

# CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE PANEL

## MEETING ACTION NOTES

5th July 2021 - Via Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Cllr Ian Barnes (Chair), Cllr Mayhm Bedekova, Cllr Birsen Demirel, Sarah Cary, Dominic Millen, Rafe Bertram, Tilly Ford, Alasdair Gillies, Harriet Potemkin, Deanna Hobday, Matt Bowmer, Tinu Olowe, Michelle Larche, Amanda Grosse, Lee Armitt, Christopher Hammond from UK100

Apologies: Cllr Katherine Chibah, Ian Davis, Fay Hammond, Tony Theodoulou, Mark Bradbury.

### Introductions

The Chair highlighted the recent Climate Change Committee report, and how it found that the Government are worse prepared than they were five years ago. Adaptation and resilience were found to be areas of concern, particularly with a predicted increase in heatwaves and flooding. In addition, more homes are being built that will need retrofit in the future. It was noted that the Government have increased their ambition, but frustration was still expressed at the lack of progress.

### UK100

Christopher Hammond from UK100 gave a presentation:

- UK100 is a network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to combat the worst effects of climate change by committing to net zero.
- The network brings local authorities together to share knowledge, collaborate, and lobby the UK government.
- Context of UK climate action includes austerity, school climate strikes, declarations of climate emergency, new legislative ambitions, and rebuilding after the pandemic.
- Councils must have an ambitious delivery plan, involve the whole community, and work with business.
- Common themes from Council climate action plans include energy efficiency of buildings, sustainable transport, energy generation, planning, and procurement policies.
- Enfield Council are considered to be in a strong position overall.
- However, there are thought to be various challenges including shifting public attitudes, working with businesses and stakeholders, the green financial premium, accepting that mistakes will be made, and changing culture.

Follow up points:

- How to engage with business – It was recommended to get them round the table and share challenges and solutions, but also to challenge their assumptions, for example the impact of transport interventions.

- Expectations for COP26 – Positive that local authorities are taking the lead and looking at whole place solutions. There could be some significant proposals from the UK Government but this will require a further push.
- Performance of other Councils – Every Council is different. LED street lighting and fleet decarbonisation have been common standout initiatives. In terms of innovative approaches, Cornwall Council is exploring geothermal heating for a lido, and rural councils are looking to make the best use of farmland.
- Climate Action Plan – The timeline in Enfield's plan is a really useful way to set out the step steps to net zero. Public engagement is an area that that Enfield could look to develop.
- UK100 are hosting a National Leadership Conference on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 13:30-16:30.

### **Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy**

There was a presentation by Matt Bowmer and Harriet Potemkin on the new Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy currently in development:

- The Policy combines and updates a range of other policies and strategies.
- As part of the development of the Policy, engagement was carried with 42 suppliers, 12 of which had developed climate action approaches. The feedback was generally positive, and support was found for the inclusion of social values and sustainability in procurement.
- The Policy focusses on four priority areas: social value, ethical practices, supporting the local economy, and climate action. There will be a framework for minimum, enhanced, and preferred standards.
- Implementation of the policy will start with 10% of procurement assessments taking into account social value. This is a Government requirement and can make an impact on the awarding of a contract.

Follow up points:

- Ongoing supplier engagement will be key to bringing organisations with the Council, and to prevent them for avoiding increased standards. There is a need to avoid scaring suppliers off.
- Officers will have discretion to set their requirements, which could involve higher standards for certain contracts/suppliers.
- Targets for this Policy are to be developed.
- Report back in a few months with case studies on supplier engagement to date (Meridian Water was suggested as an exemplar).

**Action** Deanna Hobday to check if the 12 businesses with existing climate action approaches were larger.

### **2020/21 Climate Action Plan Progress Report and Emissions Review**

There was an update on the most recent draft of the Report, including next steps, then the discussion focussed on the emissions review.

**Action** Dominic Millen to circulate recent Environment Forum presentation.

## **Updates**

- Communications – For London Climate Action Week (26 June – 4 July 2021), messages and media cards around what residents could do to support climate action were used. These will continue to be used going forward. There were not many responses although some positive comments about recycling. There has also been comms around the School's Climate Action Handbook on social media, with engagement from staff and external organisations.
- Retrofit London progress – An action plan has been drafted and can be presented at the next Task Force meeting. The next stage is to prepare an implementation plan and develop delivery approach.
- Energetik expansion – Council has committed to circa £49m to extend the Energetik network. Currently reviewing opportunities for retrofit including Council housing and schools.

## **AOB**

Next meeting date in early September.

Forward plan topics:

- Retrofit London
- Local Plan and low carbon new development
- Electric vehicles
- Getting people travelling actively and sustainably
- Governance and structures
- Reducing emissions from Council buildings
- Renewable energy generation