



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	N/A
Title	CEX439 Greener Borough Framework
Member Reporting	Cllr Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Leisure Services
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For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	January 2020
Implementation Date if Not Called In	February 2020
Affected Wards	All
Keywords/Index	Greener Borough Framework, Climate Emergency, Air Quality, Parks, Waste, Greening, Biodiversity Action Plan, Cleaner Greener Hounslow, Recycling and Reduction.

1. Details of Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Approve the Greener Borough Framework 2020-30 which seeks to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the Council's ambition and aspirations for the borough through enhancing our environment and reducing our use of resources.
- b) To delegate to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services, the development of the Greening the Borough Action Plan, Waste Strategy (Update), Bio-diversity Action Plan (Update), Allotments Strategy, Air Quality Action Plan (Update) and associated programme of works to deliver these.
- c) Note the work and commitment that the Council has already made towards creating a Greener Borough through delivery of a range of action plans already developed and publicised.
- d) Note the work undertaken by communities across Hounslow to improve the borough, and the work of the Council to enable and empower all communities to tackle these challenges collaboratively with the Council.
- e) To note the key policy implications of the Governments 25 Year Environment Plan and the Mayor of London Environment Plan
- f) To delegate the spend of an initial £142k from the Environment fund to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services for the delivery of the Greener Borough Programme.
- g) To delegate the establishment of the new community reference groups

chaired by nominated Cabinet Members, to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services.

- h) To delegate the creation of the Green Economy/CGH Partnership Board, to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services
- i) Note the establishment of the Hounslow Environmental Champions Scheme and delegate the decision to progress the scheme, to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services.

If the recommendations are adopted, how will residents' benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit, link to Values	Dates by which they can expect to notice a difference
<p>Cleaner air for all and help to reduce our carbon footprint enabling residents to do the same</p> <p>Enhancing biodiversity and improving green spaces for the benefit of communities and users of parks.</p> <p>Residents to benefit from an efficient, effective and cost-effective waste management system that maximises the resources of the borough.</p> <p>Lower the risk of exposure of residents to the effects of climate change, and especially mitigate the risk to those most vulnerable to climate impacts including Young Children, Elderly and many others whose health may be impacted by Climate Change.</p> <p>Positive impacts on physical and mental well-being and mitigating the effects of the environment on individuals' sense of well-being.</p> <p>Building greater civic pride</p>	<p>From February 2020.</p>

2. Report Summary

- 2.1 Delivering a cleaner and greener borough is an important strategic priority for the council. The corporate pledges and the corporate plan identify the importance of delivering a high-quality environment and green infrastructure for our residents.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the framework to deliver a Greener Borough for the benefit of all residents. One that is shaped by pro-active engagement with citizens to understand needs, culture and customs; direct service change and improve delivery; and reset services around a collaborative focus of enabling citizens to join environmental action and reinforce social norms that actively tackle climate change.
- 2.3 This report deals with the development of a Greener Borough Framework setting out a high-level framework around a range of environmental action plans the council has already developed, or are in the process of developing, to maximise the enhancements to the borough's environment and reduce our use of resources.

2.4 The report commences a year of key environmental actions, including lobbying for the appropriate powers, resources and funding for local and regional governments to achieve ambitious plans for an improved green infrastructure in the borough. Council Members, Officers and Hounslow's Community will work collaboratively through various networks to ensure the Hounslow voice is loud and stating our clear desire for environmental change.

2.5 The Council has, is and will be progressing a range of plans to improve the environment and reduce our use of resources. We are proposing to bring these plans together under a single high-level framework with a clear governance structure to ensure delivery. This will shape and guide our collaborative efforts over the next ten years whilst also ensuring improvements can be made from the outset.

2.6 The Council alone cannot bring about the changes that are required to effectively tackle climate change and improve our community spaces, environments and urban spaces. This unifying framework is considered necessary in order to effectively engage all to play their part in achieving these ambitions.

2.7 The key financial implications for the Council will be considered as part of the approval process for each of the individual action plans or revisions of current action plans, each of which will require their own cabinet level sign off. It is noted that a number of these action plans have been previously approved and require update, or are in the process of being developed.

3. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

Context

3.1 The Corporate Plan 2019 to 2024 outlines our commitment to ensure residents and visitors see and experience a cleaner, greener and attractive borough. This report sets out the Greener Borough Framework that guides all the activities around creating a more attractive, and environmentally sustainable borough. It will set out the plan to understand citizen's needs, culture and customs; direct service change and improve delivery; and reset services around a collaborative focus of enabling citizens to join environmental action and reinforce social norms that actively tackle climate change.

