 A further 15 London councils have now declared a Climate Emergency: Enfield, Richmond Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Waltham Forest, Southwark, Redbridge, Lewisham, Lambeth, Ealing, Islington, Hounslow, Haringey, Merton and Greenwich. In total, more than 100 local authorities across the country have now committed to act on climate change. The Mayor of London and the Local Government Association (LGA) have also declared a Climate Emergency.

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1 The Committee on Climate Change report stated that if other countries follow the UK, there is a 50-50 chance of staying below the recommended 1.5°C temperature rise by 2100. A 1.5°C rise is considered the threshold for dangerous climate change. It should be noted that some organisations do not consider the target sufficiently challenging. However, given the gap between current performance and the target, it represents a considerable advance on the previous national target, and will be kept under review. Also, as noted in the body of the present report, a zero carbon target – as distinct from net zero GHG – is not considered practical, and there will inevitably be a need for a degree of carbon offsetting, though much less that is the case at present.
3.20 Newham Council is committed to doing everything within its power to play its part in the global challenge of safeguarding a sustainable future. The primary focus of the present report is to set out actions that the council can itself undertake, in conjunction with its partners. However, a fully comprehensive strategy would need to take into consideration all aspects of contemporary life, including for example, the environmental impact of food and clothing production, personal vehicle ownership, holidays abroad and, indeed, in the final analysis, an economic system predicated on a particular economic growth model.

3.21 The council can play a number of different roles in relation to climate change. Firstly, it is a provider of diverse local services. It is a regulator of activity in a number of areas, including land use and buildings. It also has regulatory responsibilities in respect of certain types of business that produce pollution. In addition, the council plays a leadership role, through which it is able to engage and influence not only local communities and businesses, but also a whole range of bodies that have an impact on, or influence over, the environment over a wider geographical area. These include commercial and statutory bodies, such as such as the Greater London Authority family of organisations, the Mayor for London, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and London City Airport.

3.22 One immediate priority for the council is to improve air quality, in order to reduce the dangerous levels of pollution in the borough that are linked to chronic illnesses and the early death of many people each year. Subsequent to the April council meeting, a scrutiny review of air quality was undertaken and a number of recommendations made. These were considered by the Cabinet on 2 July and agreed. Further work is now taking place to develop specific, costed proposals and a number of measures are already being put in place, including air quality monitoring in schools, which is described further in Section 4 (iv).

3.23 The proposals within the present report involve working across all areas of the council and all policy areas. The council is committed to working with the local community and partners from the public and private sectors to take urgent steps to address climate change, the greatest challenge of modern times.

4. Key Considerations and Proposals

4.1 In developing a comprehensive and strategic approach to climate change and air quality, it is important to recognise that a range of measures will need to be addressed, from the built environment to encouraging sustainable transport, to people-centred environmental planning and major lifestyle changes within the population. Some of these are directly within the council’s control; some are matters over which the council can exercise influence, while others are matters that only national and international agreements are likely to solve.

4.2 It is also important to recognise that, while the climate crisis is pressing, and some actions will be taken over the short term, others will take place over the
longer term. In addition, while some initiatives will be deliverable at low cost within existing resources, others - e.g. the upgrading of the council’s dwelling stock - will be resource intensive and take longer to implement. In a number of important cases, the government will need to allocate more resources if its, and the council’s, climate change objectives are to be met.

(i) Green Audit

4.3 The starting point for Newham Council’s strategic approach to the climate emergency is to carry out a Green Audit of council services to ensure that weight is given to their environmental and sustainability impact, as well as their cost. Such an Audit is likely to be multifaceted, and some aspects are likely to be complex and technical. The results of the Audit, together with key actions already planned or proposed within the current report, will be translated into a corporate action plan. Some of these actions will be ‘quick wins’ that can be implemented rapidly within existing resources, while others are likely to be resource intensive and will need to be undertaken in a planned programme of work, over a period of years. It is proposed that an annual report be published to track progress. In addition, any changes made as a result to a sustainable economy need to be equitable. Friends of the Earth refer to a ‘Just Transition’, by which is meant:

"some chance of a safe climate for future generations; an equal distribution of the remaining global carbon budget between countries; and a transition in the UK in which the costs are distributed progressively, and where everyone’s essential needs for housing, transport and energy use are met.”

(ii) Newham Climate Now: Newham’s Air Quality and Climate Change Communications Strategy

4.4 One of the key ways in which the council can make a difference regarding climate change is through its communications and engagement with residents to effect behavioural change and advocacy across its partner network. Indeed, high quality communications and resident engagement is an essential foundation for any strategic approach to tackling climate change. It is proposed that the overarching banner for the council’s communication strategy be Newham Climate Now.

4.5 It is envisaged that the communications strategy will operate at the following levels:

- the individual
- in a range of settings (e.g. places where people receive public services)
- at the level of the whole population of the borough; and
- through advocacy across a range of stakeholder partners, including businesses in Newham.

4.6 It is proposed that Newham Climate Now should be comprised of six main themes:
4.7 Through the delivery of its own services, and working in conjunction with partner organisations, the council will take steps to raise awareness and encourage behavioural change within the local population and local stakeholder partners. Key organisations, such as schools, health service providers, voluntary organisations and businesses will be encouraged to take an active part in this work. Finally, the council will seek to build public support for policy changes necessary to meet its climate change objectives. This is likely to include pressing government and commercial organisations to adopt more climate-friendly policies and behaviours.

4.8 The council is also recommended to consider using Citizens Assemblies to elicit ideas from the local community on how best to tackle climate change and to build support within the community for the measures adopted, and has already committed to holding a Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Emergency by the end of 2019.

(iii) The Planning Framework and a Green Infrastructure for Newham

4.9 Newham’s Development Plan, which is comprised of the Newham Local Plan, the London Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), sets out the framework for how homes, jobs and infrastructure will be delivered to create a thriving but sustainable borough - particularly in light of climate change. It was updated recently (December 2018) and contains aspirational policies which, along with the London Plan, provide plenty of ‘hooks’ with which to demand higher environmental standards from new developments. These include:

- Zero carbon development
- Reducing overheating in buildings
- Mitigating resource scarcity (including water, food and energy)
- Mitigating the risk of increased flooding as a result of climate change
- Tackling biodiversity loss.

4.10 In the light of the Climate Emergency, the council will redouble its efforts to ensure that the standards set out in the Development Plan are upheld. For example, it will promote ‘air quality neutral’ development, maximise greening initiatives, and support initiatives such as climate-resilient planting, the promotion of biodiversity, and the use of heat pumps and other low energy heating. Also, as noted in the previous section, it will be important to ensure that the transition to a low carbon economy is effected in an equitable manner.
- a ‘Just Transition’ - and that local people share fairly in the economic gains associated with the process of transition itself, in line with the council’s Community Wealth Building initiative (see below). A review of Newham’s Local Plan will seek to amplify Climate Emergency issues, as they affect the borough.

4.11 It should be emphasised that the planning regime can only affect new development and the most important measures in relation to tackling climate change are likely to be concerned with improving the environmental performance of older buildings and reducing energy consumption and pollution from transport. That is to say, local authority resources need to be particularly focused on effecting change in the existing built environment. Work is already underway to assess how this can be integrated into current plans concerning the Council’s own housing stock and future housing delivery.

