

Living Harrow:

Climate and Nature Strategy Action Plan Appendix

Harrow Cycle Hub - Pinner Memorial Park. Please find out more at https://www.harrowcyclehub.org/



THEME 1:

Clean Energy Used Efficiently - Priority Action Areas for the Council as an organisation

■ CE-1 Corporate buildings & schools decarbonisation

The key action areas for the strategy

- **1.1** Ensure that Council's Corporate Asset Strategy and related policies fully support decarbonisation of our school and corporate estate
- **1.2** Develop an Estate Decarbonisation Action Plan and funding strategy for the existing maintained school and corporate estate. The Plan to include:
- maximising roof top solar installations to include battery storage where appropriate
- fabric improvements to include replacement of all single glazing and consideration of roof/wall insulation where possible
- progressive replacement of all natural gas boilers with renewable heat sources (e.g., air-source source heat pumps)
- Upgrading sites' electricity capacity where required
- A prioritised pipeline of projects for the next 5-10 years

- **1.3** Develop a comprehensive and maintained building management database with information relevant to energy efficiency and decarbonisation (e.g., boiler age, suitability of roofs for solar, heating pipework network condition, and opportunities for fabric upgrades)
- **1.4** Mainstream implementation of retrofit works as part of the Facilities and Capital Works Teams' activity and develop internal capacity and skills.
- **1.5** Ensure efficient and effective supply chain delivery mechanisms for the carrying out of retrofit works at scale, to include building insulation, heat pumps and solar PV
- **1.6** Reduce energy demand across the school and corporate estate through the promotion of good energy management practices (e.g., thermostatic controls and heating settings.)

CE-1 (continued)

- **1.7** Secure funding to enable implementation of pipeline of projects (embedded into Council Capital Programme combined with external funding where available, e.g., Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.)
- **1.8** To ensure works to existing buildings are carried out with a view to minimising emissions (e.g., using low embodied carbon materials.)

How progress will be measured

- Estate Decarbonisation Action Plan in place
- New building management database implemented.
- Internal capacity and skills developed.
- Funded decarbonisation programme being implemented with demonstrable carbon savings.

Timescales

2023/24 with new programme from 2024/25

Lead(s)

Estates & Facilities Teams with support from the Energy Team

■ CE-2 Council housing decarbonisation

The key action areas for the strategy

- **2.1** To develop a Housing Decarbonisation Action Plan for:
- (i) Properties within the HRA
- (ii) Temporary accommodation owned by the Council (General Fund)

The plan to include:

- maximising roof top solar installations and consideration of battery storage where appropriate.
- fabric improvements to include replacement of all single glazing and consideration of roof/wall insulation where possible.
- progressive replacement of all natural gas boilers with renewable heat sources (e.g., air-source source heat pumps.)
- Upgrading sites' electricity capacity where required
- A prioritised pipeline of projects for the next 5-10 years *(with a view to achieving an average of EPC C by 2030.)

- **2.2** Develop a comprehensive and maintained housing management asset database with information relevant to energy efficiency and decarbonisation (e.g., boiler age, suitability of roofs for solar, opportunities for fabric upgrades.)
- **2.3** Mainstream implementation of retrofit works as part of the Housing Asset Teams' activity and develop internal capacity and skills.
- **2.4** Ensure efficient and effective supply chain delivery mechanisms for the carrying out of retrofit works at scale to our housing stock, to include building insulation, heat pumps and solar PV.

CE-2 (continued)

- **2.5** Promote good energy management and conservation practices to tenants (e.g., thermostatic controls and heating settings, LED lightbulbs, low-cost draught control)
- **2.6** Secure funding to enable implementation of a pipeline of projects (embedded into the Housing Capital Programme combined with external funding where available, e.g., Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme.)
- **2.7** To ensure works to existing council housing are carried out with a view to minimising emissions (e.g., using low embodied carbon materials.)

How progress will be measured

- Estate Decarbonisation Action Plan in place.
- New building management database implemented.
- Internal capacity and skills developed.
- Funded decarbonisation programme beingc implemented with demonstrable carbon savings.