3.2 The Cleaner Borough Strategy was approved by cabinet in March 2019, which directs efforts to improve the standards of cleanliness in the borough by tackling environmental damaging activities such as littering and Fly-tipping.

3.3 This report deals with the development of the Greener Borough Framework. This strategy is intended to bring together work on a range of action plans the council has already developed, or are in the process of developing/updating, in order to enhance the environment in the borough and reduce our use of resources. The schematic provided in Figure 1 below summarises the structure of the Framework and the high-level objectives and targets.

Figure 1 – Greener Borough Framework Summary

Objective	Tackling Climate Emergency and cleaning our air		Greening the borough - Enhancing our Green Spaces, Greening Urban Areas and Enhancing Biodiversity		Creating a green economy and using less	
Headline Target(s)	Achieve Net Zero emissions by 2030	Achieve compliance with EU limit values for clean air as soon as possible	To plant one carbon capturing specimen for every child born in the borough	All Nature Conservation sites (SINCs) are being actively managed. Enhanced management trialled at five key sites	To build awareness of the green economy and develop economic growth in the borough	Achieve 65% recycling rate by 2030 through creating the circular economy
Delivery Mechanism	Climate Emergency Action Plan (December 2019)	Air Quality Action Plan (approved Sept 18)	Greening the borough Action Plan (Spring 2020)	Biodiversity Action Plan (summer 2020)	Green Economy Action plan (Summer 2020)	Waste Reduction and Recycling Action plan (Dec 2019)

3.4 As can be seen from Figure 1, the council is already progressing a range of projects, notably around air quality improvement. Action plans around waste reduction and recycling was considered by Cabinet in November 2019 and was submitted to the GLA in December 2019. Response to the declaration of a climate emergency is considered by cabinet alongside this report. Further action plans around biodiversity enhancement and greening the borough are scheduled for development in early 2020 and will be brought forward in due course.

Our Challenges

- 3.5 In Hounslow we have several challenges that we need to tackle collectively with our citizens these are:
- a) We have an ambitious and aspirational approach to our waste collection:
 - i. specifically designed to increase recycling rates up to regional and national
 - ii. targets of 65%; yet our recycling rates remain around 31-32%.
 - iii. a refresh programme and fortnightly black bin collection approach is working for low rise collections, with a 50-52% recycling rate; however, for high-rise there is a significant opportunity, where recycling levels are only between 7-9%. The Reduction and Recycling Plan as considered by Cabinet in November 2019, developed in close liaison with Resource London and West London Waste Authority sets out our ambition and plans for the next 4 years.
 - b) Whilst the Green infrastructure in the borough is of good quality there is an ambition to develop this further from increasing on the current number of street trees (11,500), to developing wildflower areas and nature reserves (20 Wildflower sites progressing in 2019/20 and supporting the development of new habitats) to improving our green spaces further (Current 12 Green Flag

Parks) and to greening our grey infrastructure across the urban environment. This presents the borough with a significant challenge as we balance the need for housing developments, highway infrastructure improvements with the need for greening; or indeed to look to develop initiatives and controls that ensure all these often-competing priorities are balanced.

- c) Need to develop a stronger engagement process with all interested stakeholders in the community and empower our communities to act. This includes developing an approach with businesses and others to develop a green economy recognising the value of a green infrastructure to the regional economy, value of place and locations, opportunities and health and wellbeing.
- d) A growing desire amongst our community and in the wider region for new tree planting, especially on street; whilst space both above ground and under ground (Utilities etc) is becoming increasingly limited.
- e) Responsibilities for delivering a vibrant and beneficial green infrastructure is delivered by various teams including Hounslow Housing, Hounslow Highways, Coalo, Lampton GS360, Facilities Management and others. This often creates a disjointed approach to developing our green infrastructure and ensuring the habitats etc that are created are complementary to the wider benefits of creating habitat networks for wildlife.
- f) There is a growing community purpose to tackling climate change and greening as witnessed through the wealth of protests and community activism witnessed in recent times. The Council aims to respond to this challenge ambitiously and effectively to mitigate these issues at the local and regional level and playing our part on lobbying for change on the national agenda to ensure the voice of Hounslow is heard and acted upon.