4.12 The Development Plan also gives priority to the borough’s Green infrastructure (GI), which comprises the green spaces and features (street trees and living roofs, for example) that together form a living network with a range of benefits that include:

- healthy living;
- mitigating flooding;
- improving air and water quality;
- cooling the urban environment;
- encouraging walking and cycling; and
- enhancing biodiversity and ecological resilience

4.13 Green infrastructure (GI): Green infrastructure can enhance not only biodiversity and habitat provision, but also improve drainage capacity and reduce flooding and cool the urban environment. It also helps encourage walking, cycling, and other leisure and recreation activities, and is an important factor in diverting people from the use of motor vehicles.

4.14 In 2015, the GLA Green Infrastructure Task Force proposed the following objectives:

- Promoting Healthy Living – improving health outcomes by increasing physical activity, reducing stress and removing pollutants.
- Strengthening Resilient Living – keeping the city cool, its air clean, and protecting it from flooding.
- Encouraging Active Living – increasing levels of walking and cycling.
- Creating Living Landscapes – enhancing natural processes for the benefit of people and wildlife and conserving the most special landscapes, habitats and species.
- Enhancing Living Space – providing a range of outdoor space for cultural, civic, learning and community activity, including productive landscapes.
By 2050, the working group proposed the following ambitions:

- London should maintain its status as one of the world’s greenest capital cities – 50% of the administrative area should be green infrastructure. This would require an increase in green cover of approximately 9000ha – the area currently covered by London’s front gardens.
- London should maintain its “urban forest” by increasing tree cover from 20% to 30% of London’s area – 1 tree for every Londoner.
- 80% (9 million) of Londoners will be walking, jogging or cycling at least 2 miles per day.
- Surface water flows into the sewer network will be reduced by at least 25% (the draft London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan aims to achieve this by 2040).
- EU standards on water quality will be met for all of London’s rivers.
- At least 20% of London’s area will be designated of high wildlife value.

Newham has 476 hectares of green space, formed of public parks and green spaces, linear routes, waterways (including rivers, canals and towpaths) and other informal spaces. Green space covers 13.1% of Newham compared with 39% for London as a whole. There are 25 public parks and numerous green spaces totalling approximately 396 hectares of publicly accessible green space. The council has management responsibility for 22 of those public parks and around 50 green spaces and amenity areas; a total landholding of 164 hectares. In addition to the council’s portfolio there are several other significant public parks in the borough; West Ham Park managed by the City of London, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park managed by London Legacy Development Corporation and Thames Barrier Park managed by the Greater London Authority.

Very high population density and acute demand for affordable housing places great pressure on parks and green spaces but also highlights their value as garden substitutes.

The council’s capital programme has allocated resources to projects that improve the public realm. However, there is a need to develop a strategic GI plan for Newham, so that the various local projects work towards a connected Green infrastructure. This plan will need to take into consideration any additional resource implications. The first step will be a borough Green infrastructure audit to map existing assets and plan the connections and improvements needed at a strategic level, as part of a wider strategic approach to a local ‘Newham Green Economy’.

(iii) The Health of the Borough

Air pollution: Air pollution is the top environmental risk to human health in the UK, and the fourth greatest threat to public health after cancer, heart disease and obesity. Long-term exposure can cause chronic conditions, such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as lung cancer.

A report to the 15 April 2019 council meeting on air quality and climate change stated that seven in every 100 deaths in the borough are attributable
to poor air quality, and that Newham has the highest concentration of fine particulate matter (PM$_{2.5}$) in London, due to the large concentration of residential accommodation alongside/ adjacent to high streets and main trunk roads within the borough. Rates of asthma in young people are generally high, and this is particularly significant in the more polluted areas of the borough. It was also noted that a number of other boroughs in London had reduced their mortality rate more than Newham since 2010.

4.20 A draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was also presented to the April council meeting. A revised version was submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for approval in July 2019. Subject to approval by the GLA, it is currently expected that the action plan will be subject to public consultation for six weeks from early September. Subject to consultation feedback, the council hopes to adopt the action plan formally around the end of November/ early December 2019. The draft plan notes the following:

- That NO$_2$ concentrations currently exceed the limit value for the protection of human health (40 µg/m$^3$) in the vicinity of all major roads in the borough. Roads dominated by through traffic, such as the A13, A12 and A406, expose a wider area of the population to poor air quality. The town centres of Stratford, East Ham, Forest Gate and Canning Town are also subject to concentrations of NO$_2$ above the limit.
- That PM$_{10}$ levels are elevated around the major roads, particularly to the west of the borough. This suggests that the most significant source of PM$_{10}$ in the borough is road transport including that associated with central London.
- That there is currently no legal limit value for the protection of human health assigned to PM$_{2.5}$. The World Health Organisation recognises the long term health impact of high concentrations of fine particulates, due to their ability to penetrate deep into the lungs. WHO recommend an annual mean limit value of 10 µg/m$^3$ for PM$_{2.5}$. The AQAP illustrates that all the borough exceeds this guideline, with a base level of at least 43 µg/m$^3$. The main through roads, such as the A13, A12 and A406, exacerbate this pollutant, with levels particularly elevated on roads in Stratford, Canning Town and Prince Regent Lane (A13 junction).
- That 14% of the borough’s population is exposed to NO$_2$ levels above the UK limit value for human health (which is set at 40µ g/m$^3$) and, on average, all Newham residents are exposed to a level of PM$_{2.5}$ that is 35% greater than the WHO guideline value of 10µg/m$^3$.
- The council will work with the GLA and emerging government policy, such as the Clean Air Strategy, to reduce NO$_2$, PM$_{10}$ & PM$_{2.5}$ exposure across Newham. The current PM$_{2.5}$ target is that the number of people living in locations above the WHO guideline level of 10 µg/m$^3$ is reduced by 50% by 2025.

4.21 Effective communication of health messages about air pollution and appropriate action to encourage behaviour change can save lives and improve quality of life for many. The top interventions identified by Public Health England for behaviour change are: Exposure Reduction programmes,
public engagement, Eco-driver training, encouraging the use of Public Transport, air quality messages/alerts/texts and no idling campaigns.

4.22 One particular feature of Newham’s population is that it has the fourth lowest car ownership rate per head in UK - 52% of households do not own a car. The implication of this is that there should be a significant part of the population that will be supportive of active travel measures but there remains a significant proportion of the population whose behaviour the council would hope to change.

4.23 Walking and Cycling: Working with public transport providers and encouraging more walking and cycling will be a key strand of the council’s work in this area. It will also be important to learn more about what motivates people to change their behaviour and to share this knowledge more widely, both within the council and with its partners. Interventions will be targeted at particular areas (e.g. pollution hotspots) particular groups (e.g. people on low incomes and car drivers) and through specific services (e.g. schools and hospitals).

4.24 Food: The London Food Strategy states that food and drink consumed by Londoners is estimated to account for almost 10% of the city’s Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. What people choose to eat; how that food is farmed; the miles it takes from farm to fork; how it is cooked and how much is wasted are all critical factors in the borough’s carbon footprint.

4.25 If GHG emissions are to be reduced significantly, changes will need to be made to local and national food cultures - specifically, a reduction of meat and dairy consumption and an increase in fruit, vegetables and pulses. In the UK, it has been estimated that it will be necessary to cut beef consumption by 90% and milk by 60%, while increasing the amount of beans and pulses consumed by between four and six times.

4.26 According to the London Environment Strategy 2018, in the UK for every two tonnes of food consumed, approximately another tonne is wasted. In Newham, this translates as a tonne of food that will ultimately be turned into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) by East London Waste Authority (ELWA) that is then burnt, releasing emissions. The council can lead on promoting the skills, education and culinary confidence required locally to ensure that more of what we grow is eaten and not thrown away.