Timescales

2023/24 with concurrent implementation of retrofit programme.

Lead(s)

Housing Team

■ CE-3 New Council development

The key action areas for the strategy

- **3.1** Ensure that the Council's major development schemes including those within the Harrow Strategic Development Partnership and at Grange Farm incorporate renewable heating solutions, are highly energy efficient and maximise local energy generation, so that they are capable of being net zero in operation.
- **3.2** To ensure construction works are carried out minimising emissions (e.g., using sustainably sourced low embodied carbon materials.)
- **3.3** To use new council development as an opportunity to educate and inform residents about energy efficiency and new technologies (e.g., Heat pumps.)

How progress will be measured

- HSDP Energy strategy agreed
- Low carbon new development achieved
- Council schemes showcase new technology

Timescales

2023/24 (strategy and design) implementation from 2024/25

Lead(s)

Regeneration and Housing Teams

■ CE-4 Leased assets

The key action areas for the strategy

- **4.1** To review leasehold arrangements to explore how the Council can work with its commercial and voluntary sector tenants to decarbonise its leased assets.
- **4.2** To review opportunities to upgrade the energy efficiency of buildings during void periods.

How progress will be measured and timescales

Energy efficiency improvements to council leased buildings -2023/24 and ongoing

Lead(s)

Corporate Estate Team

■ CE-5 Borough infrastructure

The key action areas for the strategy

- **5.1** To complete the conversion of the borough's street lighting to LED and review opportunities for selective dimming / switch off at appropriate locations.
- **5.2** To work with utility companies to expand the capacity of the electrical and low carbon heating infrastructure in Harrow.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- LED conversion complete 2025/2026, subject to available funding (LED lighting)
- Capacity improvements within the borough 2024/25 onwards

Lead(s)

Highways Team, Energy Team and Planning Team

■ CE-6 Green power

The key action areas for the strategy

6.1 To keep under review the Council's electricity purchasing arrangements with a view to realising further opportunities to purchase electricity that is 100% renewable (including via power purchase agreements through collaboration with other boroughs in London.)

How progress will be measured and timescales

Reduction in CO2 of purchased electricity - 2024/25 onwards

Lead(s)

Energy Team

■ CE-7 Staff and members

The key action areas for the strategy

7.1 Raise awareness with staff and members of the practical steps that they can take to reduce their personal energy use and move to renewable technologies.

How progress will be measured and timescales

Increased communication activity / training - 2023/24 onwards

Lead(s)

Climate Team and Communications Team

THEME 1:

Clean Energy Used Efficiently - Priority Action Areas for the borough

■ CE-8 Retrofitting and energy saving in Private Buildings

The key action areas for the strategy

- **8.1** Promote the cost saving and other benefits of retrofitting privately owned housing and commercial property with energy conservation and generation measures, identifying and focussing upon worst performing stock first
- **8.2** Signpost residents, landlords and businesses to reliable sources of information on energy saving and retrofit (eg Energy Saving Trust)
- **8.3** Introduce an Energy Advice Service for residents and voluntary sector organisations.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Increased communications with residents and businesses (to include small business case studies) - Ongoing
- Energy Advice Service in place 2023/24 Energy Advice Service established.

Lead(s)

Climate Team, Economic Development Team, Enforcement Team and Communications Team

■ CE-9 Planning

The key action areas for the strategy

- **9.1** Ensure that the planning framework (and the emerging new Local Plan) secures net zero new development.
- **9.2** To review carbon offset rates to incentivise onsite improvements and ensure that they properly reflect the true cost of offsetting carbon emissions
- **9.3** To review how local planning policy and guidance can facilitate retrofit of existing buildings (including those in conservation areas), to include heat pump and solar PV installations

How progress will be measured and timescales

- New Local Plan agreed 2025/26
- Carbon Offset rates updated 2023/24 and ongoing
- Guidance in place 2023/24

Lead(s)