The Strategic Context

The Governments 25 Year Environment Plan

3.6 The UK Government set out its Environment Plan for the next 25 years with a broad aim to improve the UK's air, water quality and to protect our many threatened plants, trees and wildlife species. The strategy aims to deliver a very wide long-term plan of improvements including to:

- deliver cleaner air including halve pollutants by 2030 and end new diesel and petrol cars/vans by 2040
- deliver clean and plentiful water by protecting rivers, manage groundwater and minimising water leakage
- deliver thriving plants and wildlife by increasing tree cover, reversing marine and green biodiversity loss, better managing habitats, supporting key species, creating and restoring habitats (500,000 hectares), Increasing woodland by 12%
- deliver reduced harm from environmental hazards
- use resources efficiently through waste minimisation, land management and soils improvement
- enhance beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment through safeguarding the natural environment, delivering high quality and accessible natural spaces and greater actions in this area.

- And mitigating and adapting to climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions, implementing new policies and other interventions.
- 3.7 By preparing this framework, declaring a climate emergency and by developing current and new plans for delivery, Hounslow is well placed to respond to the challenges presented by DEFRA's environment plan and associated legislation brought forward.

The London Environment Strategy

- 3.8 The strategy, whilst not binding, sets the ambition to improve the state of London's environment. In summary the plan aims to ensure a greener and cleaner environment for London ensuring London is well placed for the future. The strategy for the first time brings together air quality, green infrastructure, climate change mitigation, energy management, waste management, adapting to climate change, noise management and creating a low carbon economy themes into a coherent plan for action.
- 3.9 The strategy sets out the need for action in the short term where environmental matters are impacting upon the health of London's populations and economy now, whilst also working to transform London. The strategy aims to deliver the following by 2050:
- Greener London where more than half of London is "Green" and London is the worlds first National Park City
 - Londoners experience the very best parks, trees and wildlife
 - London will be Zero Carbon with energy efficient buildings, clean transport and clean energy
 - 65% Recycling rates by 2030
 - Londoners will be more resistant to climate change impacts including flood risk, heat risk and drought
 - best air quality of any major world city
 - quality of life improved by reducing the number of people affected by noise by promoting more tranquil and quiet spaces.
- 3.10 These ambitions are expected to be delivered by:
- planting more trees
 - making green spaces more accessible
 - enabling greener infrastructure such as green walls and roof gardens (especially in new developments)
 - supporting local communities to manage and value London's Parks and Bio-diversity better.
 - planning new flood defences and new water resources
 - using less, such as energy, materials and single use items (including plastics)
- 3.11 It is recognised that making the long-term vision for London a reality requires new approaches and requires every person to ensure that the environment is considered in everything they do and by ensuring everyone works together to deliver a better place.
- 3.12 Hounslow's Cleaner Greener Programme in many ways mirrors the structure portrayed in the London Environment Strategy and brings together these important elements to ensure a holistic framework to tackle the various

challenges locally in Hounslow for the benefit of our residents whilst also delivering on the Mayor of London's ambitious plans.