4.27 Behaviour change of the scale required is likely to require a national campaign of education, taxes and subsidies for plant-based foods. Such a campaign would need to be supported at a local level by actors such as local authorities influencing the behaviour of local people through information and publicity campaigns.

4.28 The dietary changes necessary to tackle the climate emergency are wholly consistent with the pursuit of healthier lifestyles more generally and reducing food poverty. The consumption of more locally-produced food will also reduce air pollution, through lower delivery miles.
4.29 Newham has a particular opportunity to be a leader in promoting the kinds of food the country needs to adopt for a sustainable future. It has a diverse population, which has connections to many of the world’s popular food cultures. Many of the citizens of Newham already have the know-how required to make more environmentally friendly food. By spreading those skills and culinary knowledge, the food people consume can be better both for them and the planet but be delicious and inspiring, too.

(iv) Transport and a Greener, More Sustainable Newham

4.30 Newham’s Local Improvement Plan sets out how the borough will contribute to the Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy at the local level. It contains the following objectives:

- Reducing the levels of air pollutants associated with transport and improving air quality, through traffic and congestion reduction and increased sustainable travel, thereby improving the health of our residents
- Encouraging the use of zero and low emission vehicles in Newham, through the provision of charging infrastructure and other incentives.
- Providing residents with alternatives to car ownership by expanding car club opportunities across the borough.
- Reducing congestion and increasing the amount of sustainable travel undertaken to key attractors in Newham, such as schools, businesses and places of worship.
- Delivering a sustainable transport network in Newham that provides a viable and attractive alternative to the motor car for our residents, especially for local journeys.
- Delivering residential traffic reduction schemes, safe and healthy (or ‘liveable’) neighbourhoods schemes and healthy streets improvements to improve the quality of life of our residents.

4.31 Local initiatives include the following:

- Cycling and Walking Network Improvements
- Congestion reduction schemes/junction improvements on main roads
- Electric vehicle charging points (residential and rapid charging network)
- Play streets and other street events
- Timed closures of school roads
- Faith group travel planning
- Town centre travel planning (freight/servicing)
- Local town centre cargo bike hire and share schemes
- Incentivising zero and low emission vehicles (Not LIP funded)
- Parking strategy review (Not LIP funded)
- Car club expansion (Not LIP funded)
- Encouraging property developers and others (e.g. employers based close to the river) to facilitate greater use of the River Thames for passenger transport, by using the planning system to require the construction of wharfs for use by river buses. (Not LIP funded)
• The council can also ensure that riverside construction sites make maximum use of barges and river transport to import and export material and this is often secured by a planning condition in the Construction Logistics Plan (CLP).

4.32 As noted above, Newham has a significant air quality problem which seriously affects the health and quality of life of our residents. In addition, the council has an ambitious growth agenda. To take these objectives forward concurrently, it will be necessary to change the travel behaviour of residents, visitors to the borough and businesses, to ensure that growth is sustainable and does not worsen air quality or cause greater transport congestion.

4.33 It will be necessary to enable more journeys to be made by bicycle and on foot, through the delivery of better and safer infrastructure which is pleasant to use. This will need to be supported by behavioural change and education programmes. There is also a need for improved public transport capacity and services, as many work trips are too long to be made by walking and cycling for their whole length. The Local Improvement Plan sets out detailed improvements for cycling and walking networks and improvements to Public Transport.

4.34 **Congestion:** Congestion hot spots are significant contributors to poor air quality in the borough. The main arterial roads in the borough also suffer from poor air quality, so it is important that there is a focus on those routes. It will also be crucial to focus on reducing traffic in residential areas and to encourage short trips to be made by more sustainable modes. This will be done through Congestion Reduction Schemes and Junction Improvement Schemes on the Borough road network, which will also provide improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and for buses where possible.

4.35 **Electric Vehicle Charging:** To support those residents who wish to use electric vehicles and to encourage more to do so, the council is committed to delivering a residential network of Electric Vehicle Charging Points across the borough. The first 40, each capable of charging two vehicles at once, are expected to be operational by the end of October 2019, with a further 40 chargers to follow, by Spring 2020. Rollout will continue at a similar rate through the life of the LIP. To supplement the residential charger network, the council is also working closely with TfL and London Councils to identify locations for a Rapid Charging Network in Newham, with locations focussed along main roads and in town centres, where they will be most accessible for motorists.

4.36 **Car Clubs:** In addition, the council will encourage Car Clubs, which are very successful elsewhere in London and can make a significant contribution to car ownership levels and use, and therefore emissions, and alleviate local parking pressures. Up to 100 new car club vehicles will be appearing across the borough later in 2019.

4.37 **Play Streets Initiative:** A further example is the Play Streets initiative, whereby streets are closed to traffic to allow for children to play safely near their homes.
with their neighbours, with obvious health and social development benefits for the children involved.

4.38 **Reducing Vehicle Use**: In order to address congestion and local air quality issues, existing travel behaviour needs to be changed. This is particularly true of travel to schools, travel to work and places of worship. Parents and guardians dropping off and picking up their children can cause severe local traffic difficulties, as well as safety and air quality issues. The council will work closely with schools, parents/guardians, residents and other stakeholders to develop solutions to the issues being experienced at drop-off and pick-up times, including timed road closures, if necessary. Similar amenity and safety issues exist around places of worship. The Council will engage with faith groups to understand how best to encourage more sustainable travel to and from places of worship. This will support the development of effective Faith Group Travel Planning initiatives.

4.39 **Commercial Delivery Traffic**: The servicing requirements of commercial and, increasingly, residential development can be significant contributors to air quality and congestion, particularly in town centre areas. The opportunities for service delivery consolidation were demonstrated during the London 2012 Olympics, which significantly reduced the operational impacts on the Olympic Route Network. The council therefore intends to explore the possibility for Town Centre Travel Planning, focussing specifically on deliveries and servicing and any opportunities for consolidation over the ‘last mile’. Discussions with the Stratford Business Improvement District have identified a possible trial involving businesses on Broadway and the Stratford Mall which it is hoped will be implemented in 2019-20.

4.40 Still in town centres, it is acknowledged that the transportation of bulky goods (such as a weekly shop) is very challenging by sustainable means. Cargo bikes are available, but are very expensive for individuals, especially if only required for occasional use. As a result, the council wishes to undertake a trial of a Local Town Centre Cargo Bike Hire and Share Scheme, to encourage more sustainable shopping trips to main town centres in Newham. Such a scheme is operating successfully in Waltham Forest and officers are working with colleagues in LBWF to extend the scheme to Stratford.

4.41 **Transport and Health**: In relation to health, the council is pursuing the following initiatives:

- Safe and Healthy neighbourhood schemes (Liveable Neighbourhoods)
- Modal filtering (road closures that allow the passage of pedestrians and cyclists – and sometimes buses, while preventing private cars) to improve sustainable connectivity
- ‘Healthy street’ improvement schemes
- Traffic calming and traffic management schemes
- 20mph zones, with the aim of becoming a 20mph borough
- Cycling and walking network improvements
- Walking Strategy and Sustainable Transport Strategy
- Cycle training for children and adults
• Secure cycle parking (including residential cycle hangars)
• Behavioural change initiatives and events
• Safety schemes or accident reduction schemes
• Targeted safety initiatives and campaigns
• Cycle hire (via dockless provider partner, TfL Santander) (Not LIP funded)
• Crime prevention through design (with MPS) (Not LIP funded)

4.42 A good transport system must be efficient, accessible and inclusive to everyone. The council is proposing a number of interventions within the Local Improvement Plan (LIP) to improve accessibility to public transport. Currently 92% of the Borough’s bus stops are fully accessible (i.e. of an appropriate kerb height where bus wheelchair ramps can be deployed). The LIP programme will deliver full accessibility across all 524 bus stops in Newham by 2021.

