



Mayor and Cabinet

Comments of the Sustainable Development Select Committee on the climate emergency action plan

Date: 8 March 2023

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: All (none specific)

Contributor: Sustainable Development Select Committee

Outline and recommendations

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Sustainable Development Select Committee, arising from discussions on the climate emergency action plan.

Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments as part of the decision making process.

1. Summary

- 1.1. On Tuesday 10 January 2023, the Sustainable Development Select Committee considered a report from officers on the climate emergency action plan ([link to the agenda](#)) The Committee reflected on the contents of the report – and received a presentation from officers. Following questions to officers, the Committee agreed to refer its views to Mayor and Cabinet.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet is asked to consider the Committee's comments as part of the decision making process.

3. Sustainable Development Select Committee views

- 3.1. The Committee welcomes the update from officers and notes the good practice on which the plan has been developed. However, the Committee is unclear about the likelihood of achieving those actions which are identified in the plan as 'ongoing'.
- 3.2. The Committee recommends that the Council should seek to further risk assess, prioritise, and effectively categorise the actions in the plan. Members believe that there needs to be an *enhanced focus* on how and when the actions will be delivered, which may include an assessment of the work that needs to take place to achieve this.

- 3.3. The Committee believes that, where priority actions have already been agreed upon, then this should be clearly communicated to members and the relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the Committee believes that consideration must be given to ensuring there is transparency around the tasks of risk assessing, prioritising, and categorising other 'ongoing' actions.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. However, there may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1. The Constitution provides for select committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1. Equality Act 2010 brought together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act included a new public sector equality duty, replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.2. The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.3. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report. However, in February 2019 Lewisham Council declared a Climate Emergency and proposed a target to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. The declaration tasked the Sustainable Development Committee with scrutinising the Council's emerging plans.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

- 9.1. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations in this report. There may be implications arising from the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

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10. Report author and contact

- 10.1. If you have any questions about this report then please contact: Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) timothy.andrew@lewisham.gov.uk

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