Planning Team

■ CE-10 National Policy

The key action areas for the strategy

10.1 Work with central and London government to enable policy and funding solutions that enable new net zero development and retrofit decarbonisation activity at scale

How progress will be measured

New policy and funding in place

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Housing Team, Climate Team and London Councils

THEME 2:

Green Mobility - Priority Action Areas for the Council as an organisation

■ GM-1 Our Vehicles and Equipment

The key action areas for the strategy

- **1.1** Develop a fleet decarbonisation plan that works towards electrification of the Council's fleet of vehicles by 2030.
- **1.2** Implement an electric vehicle charging network at council sites to support decarbonisation of the council vehicle fleet.
- **1.3** Explore the use of driver training, improved route mapping, biodiesel, and other technologies that will reduce emissions from the council's current fossil fuel powered fleet pending electrification.
- **1.4** Transition small grounds maintenance tools (e.g., strimmers and blowers) to electric.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Fleet decarbonisation plan in place and being delivered 2023/24 – 2026/27
- Further development to the existing depot provision -Ongoing
- Measures implemented Ongoing
- Tools electrified 2023/24 2025/26

Lead(s)

Fleet Management Services / Environment Team, Climate Team and Estates Team

■ GM-2 Staff Travel

The key action areas for the strategy

- **2.1** Continue to facilitate remote and flexible working arrangements to reduce unnecessary work-related travel
- **2.2** Encourage and support our staff to decrease emissions from their commuting and business travel, including via car sharing initiatives and cycling / e-bikes
- 2.3 Improve cycle storage options at the Harrow Hub

How progress will be measured

Reduced emissions associated with staff travel

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

IT Team, HR Team, Climate Team, Communications Team and Estates Team

■ GM-3 Council Development

The key action areas for the strategy

3.1 Ensure that sustainable transport options are prioritised when developing the Council's own land, including via the Harrow Strategic Development Partnership

How progress will be measured

Transport emissions minimised

Timescales

2023/24 onwards

Lead(s)

Regeneration Team, Housing Team, Planning Team

THEME 2:

Green Mobility - Priority Action Areas for the Borough

■ GM-4 Avoiding Unnecessary Travel

The key action areas for the strategy

- **4.1** Facilitate the development of broadband infrastructure and enable higher levels of digital inclusion in the borough
- **4.2** Support, including via our Local Plan and Economic Strategy, the development of local shops and amenities accessible by walking, cycling and public transport

How progress will be measured

- Increased connectivity and digital inclusion
- Reduced travel and better local amenities

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Economic Development Team and Planning Team

■ GM-5 Vehicles

The key action areas for the strategy

- **5.1** Improve and expand the public EV charging infrastructure in Harrow, including on Council assets (e.g., car parks and roadside locations).
- **5.2** To facilitate expansion of EV charging provision through planning controls for new development and guidance for existing householders.
- **5.3** Improve Air Quality data capture and usage to inform target setting and transport interventions, including promoting anti-idling in the borough and communications around the air quality and health benefits of active travel.
- **5.4** Subject to consultation, to look to expand the school streets scheme to further suitable sites
- **5.5** Encourage the further development of car clubs and car sharing schemes in the borough including making space available on Council assets.
- **5.6** Utilise parking and traffic management powers (e.g., speed limits, CPZs, parking charges) where appropriate to support reductions in transport related emissions.

How progress will be measured

- EV Charging Strategy in place
- Increased private and public charging provision
- Improvements in air quality and public health
- Greater access to car clubs

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Highways Team, Environmental Health, Planning Team and Communications Team

■ GM-6 Active Travel

The key action areas for the strategy

- **6.1** Expand and improve cycle and walking routes across the borough to include linking key transport hubs and town centres
- **6.2** Promote bike hire schemes (including e-bikes) and improve cycle storage on public realm and housing land
- **6.3** Develop a public realm design approach, facilitated by our Local Plan and Transport Strategy, that enables a transition to higher levels of walking, cycling and public transport use
- **6.4** To deliver cycle training within the borough, to include working with Harrow Cycle Hub
- **6.5** To continue to deliver and maintain school travel plans that prioritise active travel