4.43 **Accessible Public Transport:** The council will also work with Transport for London to secure funding to deliver step-free improvements at Upton Park and Plaistow Underground stations.

4.44 To encourage walking and cycling through a range of initiatives, such as those set out above, road surfaces, pavements and lighting need to be well maintained. Poor maintenance of highway and footway surfaces and lighting are major contributory deterrents to sustainable and active travel, and also deter other uses of the public realm. Consequently, the council is undertaking an extensive Highways and Footpath Maintenance and Renewal Programme, and it is currently in year three of a ten-year programme of highway and footpath renewal schemes. In parallel with this programme a Street Lighting LED Replacement Programme which will replace all 21,000 lighting units in the borough with more efficient LED luminaires. A significant number of old lighting columns will also be replaced. 16,000 installations have been completed and the entire programme will be completed in 2020.

4.45 It should be emphasised that the council’s role in relation to public transport is limited, and the primary responsibility lies with the public transport providers themselves – mainly TfL, their operating partners and the train operating companies.

4.46 It has a more significant role in respect of buses, however. Buses play a very major role in providing public transport connections for the borough’s residents and the council is committed to reversing the downward trend in bus travel in Newham, by ensuring that journey times are protected and improved where possible. Bus Priority Schemes on the borough road network can protect bus journey times from the effects of congestion and improve journey time reliability. Officers will continue to work with their counterparts in TfL to develop bus priority schemes at bus delay hotspots.

4.47 **Transport poverty:** Transport poverty is a key concern in Newham, and we must ensure that our residents’ transport and wider opportunities are not diminished by their personal or economic circumstances. Targeted Transport Poverty Initiatives will be developed with the involvement of our economic
regeneration team to ensure that access to employment, community facilities and other key attractors is not impacted by personal or geographical circumstance.

4.48 **Working with Schools:** A particular focus is schools. Each school is supported throughout the year to develop a travel plan and are giving encouragement and information on a range of activities they can run, many of which aim to reduce car use and increase active travel. These are listed on [http://www.tfl.gov.uk/stars](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/stars) but there are also others.

4.49 The climate emergency motion at the 15 April Full Council meeting committed the council to air quality monitoring at every school. In August 2019 monthly diffusion tube monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide commenced outside each of the 96 schools in Newham. We believe this is the first time a local authority has committed to monitoring all of its schools in the UK. The monitors will be placed on lamp posts/signposts near to the playground or main entrance of each school. We will use this data to focus on the most polluted schools initially and use the Healthy School Streets approach to identify the most cost-effective way to reduce pupils’ exposure to poor air quality and influence their school travel plans. (Healthy School Streets is a Highways Local Improvement Plan initiative to close streets to traffic during school-run times, using ANPR cameras.)

4.50 The council encourages schools to undertake as many actions as they are able to do. These include things like walk to school week, the big pedal, walking events/campaigns, cycle clubs, competitions, pledges, consultations, reward schemes, curriculum work etc. For many schools staffing and the time available are the key barriers.

4.51 **London City Airport:** Finally, the London City Airport draft Master Plan envisages a substantial increase in the number of flights over the period from 2020 to 2035. The actual number of flights at the airport in 2018 was 80,668. Current planning permission allows 111,000 flights, which is forecast by the airport to be reached in 2022. The draft Master Plan envisages an increase in the number of flights per annum to 151,000 by 2035. This would represent a 36% increase relative to the current permission and 87% more than the current actual number of flights.

4.52 London City Airport’s plans and its greenhouse gas impact on the borough will need to be considered carefully by the council. It should be noted that Master Plans do not require formal approval by any public authority – the Airport itself will decide on the content. However, the proposals in the Master Plan, if they are to be implemented, would require the submission and approval of a planning application. The council would be responsible for any initial planning decision, but this would be potentially subject to review by the Mayor of London and the relevant Secretary of State. Officers are currently assessing the proposals in the draft Master Plan. On 15 August 2019, the council’s Director of Planning and Development wrote to London City Airport seeking certain technical information and confirmation that the consultation period will restart upon its publication, in order to ensure that no party is prejudiced by
not having had access to the detailed information during the consultation period. The Mayor of Newham wrote to the Chief Executive of London City Airport the same day about its draft Master Plan consultation, arguing that the proposals lack the credible evidence base necessary to make an informed judgment about the Master Plan and that, at present, the proposals in the draft Masterplan could potentially lead to more flights, more noise and more air pollution impacting upon the health of the borough’s residents.

(v) Housing

4.53 The council is a major landlord. It manages 16,000 council homes, including 88 tall blocks and 88 low rise blocks. The Housing spend on energy in communal areas is approximately £1.5 million per annum.

4.54 Red Door Ventures, the company set up to support the council’s delivery of social rent homes for residents, and the council are looking at getting to carbon zero on new build and encouraging more climate resilient-lifestyles. Other current plans include:

- A council housing stock improvement programme, in which 2,000 Energy Performance Certificates were completed in the last year on our own housing stock, with the remainder due for completion by 2023. The aim is to improve all our stock to EPC C or higher by 2025.
- To investigate the potential for the installation of renewable energy sources, such as photovoltaic panels on council housing stock and community centres managed under the Housing Revenue Account.
- New build and major improvement programmes to incorporate renewable energy elements, which will be zero carbon.
- A LED lighting installation programme for the communal areas of all blocks. LED lighting is more efficient than existing fluorescent lighting and bulb units last several times longer. The programme will incorporate innovative systems, such as low level lighting combined with Passive Infrared Sensor (PIR) activated boosting of local light levels that respond to people passing by.
- The investigation of potential sites for a district heating scheme for LBN stock in appropriate locations. This would offer competitive and stable heating bills to our tenants over the long-term, as a centralised heat source is more efficient in carbon savings than the individual gas boilers which tend to be used at present. (Feasibility funding for such a project could be secured from the government’s HNDU programme. Round 9 is currently open to applications to January 2020 https://www.gov.uk/guidance/heat-networks-delivery-unit).
- To investigate the installation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) schemes for all blocks, with an initial example of a viable and attractive alternative to more traditional forms of drainage and to deliver practical solutions around rainwater harvesting, use of grey water and reducing local flood risk. Possible funding routes through collaboration with Thames Water should be explored.
- Water reducing/ saving measures survey in council blocks and buildings, for installing measures such as push taps, flush limiters etc.
• A sheltered housing energy survey and improvement programme. (Sheltered housing usually has a higher demand per capita for energy usage than the rest of the housing stock and so will be highest priority for investment in energy efficiency and eco heating measures.)

• Ensuring that low carbon transport provisions are available for blocks, including, for example, secure bicycle storage and provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging points.

4.55 In order to secure funding for such initiatives, the council will need to work with other housing providers and energy companies to pool resources for area-level schemes for improved insulation, low carbon heating and lower cost energy. On 2 July 2019, the Cabinet agreed to enter into a partnership arrangement with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to promote a ‘White Label’ energy scheme for Newham residents. (A ‘White Label’ organisation does not hold a supply license, but instead works in partnership with a licensed ‘partner supplier’ to offer tariffs under the white label brand.) In this instance, the White Label local brand is called ‘Beam Energy’. Council tenants will be an important market for the company. Under the arrangement the council would act in a marketing capacity, with the energy supplier acting as a wholesaler, providing the fuel at a competitive tariff.