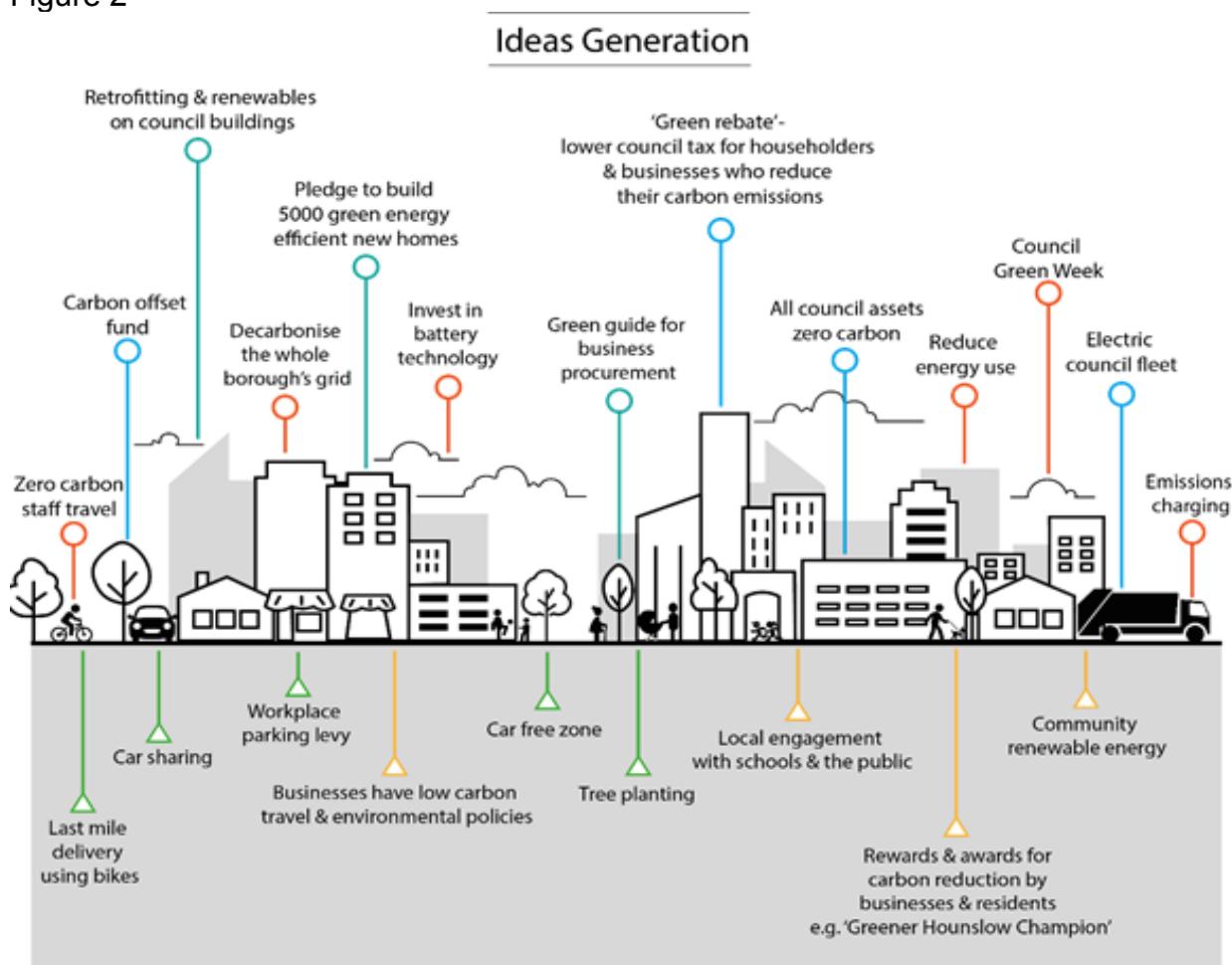
Citizens Views

- 3.13 We have a proactive, passionate and enthusiastic community in Hounslow. The community feel passionately committed to the place, but saddened by what they see as area decline, loss of community civic pride and erosion of social norms; whilst at the same time enthused by the passion and commitment, they witnessed in others that they had met through their local activism.
- 3.14 Successful Community Workshops were undertaken in the summer 2019 where community ideas were sought on how we could create a Cleaner Greener Hounslow. Ideas presented included greening areas poorly managed, moving away from amenity grass to wildlife managed areas such as through wildflowers, greening of urban spaces and walls, creating an enabling "Champions" process to encourage more involvement and education, more sustainable management of waste and waste minimisation initiatives, and encouraging behavioural change in communities. Further workshops were held engaging the community in developing the allotments offer and in responding to the Climate Change emergency declaration.
- 3.15 Feedback from communities highlights the need for the Council to be a leader in developing plans to respond to the various environmental challenges that exists whilst enabling the community to do more. This Greener Borough Framework is set forth to enable this with the framework and the associated action plans forming the basis for continued working with our communities and for enabling their greater involvement in the co-design of action plans and activities.
- 3.16 Through our engagement the following views have been expressed by our residents and communities including:
- A change in the default position of grass verges, amenity grassland public spaces, road verges, pockets of green space, parks etc
 - Replace all trees removed due to development, death of specimens and street trees whilst also dramatically increasing the number of trees in parklands and on street, and other planting across the borough.
 - Council to make sponsorship for planting more easily accessible and to benchmark costs against other authorities.
 - Enable communities to be champions and provide support to volunteers.
 - Enable community members to plant spaces including pocket green spaces, borders, verges, tree pits, private gardens and other spaces to bring more vibrancy, attractiveness, wildlife and environmental benefit
 - Increase hedges near roadways and provide more tree cover
 - Council services to work seamlessly around the agenda to make services easier to deal with (Single points of contact) especially in terms of enabling community environmental action.
 - Amend legislation/planning controls and policies to enable more design options for development including green roofs, green walls etc

- Council to maximise its green assets and lead by example through planting initiatives such as creating green roofs, green buildings, green walls etc on Council owned assets
- Work to reduce cost and engage businesses and others to invest in the borough and provide sponsorship opportunities.
- Implement local bans on environmentally polluting activities such as a ban on single use plastics and plastic carrier bags.
- Protect/increase parks budgets
- Take tough action against those who pollute the local environment by illegally disposing of waste, poorly managing spaces and leaving engines running.
- Increase food sustainability and reduce meat consumption
- Engage more schools in the environment agenda and enable communities and local schools to interact more.
- Make more spaces available for nature and community gardening

3.17 At the Climate Emergency workshops many ideas were generated by our communities, staff and councillors and Figure 2 below shows a summary of the feedback:

Figure 2



Cleaner Greener Hounslow Objectives

3.18 Across the whole of the framework the council's ambitions in this area are vast. Below is a listing of some of the key strategies and plans in scope.