How progress will be measured

Greater levels of walking and cycling in Harrow

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Highways Team

GM-7 Goods Deliveries

The key action areas for the strategy

- **7.1** Facilitate the consolidation, rescheduling, and electrification of goods delivery in the borough by working with partners in the public and private sectors.
- **7.2** Promote sustainable 'last mile' delivery solutions for businesses and residents, to reduce emissions and congestion (to include consideration of cargo bicycle schemes)

How progress will be measured

Reduced emissions from business deliveries / reduced delivery vehicles on our roads.

Timescales

2024/25 onwards

Lead(s)

Highways Team and Economic Development Team

GM-8 Improve Public Transport

The key action areas for the strategy

- **8.1** Engage with TFL to improve and promote the public transport offering available to Harrow residents, including the introduction of further zero emission buses and new routes
- **8.2** Integration of cycling and walking infrastructure at public transport hubs (e.g., step free access)

How progress will be measured

Greater access to low carbon public transport for residents

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Highways Team

■ GM-9 Highways Infrastructure

The key action areas for the strategy

- **9.1** Explore how investment in our highway's infrastructure can support reduction in emissions and the growth of the circular economy through the utilisation of low embodied carbon materials and installation processes.
- **9.2** To ensure that the procurement of the highways term contractor includes consideration of sustainable materials, service delivery and innovation to reduce carbon emissions.
- **9.3** Ensure that the use of highways land supports climate adaptation, flood resilience and the recovery of nature by enhancing the borough's blue and green infrastructure.
- **9.4** To maximise the biodiversity value of grass verges at appropriate locations.

How progress will be measured

- Reduced emissions from our highways supply chain.
- Improvements to the natural capital value of our highways land

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Highways Team, Procurement Team and Climate Team

THEME 3:

A Waste Free Economy - Priority Action Areas for the Council as an organisation

■ WFE-1 Council Supply Chains

The key action areas for the strategy

- **1.1** Phase out single use plastics across the Council's estate, including via catering supply chains.
- **1.2** To implement and further develop the Council's low carbon procurement policy, to drive low carbon outcomes through the Council's supply chain, with a priority focus on high impact areas such as construction and highways infrastructure.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Minimisation of single use plastics ongoing
- Suppliers enter into Charter Review in 23/24, implementation ongoing
- Increase in no of suppliers with net zero targets and strategies Review in 23/24, implementation ongoing.

Lead(s)

Facilities & Catering Teams, Procurement Team and Councilwide commissioning officers

■ WFE-2 Council Investments

The key action areas for the strategy

2.1 Ensure that the Council considers how its financial investment decisions can contribute to the growth of the Green Economy, including via the Pension Fund.

How progress will be measured

- Divestment from fossil fuel investments
- Increase in % of Pension Fund investments in green funds

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Finance team

■ WFE-3 Enabling Low- Carbon Options

The key action areas for the strategy

- **3.1** Implement high quality waste management and recycling practice within the Council's civic buildings, to include minimisation of food waste.
- **3.2** Support our staff and members to reduce their consumption-related emissions (e.g., climate-friendly options at the canteen)

How progress will be measured

- All food waste recycled.
- Residual waste minimised.

Timescales

Ongoing - staff recycling campaign 2023/24

Lead(s)

Facilities Team, Catering team and Communications Team

THEME 3:

A Waste Free Economy - Priority Action Areas for the Borough

■ WFE-4 Support Greener Businesses

The key action areas for the strategy

- **4.1** Work with local businesses to facilitate changes in consumer habits and grow the green local economy.
- **4.2** Support businesses to prevent waste, e.g., unnecessary packaging, whilst promoting the use of materials that can be reused and recycled.
- **4.3** Review the Council's commercial waste service offering to ensure it remains competitive and supports the aims of this Strategy.