4.56 Before such new investments can proceed, it will be necessary to review and cost them to ensure that they can be delivered within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. In a number of cases (e.g. for a district heating schemes), it is likely to be necessary to apply for external sources of funding and support. A specialist assessment will be needed to determine the costs and longer term energy savings of the proposals. There is likely to be a trade-off between a phased approach to such investment and the costs associated with it (a phased approach is likely to be cheaper). Therefore, there is also likely to be a trade-off between the lead-in time and the impact of such schemes - that is, benefits will take longer to realise using a phased approach than otherwise.

4.57 To optimise efficiency, the retrofitting of existing stock will need to be addressed on an area/ street basis, rather than taking an approach of dealing with individual houses. Victorian terraces account for close to half the borough’s housing stock and are very poorly insulated. The retrofitting of both council and privately owned stock will be crucial to the success of the borough’s approach to tackling climate change. Older street properties also offer major opportunities for the use of photovoltaic technology. Helping people upgrade their homes would add significantly to the wealth of the local community. Consideration should be given by the council to how retrofitting of residential property can be best achieved.

4.58 Newham has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country and the highest number of families in temporary accommodation. The latest London Plan (December 2017) set the borough the target of providing 38,500 new homes by 2028-29. To help meet this target, the council has begun an ambitious new programme of council house building and estate regeneration.
4.59 The council’s current design guidance seeks to comply with London Plan (LP) policy on sustainable design and construction and to ensure that new developments make the fullest contribution to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. Issues that will need to be considered when designing new council dwellings include the fabric specification, including its energy efficiency. The council will also seek to ensure that heating systems are consistent with best practice and take into account the impact on the environment of different types of fuel and the cost of energy bills. (The government has announced that, from 2025, new developments will be built without fossil fuel heating - e.g. they will not have conventional gas-fired boilers installed but be required to use alternative, lower carbon/zero carbon technologies). The policy is called the Future Homes Standard and will be consulted on later in 2019.

4.60 Thus, for example, heating developments in Heat Network Priority Areas, as identified by the Mayor of London, should have a communal heating system. (Heat networks connect buildings to sources of low-cost, low-carbon, waste and renewable energy across a wide area to provide them with heating and cooling.) Heat sources for communal heating systems should be selected in accordance with the following heating hierarchy:

- connect to local existing or planned heat networks
- use available local secondary heat sources (in conjunction with a heat pump, if required, and a lower temperature heating system)
- generate clean heat and/or power from zero-emission sources
- use fuel cells (if using natural gas in areas where legal air quality limits are exceeded all development proposals must provide evidence to show that any emissions related to energy generation will be equivalent or lower than those of an ultra-low NOx gas boiler)
- use low emission combined heat and power (CHP) (in areas where legal air quality limits are exceeded all development proposals must provide evidence to show that any emissions related to energy generation will be equivalent or lower than those of an ultra-low NOx gas boiler)
- use ultra-low NOx gas boilers.

4.61 New dwellings should also be designed to ensure that a maximum of 105 litres of water is consumed per person, per day. In addition, the council will take into consideration the scope for communal and/or private water butts, particularly where residents are intending to grow food.

4.62 The council’s commitment to make Newham a carbon neutral borough by 2030 and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 will require even greater energy efficiency than this from new build property. Heating energy presents the biggest opportunity for energy reduction. 63% of energy consumption in a typical home is used on heating. The Mayor of London has signed an international declaration pledging net zero carbon for all new buildings by 2030, and all buildings (both new and old) by 2050 – this is the ‘Net Zero Carbon Buildings Declaration’. The council should actively consider how it can match the Mayor of London’s pledge to deliver net zero carbon for all new buildings by 2030. It is currently considering the adoption of a ‘Passive
Principles’ approach to low energy design for all Affordable Homes sites, based on the ‘Passivhaus’ standard, which would significantly reduce wasted energy and heat loss via the building fabric, through careful attention to the science of construction.

4.63 While the UK government’s proposal to ban gas boilers in all new homes from 2025 is good news for improving air quality, the cost of energy bills will rise as homes switch to electric supply for heating. In 2018, the cost of electricity increased by 7.2%, with a three year average increase of 6.7% per year - putting it well above inflation. Ultra-low energy-consuming buildings will have a significant impact, not only on the council’s climate change objectives, but also its objectives for fuel poverty reduction.

4.64 Many new dwellings fail to achieve their energy efficiency objectives. Unlike other standards, Passivhaus sets an absolute energy reduction target and incorporates an exacting quality assurance process - so Passivhaus buildings do not suffer from a ‘performance gap’.

4.65 For the majority of sites, achieving full Passivhaus certification could be challenging to deliver within budget constraints. Therefore the council is being asked to consider the use of ‘Passive Principles’. This would mean delivering schemes to Passivhaus standards wherever possible but with some items (for example, high performance windows) swapped for slightly lower performing, more cost-efficient alternatives. This may prevent achieving the energy savings required to gain full certification but would still result in significantly improved energy performance through better construction quality.

(vi) Enterprise, Employment and Skills

4.66 One of the paradoxes of climate change is that it will generate wide-ranging investment opportunities, economic growth and a significant number of jobs in new industries and services. One of Newham’s strengths relative to other parts of London is the scope for new economic developments, particularly in the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone.

4.67 The London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) has a strategic oversight role for the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone. This oversight is devolved to two boards:

- **Enterprise Zone Board**: The Royal Docks Enterprise Zone Programme Board oversees the progress of the delivery plan and reports on this to LEAP. It is chaired by the Mayor of Newham.
- **Advisory Board**: The Royal Docks Advisory Board is a forum where the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the London Borough of Newham engage and update key partners on what the Royal Docks team is doing within the Enterprise Zone. This Board is jointly chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Land of the GLA and the Mayor of Newham.

4.68 The Enterprise Zone (EZ) aims to develop the Royal Albert Dock site. It is expected to attract £1bn of inward investment and deliver 3.5m square feet of
commercial space, retail and serviced apartments, as well as bringing social and economic benefits to the local area. It is estimated that it will create up to 20,000 jobs. This will make the scheme one of the biggest generators of jobs in the Royal Docks. There is also a plan to transform Silvertown Quays into a new innovation quarter for global brands and businesses. Seven million sq ft of development land will accommodate over 2,500 new homes, as well as attracting global brands and businesses and creating up to 14,000 jobs.

4.69 It is recommended that the council and its partners should seek to promote the EZ as an incubator for the green technology sector and the hub of London’s Green Economy and to market it to firms working in this area. When the Local Plan is next reviewed, consideration should be given to the scope for strengthening the local planning framework to support this objective.

4.70 The council should also work with local training providers and the FE and HE sectors in Newham to encourage the development of courses that will enable local people to develop skills that will enable them to secure jobs in the green technology sector, in line with ‘Just Transition’ principles the council’s Community Wealth Building initiative.

4.71 Finally, as it develops its own response to climate change, the council will be in a position to provide support to local businesses on good practice in this area. Together with its economic partners, it will scope out the development of a green assessment framework for businesses in the borough.

(vii) Refuse Collection and Disposal and Recycling

4.72 All waste currently collected by LBN is taken to a Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Facility where some recyclable materials are separated for recycling and all other waste is processed into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), which is predominantly exported to Europe to fuel incinerators. The MBT is part of the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) contract with Renewi Waste Management.

4.73 The council has a statutory responsibility to deliver all collected waste to ELWA for treatment/disposal. The current ELWA/Renewi contract is due to end in 2027. The council is already working with ELWA to determine the future of waste management in East London. The current disposal contract places restrictions with regards to the materials that can be collected separately for recycling. This issue will be reviewed when considering the future disposal arrangements.