- 3.19 In May 2019, the UK Parliament declared an “environment and climate emergency”. Cities and local governments have been equally vocal, with globally more than 1,000 jurisdictions in 20 countries having passed climate emergency motions by October 2019. Together, they represent over 250 million citizens. In London, 26 Boroughs have declared climate emergencies. At Borough Council on 18th June 2019, Hounslow declared a climate emergency with approval given to the following motion:

"The impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world. A 'Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018, (a) describes the enormous harm that a 2 °C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5 °C rise, and (b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5 °C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector. Achievement of net zero carbon emissions alone from the council's operations will be hugely challenging and require a major system change in how the council operates and how it manages its large asset base, including its housing portfolio. The wider aspiration to reduce significantly all emissions emanating from the borough further heightens the scale of the task.

We believe that all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act and that strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.

We therefore join with other local authorities, the Mayor of London and the UK Parliament in declaring a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.

Furthermore, we commit to reviewing the existing arrangements in place to reduce the Council's carbon footprint and will identify measures towards a goal of making the Council's activities carbon neutral and ultimately zero-carbon within the shortest achievable timeframe. To enable this, we call upon the government to make available the appropriate powers and funding to local and regional government as well as pursuing policies to de-carbonise the national grid and support the production of renewable energy."

- 3.20 The Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out a pathway towards achieving net zero direct emissions as well as influencing wider emissions. Through work with Resource London and London Environment Directors Network, six pan-London priorities are proposed to address major sources of current and future carbon emissions, as well as supporting important co-benefits around inequality, health and green economic development. These are:

1. **Retrofit London:** Retrofit all domestic and non-domestic buildings to an average level of EPC B. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.
2. **Low-carbon development:** Secure low carbon buildings and infrastructure via borough planning. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2022.
3. **Halve petrol and diesel road journeys:** Halve road journeys made by petrol and diesel via combined measures that can restrict polluting journeys and incentivise sustainable and active travel options. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

4. **Renewable power for London:** Secure 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.
5. **Reduce consumption emissions:** Reduce consumption emissions by two thirds, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.
6. **Build the green economy:** Develop London's low carbon sector and green our broader economy. Programme timescale: 2020 – 2030.

Air Quality Action Plan

3.21 Improving air quality is a key objective and the work to achieve that is set out in the Air Quality Action Plan which was approved in September 2018. This summarises some 40 headline actions across the council to reduce air pollution covering such fields as planning policy, housing asset management, energy use, transport, public health and partnership working with key stakeholders like Heathrow, Transport for London (TfL) and Highways England (HE). With the action plan now being just over a year old it is encouraging to see that air quality is improving across the borough however there remain areas of exceedances, mainly as a consequence of traffic volumes on the TfL and HE strategic road network, that require further action to address.

Greening the Borough Action Plan

3.22 Whilst Hounslow is a green borough, with over 200 parks and pocket parks, many green spaces, waterways, river banks, over 1800 allotment plots in 29 sites, and over 100,000 trees (11,500 on street); it is recognised that to achieve the Council's ambitions for a greener borough there is a need to accelerate the rate of improvements and maximise the benefit that can be achieved from our current green infrastructure and to develop that green infrastructure further embracing the concept of "Natural Capital".

3.23 The concept of "Natural Capital" adopted by GLA is made up of the elements of nature and greenspaces that benefit people directly or indirectly. In an urban context, these assets are our parks, rivers, trees, and features such as green roofs, green walls, wildflowers sites and others, collectively form an essential green infrastructure. Designed and managed green infrastructure, natural capital can:

- promote healthier living
- lessen the impacts of climate change
- improve air quality and water quality
- encourage walking and cycling
- store carbon
- improve biodiversity and ecological resilience

3.24 The Greening the borough action plan will focus upon greening our urban spaces so that there is an expansion of green infrastructure, planting more trees and carbon capturing plant life, expanding the number and size of wildflower sites and nature reserves and other interventions. Our headline proposal is to move towards planting one carbon capturing tree/large hedge specimen for every child born in the borough over the next 10 years (Approximately 5000 specimens per annum). On current analysis the planting

of 20,000 trees would be equivalent to offsetting all council current direct emissions on transport (fleet + employee commutes) for 10 years. Any further planting (Up to 50,000 specimens) could in addition be equivalent to offsetting all transport emissions + corporate (Not Housing) use of gas for 10 years.