How progress will be measured

- Commercial Waste Team data
- Number of reuse and repair businesses in Harrow

Timescales

2023/24 onwards

Lead(s)

Commercial Waste Team, Licensing Team and Economic Development Team

■ WFE-5 Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

The key action areas for the strategy

- **5.1** Support residents to responsibly minimise waste entering the Council's waste management system, including working with local voluntary groups.
- **5.2** Provide residents with good information regarding opportunities to reduce waste, reuse and recycle, including promoting the benefits of textile and electricals repair, re-use and recycling.
- **5.3** Increase the availability of local repair, re-use and recycling options available to residents within the borough (to include promotion of the TRAID collection service.)
- **5.4** Facilitate the reduction of single use plastics across Harrow, including via the food supply chain and promotion of refill opportunities.
- **5.5** To review how the service and information offered at the Council's Waste and Recycling Centre can further facilitate repair, re-use and recycling in Harrow.
- **5.6** Using the planning system to facilitate the reduction of waste and maximisation of recycling.

- **5.7** To ensure that planning policy, and the new Local Plan, promotes and facilitates the circular economy including through low-embodied carbon construction methods.
- **5.8** To promote the mental health benefits of acquiring new skills and developing a resilient local community through the growth of the circular economy (e.g., cooking skills, repair skills, community sharing initiatives, use of local repair businesses.)

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Reduced residual waste 2023/24 onwards
- Increased recycling Ongoing
- Increased communication activity Ongoing
- Improved information / offering at the Waste & Recycling Centre - Ongoing

Lead(s)

Waste Team, Comms Team, West London Waste Authority and Public Health Team

WFE-6 Food

The key action areas for the strategy

- **6.1** Promote the benefits of healthy, climate-friendly food choices.
- **6.2** Support schemes to reduce food waste and enable the redistribution of surplus food locally.
- **6.3** Encourage home composting where appropriate and otherwise enable the separation of food waste from residual waste.
- **6.4** To use the new Local Plan to facilitate local growing opportunities through protecting and expanding allotments and community gardens.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Less food waste overall (and contribution to the cost-of-living crisis) Ongoing
- Increased communications on diet choices and food waste -2023/24 and 2024/25 (food campaign)
- Local Plan adoption 2025/26

Lead(s)

Public Health, Comms Team, Waste Team and the Planning Team

■ WFE-7 Disposal

The key action areas for the strategy

7.1 Work with West London Waste Authority (WLWA) and other partners to progressively reduce the carbon and environmental footprint of the borough's waste disposal arrangements.

How progress will be measured

- Reduce residual waste.
- Increase recycling.

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

West London Waste Authority

THEME 4:

Healthy Places for us and nature - Priority Action Areas for the Council as an organisation

■ HP-1 Council development

The key action areas for the strategy

1.1 To ensure that all new council development, including via the Harrow Strategic Development Partnership, is designed to be climate resilient and contributes to biodiversity and ecosystem enhancements.

How progress will be measured

- Designs address these issues.
- New council development delivered.

Timescales

2023/24 and ongoing

Lead(s)

Regeneration Team, Housing Team and Planning Team

■ HP-2 Council owned land

The key action areas for the strategy

2.1 To review public land to identify suitable sites for planting initiatives and other enhancements, with a focus on enabling climate resilience, carbon sequestration, biodiversity gain, local food production and greater levels of community engagement.

How progress will be measured

Sites identified and improvements undertaken.

Timescales

2023/24 onwards

Lead(s)

Planning Team, Housing Team, Climate Team and Environment Team

■ HP-3 Staff and Members

The key action areas for the strategy

- **3.1** Ensure that operational buildings are designed and developed to support the health and well-being of users, and provide access to high quality green space where possible.
- **3.2** Raise awareness with staff and members of the importance of protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems, and the practical steps that they can take to support nature's recovery and improve their own wellbeing.
- **3.3** To improve the skills and knowledge within the Council's Green Team, to enable the management of green spaces in a more nature orientated way.