4.74 Behavioural Change to Increase Recycling: Current projects planned by the council’s Waste/Recycling Team are focusing on delivering behavioural change from residents to improve the quality and quantity of materials recycled and to improve understanding of what can be recycled. Work will also be undertaken to help people reduce the amount of waste they produce and improve the council’s communications in relation to waste and recycling services. The Team will undertake direct resident engagement, as well as continuing to increase the number of engagement events that it delivers via
schools, libraries and community groups and improve the interaction we have with the people of the borough.

4.75 Refuse Vehicle Fleet Emissions: The council has just completed Reduction and Recycling Plans for the Mayor of London’s Office, with the aim of reducing refuse vehicle/transport emissions. Newham operates a vehicle fleet that is 18 months old and all vehicles are EURO 6 compliant and use AdBlue (a liquid solution of urea, which, when it meets a hot exhaust system releases ammonia which is a catalyst to a chemical reaction that converts dangerous Nitrogen Oxides into two harmless products – water vapour and Nitrogen). The vehicles meet all Ultra Low Emission Zone and Low Emission Zone requirements. The council is continuously reviewing vehicle technology and actively looking at more environmentally friendly vehicles. A diesel fuel replacement product is also under review and we are awaiting trial completion.

(viii) Council Procurement and Internal Practices

4.76 The council is a major purchaser of goods and services, ranging from building materials to vehicles, office materials, and energy. It is also a producer of waste. As an employer, it can establish standards or provide guidance within its facilities, for example over the use of plastic items where alternatives exist and the use of hard copy documents.

4.77 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 came into force in January 2013. It places a duty on public bodies to consider social value ahead of procurement. The Act applies to the provision of services or the provision of services, together with the purchase or hire of goods, or the carrying out of works. The authority must consider how what it is proposed to procure might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area and how it might act to secure that improvement. The council’s Procurement Team is currently reviewing the social value guidance, with the aim of producing a consistent approach to procurement undertaken by the council.

4.78 The Community Wealth-Building priority within the council’s Corporate Plan identifies the benefits that procurement by the council can bring to the local economy and details a number of objectives/actions relating to this. One of the key measures for 2019-20 is to increase the percentage of council spending locally. The Procurement Team is working under the Community Wealth Building Priority to support local suppliers and to work towards increasing the percentage of expenditure procured locally. This is also expected to reduce vehicle miles incurred within the supply network. Climate emergency issues will be integrated into the final version of the Community Wealth Building initiative.

4.79 There are a number of procurements or contracts that need to be reviewed from an environmental/climate change perspective. Consideration will be given to the following matters:
• Plastic sacks and bins for resident waste collection, trade waste, etc.
• To review contracts with a view to ensuring that suppliers commit to reducing packaging, waste and plastic items.
• To review corporate contracts to ensure that deliveries are not over-specified, in order to minimise traffic across the borough (e.g. of stationary items and cleaning materials).
• To forward plan vehicles procurements to allow adequate time to review the vehicle options available.

4.80 The council should also work with partner and organisations (e.g. police, hospitals, clinics, colleges, universities and London City Airport) to ensure a joined up commitment across the entire borough on tackling climate change.

4.81 It is proposed that, as part of the Green Audit previously agreed by the council, existing procurement arrangements be reviewed with a view to making the council an exemplar of good practice, both in terms of goods and services. It should also review the way in which it deals with its own refuse, promotes reuse and recycling and seeks to reduce its own waste that is sent to landfill.

4.82 The council resolution on the climate emergency in April 2019 made specific reference to the need to lead by example to remove single-use plastic items council premises. A number of measures have already been agreed with the council’s caterer, Compass, for example the removal of plastic straws and stirrers and the introduction of paper bags instead of plastic for sandwiches.

4.83 It will be necessary to adopt a consistent approach across council buildings if single-use plastics are to be prohibited. Options for consideration in the course of the anticipated Green Audit will include:

• The provision of glasses/cups for use within council buildings – there is a need to think about what we do for visitors/external partners.
• An instruction to our catering provider to remove all disposable cutlery. The cost implications of this will need to be taken into account. It is also possible that some staff may resist using the metal cutlery provided on hygiene grounds.
• Reducing the amount of rubbish generated and going to landfill could also be reduced by ensuring good quality hand dryers are installed in all toilets.
• A clear directive on recycling and reducing paper usage and more recycling facilities introduced.

4.84 The council will also consider in the course of the Green Audit how its suppliers operate in respect of climate change issues, including their corporate social responsibility arrangements; how far they travel when providing services and goods to the council; and the mode(s) of transport and type(s) of fuel used. This could be linked to the Community Wealth building strategy objective of purchasing goods and services locally, where it is practical and efficient to do so.
Finally, although the council can set policy, the successful delivery of any policy is dependent on the actions of individuals, and in particular, members of staff. This is why the proposed communication and engagement strategy - alongside advocacy around the Climate Emergency – contains a separate strand of activity within the council.

(x) Council Property Energy Conservation and Building Investment

Investment in upgrading the fabric of council buildings and energy efficiency schemes to reduce cost and consumption should be considered as a priority. Substantial capital investment is likely to be required, due to the age and/or condition of our buildings and there will be a need to prioritise resources across the wide range of capital investment needs.

In respect of energy supply, the council has a framework agreement with LASER (Kent County Council) for utility procurement and our existing framework period is 2016-2020. (This covers all corporate FM, all maintained schools, community housing landlord supplies and highways and street lighting) We are considering procurement of 100% green electricity in our next framework (2020-2024) with LASER through LEP (London Energy Project) for all of our operational buildings including maintained schools. This will help us to achieve carbon neutral objectives in the council owned and operated buildings portfolio.

The council is already undertaking a wide range of building improvements, including relatively low cost investments such as low-energy lighting, better insulation, improved boiler controls, operational efficiencies and building energy management systems.

A draft energy management plan was commenced in 2017, with a view to

- Reducing carbon emissions from the council’s operational buildings by 20% by 2022.
- Minimising energy consumption through the use of innovative technologies, forward thinking management strategies and staff engagement.
- Seeking and securing funding for energy management initiatives and adequate resources to deliver improvements to optimise the efficiency of the council’s existing operational building stock.
- Encouraging staff to take responsibility for energy management through awareness raising and perception change, engaging staff in the ‘Switch Off’ ethos and encouraging staff to report wasted energy use and potential improvement opportunities.

However, the Plan has not been formally rolled out across the council. It is recommended that the plan be updated and formally adopted by Cabinet.

The Green Audit will provide an opportunity to review the energy efficiency of the council’s non-residential property portfolio and review current practice in relation to things such as building temperatures, the extent to which council
buildings should remain open outside of normal office hours and the scope for using technology to reduce energy usage. It is likely that large-scale investment will be required over time to upgrade our buildings and other facilities.

(x) Resources

4.92 The resource implications of meeting the challenges of climate change will be considerable. At a time of diminishing financial resources available to the council, it will be necessary to maximise available funding and prioritise its use. It is likely that some immediate resource requirements will be identified in the coming budget round. However, the need for investment will continue into the medium term and will need to be taken into consideration in the council’s financial planning processes.

4.93 **Carbon Offset Fund:** One new source of funding is a Carbon Offset Fund. The council has produced an Interim Carbon Offset Fund which established the types of projects which will be allocated funding from the monies currently held which are ring-fenced to be spent on greenhouse gas emissions reduction initiatives, as required by the London Plan 2016. As the council progresses with other streams of work in relation to the climate emergency a strategic Carbon Offset Fund will be established. This will look at those monies which are forecast to be paid by developers in the future. A strategy for any future receipts will evolve alongside other corporate work streams, including the Capital Strategy, the next Corporate Plan and the MTFS. The council will work in tandem with the work being progressed by the GLA to facilitate a consistent approach across London to ensure the best possible outcome for local residents.