- 3.25 The action plan once produced will be consulted on more widely with citizens. This will set out how the planting of new specimens will be progressed across the borough.

The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

- 3.26 The importance of parks and open spaces as part of green infrastructure is well recognised for the health and wellbeing benefits they bring for residents and it will be an important element of Hounslow's greener borough framework.
- 3.27 A new Hounslow parks and open spaces strategy will provide the Council with a review of its assets and identify a range of opportunities that green spaces can offer to enhance the quality of life and economic success of the borough. It will set out plans to expand the number of parks masterplans such as Bedfont Lakes, maximise the health and wellbeing benefit, and economic benefit from our parks and open spaces.

Biodiversity Action Plan

- 3.28 The Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan (HBAP) is a delivery mechanism for the conservation of biological diversity across the borough including parks and open spaces particularly the SINC sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation). The current HBAP was adopted in 2011 and contained some 175 actions, of which 54% are completed, 18% remaining ongoing and the remainder have not started or have been deleted due to change in priorities for the management of the habitats and species. The Council will be leading on the production of the 3rd edition of the Hounslow Biodiversity Action Plan in early 2020, with the aim to adopt the plan by the summer.
- 3.29 The HBAP will aim to provide a strategic overview of biodiversity across the boroughs nature conservation sites and will prioritise the issues and actions for protecting, conserving and enhancing wildlife and habitats together with targets and actions to deliver them as well as raise awareness and encourage community action as a key part of the nature conservation process. Ultimately, the HBAP will aim to ensure that all the SINC sites are in positive active management by 2025 with enhanced nature conservation management.

The Borough Waste Strategy and Reduction and Recycling Action Plan

- 3.30 In May 2018 the Mayor of London published his [London Environment Strategy](#). The Strategy sets out objectives, targets and policies for the effective management of London's municipal waste and to accelerate the transition to a circular economy. As part of this process local authorities were required to develop their own Reduction and Recycling Plans (RRP) with the objectives to:
- Drive resource efficiency to significantly reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging
 - Maximise recycling rates

- Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants)
- Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has enough infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

3.31 Hounslow Reduction and Recycling Plan (HRRP) developed in conjunction with Resource London sets out how Hounslow will deliver over 32 actions designed to deliver London-wide targets to:

- cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50% per person by 2030
- To achieve a 65 per cent municipal waste recycling rate by 2030, including a 50 per cent recycling rate for local authority collected waste (LACW) by 2025
- To send zero biodegradable or recyclable waste to landfill by 2026 (Achieved)
- London to manage net 100 per cent of all the waste it produces by 2026

And implement minimum levels of household waste recycling service provision to be delivered by 2020 are:

- All properties with kerbside recycling collections to receive a separate weekly food waste collection service (Achieved)
- All properties to receive a collection of, at a minimum, the six main dry materials, glass, cans, paper, card, plastic bottles and mixed rigid plastics (pots, tubs and trays).

The Green Economy Action Plan

3.32 Hounslow has been one of London's strongest performing economies in recent years, with employment growth of 12% between 2008 and 2013, as well as business base growth of over 20% between 2009 and 2014. Whilst these represent the highest growth rates seen in West London, the growth will also have expected impact on the boroughs carbon footprint and surrounding environment. Therefore, consideration and mitigation of potential impacts of climate change on businesses should be of high priority for both business owners, and the maintenance of economic growth across the Borough. If implemented effectively, businesses can potentially reduce energy costs, and prevent/minimise future climate change related economic impact and implement new ways of working e.g. procuring sustainably.

3.33 The Mayor of London's Economic Development Strategy has highlighted that the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector is an area which has significant growth potential that will support the transition to a low carbon economy when supported by strategic interventions.

3.34 The borough should also be viewed as an attractive place for green investment and employment opportunities for our residents in the environmental sector. The importance of the green economy and promoting such investment and employment opportunities cannot be underestimated, especially with Britain's renewable energy market alone estimated to be worth over 24 billion pounds in 2020.

The Allotments Strategy

3.35 Allotments play a big part in the fight to preserve our environment. Wildlife

thrive on these sites, which contribute to the bio-diversity of the area by providing vital habitats for many species. Many allotment sites have special areas which are left virtually untouched or planted specifically to allow wildlife to thrive. More and more allotment sites and associations are promoting the benefits of recycling kitchen and allotment waste through composting although the benefit of this must be weighed against the CO2 emissions of compost. Providing running water on allotments is increasing costs so setting up a successful water harvesting systems can provide financial and environmental benefits whilst also enabling a better service to plot holders.