How progress will be measured

- High quality working environments
- Staff satisfaction
- Increased internal communications /training

Timescales

Ongoing (training programme from 2023/24)

Lead(s)

Estates Team, Climate Team, Communications Team, HR Team

■ HP-4 Community Engagement

The key action areas for the strategy

- **4.1** To promote the benefits of local green spaces to Harrow's diverse residents, including the value of spending time outdoors to physical and mental wellbeing.
- **4.2** To promote tree planting, wildlife gardening and other initiatives to enable residents through the borough's extensive network of private gardens to increase tree cover, improve and enhance biodiversity, and meet more food demand through local production (e.g., How to guides.)
- **4.3** To continue to work with schools to enable children and young people to spend time in, and learn more about, the local natural environment (e.g., Harrow School Farm, Woodland Adventure Group.)
- **4.4** To engage with the Harrow Parks User Groups, Harrow Nature Conservation Forum and other partner organisations to enable increased local action and volunteering in our parks and open spaces, to include showcasing existing projects.
- **4.5** To work with the community to minimise environmental pollution and significantly decrease littering across Harrow, including robust enforcement where necessary.

- **4.6** To work with community groups to develop a medium and long term vision for nature and natural capital in Harrow, informed by improved data and target setting.
- **4.7** To work with local businesses to raise awareness of ecosystem dependencies and risks, including via their supply chain.

How progress will be measured

- Increased communication activity / signposting to residents
- Improved public health outcomes
- New habitats and increased biodiversity
- Increased volunteering
- Lower levels of litter / pollution

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Public Health, Climate Team, Communications Team, Infrastructure Team / Environment Team and Partner Organisations (Harrow Conservation Forum)

■ HP-5 Planning and other policy

The key action areas for the strategy

- **5.1** To ensure the development of the planning policy framework via the Local Plan promotes the objectives of this theme, to include greater emphasis on the importance a natural capital approach, enhancing biodiversity and protecting green infrastructure (e.g., incorporating sustainable drainage solution).
- **5.2** To ensure the effective administration and implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain as a requirement for all new developments, to include establishing local habitat banks on public land for offsite improvements.
- **5.3** To develop a local Climate Adaptation Plan for Harrow that includes addressing risks relating to overheating, flooding, water supply and quality, pests and diseases and the loss of natural capital.
- **5.4** To consider the policy levers available to help reverse the concretisation and paving of gardens and driveways.

How progress will be measured and timescales

- Local Plan adoption 2025/26
- Biodiversity Net Gain being delivered from 23/24
- Climate adaptation plan in place 2025/26

Lead(s)

Planning Team, Climate Team, Environment Team and Emergency Planning Team

■ HP-6 Green and Blue Infrastructure

The key action areas for the strategy

- **6.1** To develop and implement enhancements to the borough's green and blue infrastructure, to enhance climate and ecosystem resilience.
- **6.2** To deliver the council's Environment Agency nationally funded projects including the Silk Stream project.
- **6.3** To encourage and support residents to implement sustainable drainage solutions on their properties.
- **6.4** To improve data collection and target setting for green and blue infrastructure, to include tree planting.

How progress will be measured

The borough's green and blue infrastructure is enhanced.

Timescales

Ongoing

Lead(s)

Environment Team and Planning Team

■ HP-7 Public Green Spaces

The key action areas for the strategy

- **7.1** To achieve the re-accreditation of the borough's existing six Green Flag Parks and the accreditation of three further parks, to include biodiversity enhancements (e.g., new meadow areas.)
- **7.2** To ensure opportunities for habitat enhancement included as part of the development of a new Parks Strategy and in individual park management plans.
- **7.3** To expand changes to cutting and management regimes at appropriate parks, open spaces and highway verge sites, in order to enable the development of more biodiverse grassland areas and other new habitats.

How progress will be measured

- Green Flag Parks accredited
- Park Strategy and further management plans developed
- New habitats created in parks

Timescales

2023/24 - 2024/25 (Ongoing)

Lead(s)

Leisure Team, Environment Team and Climate Team