4.94 **Newham Council Pension Fund:** The primary duty of the LBN Pension Fund is to obtain the best possible financial return on investments, within acceptable levels of risk. A review of the Fund’s approach to Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) took place in 2012-13. The Fund adopted an SRI Policy, which outlines its approach to the management of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues within its investment portfolio.

4.95 As a responsible investor, the Pension Fund wishes to promote corporate social responsibility, good practice and improved performance amongst all companies in which it invests. The Fund pursues a policy of active shareholder engagement with companies, using its own efforts, those of its Fund managers and alliances with other investors. To this end the Fund is a member of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change and the Pensions and Life Savings Association.

4.96 However, a significant proportion (£244m, or 17% of the Fund’s assets) is invested in ‘passive equities’ or ‘tracker’ funds. These simply track an established index, such as the FTSE100, ensuring that the investment always closely follows whatever companies are in that index. It is normal practice to hold such passive investments and strongly encouraged by the government because of the lower management costs associated with it. This approach
entails holding investments in whatever companies are in the relevant index, regardless of their nature.

4.97 The Fund will consider excluding certain types of investment from actively managed portfolios where it can exercise influence over their holdings, following appropriate advice on the implications for performance and diversification. For example, the Fund has adopted a policy stance to exclude companies that generate over half of their income from tobacco products, on the basis of their future investment prospects (as distinct from ethical or social grounds).

4.98 The council’s Pensions Committee has, to date, not adopted a formal fossil free policy, pending a clearer understanding of the impact such a decision would have on its fiduciary responsibility. That said, it has actively designed recent fund manager mandates in infrastructure and private debt to give focus on investment in renewables. The Fund operates via a number of fund managers, whose policies differ and are not directly controlled by the council. However, for example, one does not invest in companies that are involved in deforestation, while another is strong on renewables and waste efficiency.

4.99 Nevertheless, the Newham Pension Fund has reduced its overall exposure to fossil fuel from 4.0% at 31 March 2016 to 1.7% at 30 June 2019, making it one of the best in this area in London. (It should be noted that part of the 1.7% will be invested in oil companies’ renewable activities, which can be as much as 20% of their current capital expenditure.) The Pensions Committee has also ensured the fund is carbon neutral, by investing more into renewable energy sources in order to offset what it invests into fossil fuel based energy.

4.100 In the light of the council’s declaration of a climate emergency, it is timely to give more detailed consideration to current Pension Fund investment policies and the existing investment portfolio. Therefore, it is recommended that the Pension Committee should be requested to undertake a review of its current arrangements from the perspective of the climate emergency. This should be without prejudice to its fiduciary duty to obtain the best possible financial return on investments, within acceptable levels of risk, but should take into account the likely changes to companies’ prospects from changes to legislation and good practice.

5 Policy Implications & Corporate Priorities

5.1 The following Corporate Priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2019, will be progressed through the actions summarised in the present report:

- Priority 1: Bright futures
- Priority 2: Building communities
- Priority 3: Community Wealth Building
- Priority 4: An environment for all
- Priority 5: Quality of life
5.2 The approaches set out in this report to addressing climate change will take forward the Mayor’s pledges to support sustainable transport and to improve air quality. Also, as has been noted in the report, there are important synergies with the council’s Community Wealth Building Strategy, for example in respect of local purchasing arrangements, influencing suppliers’ practice in respect of the environment and the encouragement of inward investment by green technology firms, via the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone.

5.3 Tackling the climate emergency will require all sections of the council to review and monitor their day to day activities and to consider the impact of their proposals from the perspective of climate change. To facilitate this, it is proposed that future reports within the council should contain a section concerning environmental impacts; that actions to address the Climate Emergency should be an explicit feature in the next iteration of the council’s Corporate Plan and, where applicable, be a feature in the council’s corporate performance framework.

5.4 Thus, Climate Emergency issues will feature prominently in the 2020-23 Corporate Plan and appropriate climate change targets will be built into the Plan. Also, the results of the Green Audit, together with key actions already planned or proposed within the current report, will be translated into a corporate Climate Change Action Plan that will complement that produced for air quality.

6. Alternatives considered

6.1 To do nothing and take no action is not a viable alternative, if the objectives of the Council resolution of 15 April 2019 declaring a climate emergency are to be achieved. Many of the functions to be reviewed in the proposed Green Audit are expected to generate alternative options for future action.

7. Consultation

7.1 Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz (and in her role as the portfolio lead for Regeneration, Planning and Housing Delivery), alongside Cabinet Members and where applicable Deputy Cabinet Members for Housing Services (Cllr John Gray and Cllr Shaban Mohammed), Sustainable Transport and Highways (Cllr Zulifiqar Ali), Environment (Cllr James Asser), Health and Adult Social Care (Cllr Susan Masters and Cllr Firoza Nekiwala), Education (Cllr Julianne Marriot and Cllr Jane Lofthouse); Finance (Cllr Terence Paul) and Climate Change Commissioner, Cllr Mas Patel and other lead members consulted: 18 July 2019, 8 August 2019 and 19 August 2019.

7.2 A draft version of the present report was considered at the Air Quality and Climate Change Task Force meeting on 18 July 2019 and was attended by the Mayor and a number of Cabinet Members, including Cllr Mas Patel, the Commissioner for Climate Change.
8 Implications

8.1 Financial Implications

8.1.1 The recommendations set out in the report identify a number of potential projects and proposals for which there is currently no funding available within the Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed by Council in February 2019. These will need to be considered alongside other priorities by the Mayor and Cabinet in considering the MTFS proposals for 2020-21 and beyond.

8.1.2 The Corporate Plan agreed at Cabinet and Council in March 2019 identified that Air Quality was a priority, and this will need to be effected in subsequent departmental service plans, the Council Asset Management Strategy and in the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

8.1.3 There are some initiatives that can be undertaken during the financial year, such as design, planning etc. the cost of which should be met from existing budgets. For example, for capital schemes, such as the Affordable Homes for Newham programme, it may be possible to introduce air quality initiatives at design stage, as it is generally cheaper to undertake work during construction than to retro fit work after the work has been undertaken.

8.2 Legal Implications

8.2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the structure of the local planning framework for England, including the duty on plan-making to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

8.2.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a statutory target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. In June 2019, the Government amended the Act by Statutory Instrument to adopt a net zero target for the UK. The net zero target is defined as reducing emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels by 2050.

8.2.3 The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 strengthens the powers of neighbourhood plans, but also creates a new legal duty on local planning authorities to set out their strategic priorities. The government has now indicated that these priorities should be expressed in a strategic plan. This plan is focused on high-level strategic issues set out in the NPPF, and these include action on climate change.

8.2.4 Local authorities in the UK have a statutory duty to manage local air quality under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 from which the London Local Air Quality Management process derives. Following this Act, a National Air Quality Strategy was published in 1997 (reviewed in 2007) and the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 set objectives for several pollutants.
8.2.5 Local authorities in the UK have a statutory duty to manage local air quality under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 from which the London Local Air Quality Management process derives. It places a legal obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where they are not, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place in pursuit of the objectives. In the London Borough of Newham an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in 2002, across the main trunk roads running through the Borough including the A406, A13 and A118.