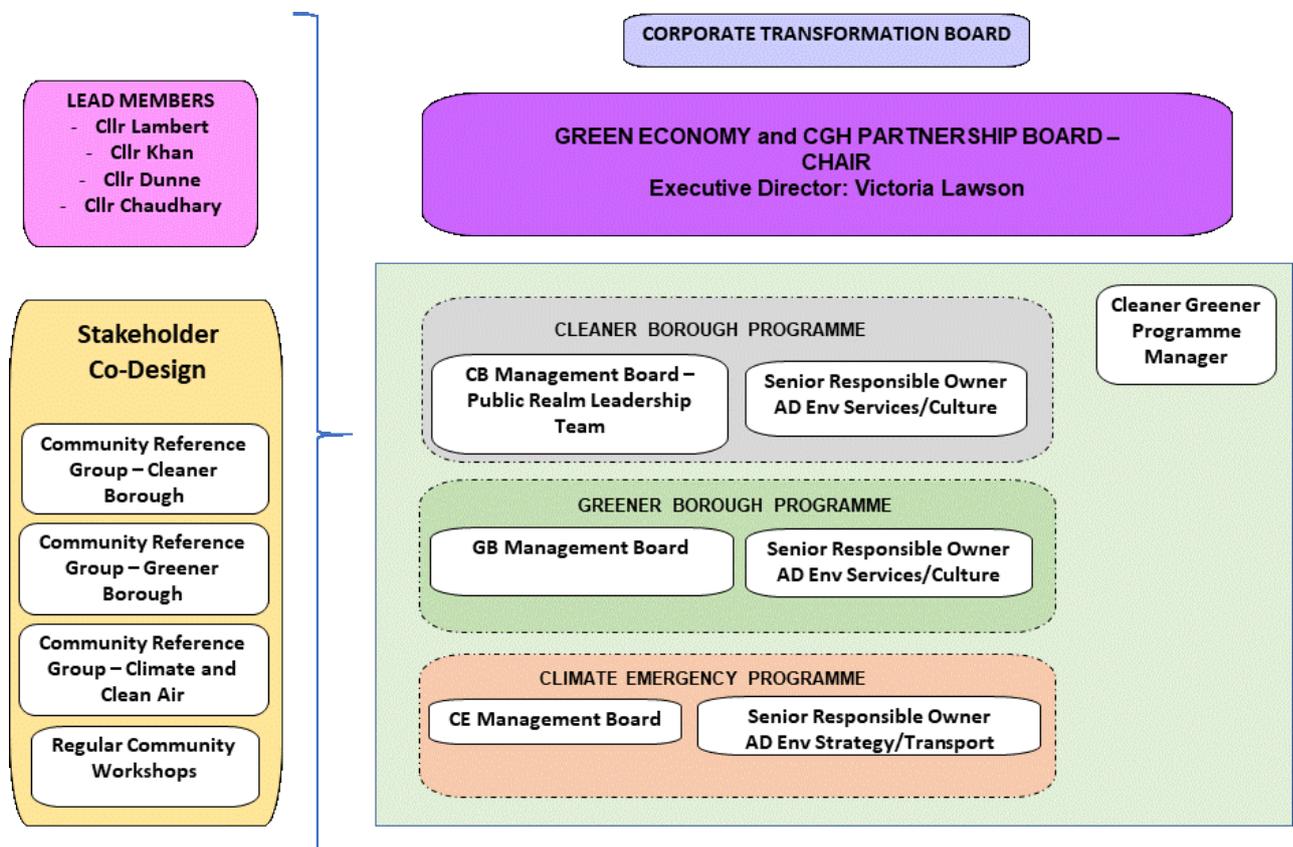
- 3.36 The allotment strategy is planned to be published in 2020 following further consultation. An allotments seminar was undertaken with allotment holders in Oct 2019. This was a key engagement session to understand the challenges that exist with allotments as we set out to develop the boroughs allotment strategy. Hounslow has over 1800 allotment plots across 29 sites and manages a waiting list for plots (approx. 650-700) through Lampton Greenspace 360 showing demand for more greening and planting opportunities for citizens.

Delivering a Cleaner Greener Hounslow

The Cleaner Greener Hounslow Programme

- 3.37 The governance for the Cleaner Greener Borough is set out in Figure 3. This shows how the required action across the council to achieve these objectives will be coordinated, tracked and reported back to elected members. The programme is complex characterised by the cross cutting and far reaching nature of the priorities.