8.2.6 In 2008 the European legislation (Directive 2008/50/EC) detailed the pollutants that occur in ambient air which have the potential to impact on human health. The Directive sets concentration values for each pollutant and a date by which the limit values should be achieved. Failure to meet the limit values by the deadlines can result in fines being levied against an EU member state by the European Commission. The dates for compliance with limit values in the Air Quality Directive, was extended for NO2, to January 2015. A European Supreme Court ruling on the Government’s breach of NO2 limits required work on a comprehensive plan to meet pollution limits as soon as possible. The Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) submitted an Air Quality Action Plan to the European Commission for their assessment at the end of 2015. This provided extra powers to the Mayor of London to manage air quality within London.

8.2.7 The Mayor of London has recently introduced the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) framework 2016. This sets out the statutory process used by London local authorities to review and improve air quality within their areas. The Guidance reinforces the central government objectives and states that: ‘Proper participation in the LLAQM system and compliance with the relevant Mayoral advice and guidance should render statutory intervention by the Mayor unnecessary.

8.2.8 The Air Quality Action Plan assists the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Environment Act 1995 and the requirements set out by the Mayor of London in the LLAQM framework, which are aimed at improving air quality.

8.3 Equalities Implications

8.3.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a duty when exercising its functions to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act and advance equality of opportunity.
and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not. This is the public sector equality duty. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

8.3.2 The present report has implications for all sections of the community. However, likely higher costs of energy and food, as a result of climate change, are likely to impact most on low income households. The latter are also, in the main, more likely to be affected by poor air quality, together with older people, children and pregnant women. The council is taking steps to mitigate the negative effects of climate change, for example through an agreement with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham to promote a White Label energy company in the borough.

8.3.3 New council dwellings will be much more energy efficient than older types of property and this will reduce tenants’ fuel bills and fuel poverty. Upgrading the energy efficiency of existing dwellings will help reduce fuel poverty in the borough, and contribute to the borough’s community wealth building objectives. That said, for most people, the financial cost of addressing climate change is likely to be significant.

8.3.4 The most recent Newham Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identified a number of disorders and conditions as priorities, including, cardiovascular disease, cancers and respiratory disorders (bronchitis, asthma and emphysema). All these conditions can be exacerbated by poor air quality.

8.3.5 The JSNA also attributes a direct link between mortality and particulate air pollution. Newham residents are exposed to higher particulate pollution than any other London borough, according to Public Health England. It also has the highest rate of deaths attributable to air pollution and the highest number of child asthma hospital admissions. A wide range of activity to improve air quality has already been agreed by the Cabinet via the draft Air Quality Action Plan. Much of this activity, together with other initiatives set out in this report, will bring about improvements in the health of the borough’s population, directly or indirectly.

8.3.6 The communications strategy, ‘Newham Climate Now’, and Citizens’ Assemblies are the main methods of engaging local people. The strategy will need to be accessible to Newham’s diverse communities, with content that appeals to a range of people taking into account motivators for change. The Council might choose to use the Citizen Assembly to develop the strategy.

8.3.7 The council is aware of communities that are seldom represented at engagement events (e.g. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities) It will need to engage directly with these groups to raise awareness,
encourage change and to ensure they are able to access the opportunities developed by this strategy.

8.3.8 The report highlights that 52% of households do not own a car. It would be useful to know if there are certain groups who are more frequent car users and why they use/ rely on a car. For example, what is the percentage of blue badge holders, who will need their car for accessibility reasons? Car use might also be associated with feeling safe, particularly during the hours of darkness. Understanding the diversity of car owners and their needs will enable the council to develop effective communication strategies and local actions.

8.3.9 Plans for local improvements to reduce climate change will have their own Equalities Impact Assessment, both to understand how to advance equality of opportunity and to ensure that any changes do not inadvertently discriminate against people who share a protected characteristic (e.g. ensuring that older and disabled people can move safely and independently through shared public spaces and ensuring that any car club expansion takes into account the safety needs of vulnerable people, including women during the hours of darkness).

8.4 Other Implications relevant to this report:

8.4.1 These are set out in the body of the report.

9 Background Information used in the preparation of this report

9.1 The following documents were consulted in the production of this report.

- Response from the London Borough of Newham to ‘Aviation 2050 – The Future of UK Aviation’ Cm9714
- London City Airport Draft Master Plan, 2020-2035
- Net Zero: The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming, Committee on Climate Change, May 2019
- Reducing UK emissions 2019: Progress Report to Parliament, Committee on Climate Change, July 2019
- Progress in preparing for climate change: 2019 Report to Parliament, Committee on Climate Change, July 2019
- LB Newham Investment Strategy Statement 2018/19
- The Impact of Poor Air Quality on Health, LB Newham Public Health Presentation, June 2019
- LB Newham Local Improvement Plan: LIP Priorities And Delivery Plan Initiatives, 2019
- Affordable Homes for Newham: Low Energy Design Strategy, Draft paper
- LB Newham Draft Parks Strategy 2018-2028
- Newham Local Plan 2018: A 15 year plan looking ahead to 2033
Appendix 1

Resolution of 15 April 2019 Council: Motion: Declare a Climate Emergency

Full Council notes that:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO$_2$ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity.

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO$_2$eq (Carbon Equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible.

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc. to make low carbon living easier and the new society norm.

Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption.

Newham council has already shown foresight and leadership when it comes to addressing the fiduciary duties of pension funds. Having been successful pulling local government pension funds away from the tobacco industry on the grounds of public health. It is crucial that Newham reduces its carbon exposure of its pension funds so that it can meet London’s goal of becoming carbon zero by 2050 (1).

Unfortunately, our current plans and actions are not enough; in Newham asthma remains one of most prevalent diseases of its constituents after diabetes, therefore it is in the public’s best health interests to further address air pollution and climate change (2). More needs to be done to improve existing infrastructure so that innovations in energy, alternative transport (e.g. electric car charging ports) and waste management can become more accessible to the majority. The U.K. is currently at risk of falling short on its carbon targets for 2023-2027, despite renewable power generation reaching its highest peak in 2018 (3).

The IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last year, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities (4).

City and local Councils (5) around the world are responding by declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’ and committing resources to address this emergency. (6)

Full Council believes that:
All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Newham and the United Kingdom that cities commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

Cities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as they are in many ways easier to decarbonise than rural areas- for example because of their capacity for heat networks and mass transport.

As Newham was instrumental in the set-up of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (LCIV), it is our duty to be a leader on environmental issues in the U.K. and ensure this is reflected in investment strategies for both Newham and London going forward (7).

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity’s number one priority; and

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved wellbeing for people worldwide).

Full Council calls on the Mayor to:

1. Declare a ‘climate and health emergency’;

2. Pledge to make the London Borough of Newham carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon zero by 2050, taking into account production and emissions.

3. Call on and work with other London Boroughs to pool power and resources together to make 2030 target possible.

4. Call on Westminster to provide power and resources to make 2030 target possible.

5. Work with other governments (both within the U.K. and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.

6. To commit to a Green audit of all council services to ensure that weight is given to the environmental and sustainability impact as well as cost.

7. To provide air quality monitoring devices in all schools.

8. Explore local renewable energy grid systems to provide free renewable energy for residents in social housing maximising our use of industrial land in the borough.

9. Council must lead by example to remove single-use plastic items from their premises.
10. Council to encourage plastic-free initiatives such as Surfers Against Sewage/Plastic Free Royal Docks, and support events intended to promote plastic reduction in the Borough.

11. A representative of the council must be named on the Surfers Against Sewage/Plastic Free Royal Docks steering group.

12. Council to publish annual reports on progress towards reaching carbon neutral target.