Figure 3 – The Cleaner Greener Hounslow Programme Governance



- 3.38 The programme has three key sub-programmes focusing upon Cleaner, Greener and Climate Change Emergency. The unifying nature of the Cleaner Greener Programme ensures these three themes remain complementary to each other whilst recognising that the significant challenges of each also demands that the themes are considered on their own merit also.

Community Reference Groups

- 3.39 A key part of this process will be the establishment of community reference groups. These will work with the officer led boards to co-create and prioritise actions, as well as assist in increasing transparency and public understanding around the Council's opportunities and constraints for action. It will also be necessary for these groups to assist the council in galvanising the required wider civic support necessary if the objectives are to be achieved – the scale of ambition the strategy sets out means it will not be possible for the Council to achieve those objectives without community buy-in.
- 3.40 This process has already been established in respect to the Air Quality Action Plan through the associated steering group which includes a range of community representatives. The remit for this group will be widened to encompass monitoring of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and its membership reviewed accordingly. The community reference groups for Cleaner Borough and Greener Borough will be developed. A Greener Borough focus group was formed post the successful community workshops held in June 2019 and has met several times. This group will form the initial basis of the Greener Borough community reference group.

Community Workshops

- 3.41 Building upon the successful engagement that has already taken place in previous workshops (as highlighted above), we will continue to engage our communities in developing ideas for delivery and for encouraging their active participation in managing solutions.

The Environmental Champions Scheme

- 3.42 There has been progress to develop and establish a Hounslow Environmental Champions Scheme (ECS), which aims to develop a community volunteering framework around environmental priorities; creating stronger, more empowered and more interconnected communities. The ECS will be a central part of the programme ensuring we live up to the commitment of placing residents and communities at the heart of the programme. This will help deliver the Councils corporate plan through building civic pride and stronger relations between the community and the council.
- 3.43 In Hounslow, there are strong pockets of active civil society. Groups such as the Heston Action Group, Abundance London, Residents Associations and groups, faith groups, and the Hounslow Highways Lay Assessors form a basis for the ECS to tap into and work with. Furthermore, Hounslow had great success with the Great British Spring Clean in 2019, delivering the highest number of events in London with plans to build upon this in 2020. Despite this, we have received feedback in workshops and anecdotally that the council needs to facilitate more community engagement to sustain and expand

activities and community events across the borough. The ECS will help deliver on this challenge.

- 3.44 Encouraged by successes elsewhere and with an ambition to create an exemplar scheme in London the programme will consist of three main parts:

a) Adult Environmental Champions

Environmental champions will be signed up on a voluntary basis and encouraged to organise events in their local communities, on their streets and in parks. Primarily, this will be litter picking events, planting events, local peer to peer guidance on matters such as recycling however, no volunteers should be discouraged from going above and beyond this. To facilitate their engagement, they will be issued an introductory pack (including essential equipment and a training pack), some basic training from the council, an app to enable monitoring of LEQ standards and fix my street app to enable response. This will ensure that the volunteers stay safe and understand what is expected of them as well as furnishing them with tools to act.

b) The Junior Champions: “Eco-Agents”

Considering the strong environmental engagement seen amongst young people today, the Council will provide a formal avenue for children (initially age 7-11) to get involved. Some wards have already noted the demand for this. Currently, only Darlington and Telford and Wrekin have a junior scheme and they report it makes their programme more appealing to families and generally boosts moral.

c) The Eco-Agent Schools – after school activities, PTA’s, class talks.

By introducing an educational programme in schools, the Council can reach and target a larger cross-section of the population. Educational programmes do however, require sustained effort to acquire head-teacher buy in. PTA’s and School Governors will be encouraged to participate in a more transcending approach to environmental education. By engaging key parents and community activists who have connections with schools, this could be a potential avenue allowing schools to engage with the programme to support delivery of the curriculum.

- 3.45 The ECS will be an important way of enabling communities to improve their areas and accessing community available funds such as the Council’s Thriving Communities Fund. It will require a dedicated officer who can coordinate the scheme and facilitate the communication between the borough and its champions. Councils that have engaged a dedicated officer to coordinate the scheme have seen higher success and participation rates.

- 3.46 A coordinator will be hired in February 2020. We aim to soft launch the ECS in March 2020 simultaneously with the Great British Spring Clean, with a formal launch following. The eco-agent school’s scheme will be expected to launch in September/October 2020 coinciding with the new school year. Our aim in the first year is to sign up at least 10 volunteer champions from each ward (200). We also aim to have 40 eco-agents signed up and will have made connections with schools across the borough, through Parent Environmental Champions. Success of the programme can be measured in a multitude of ways by measuring hours of volunteering, outputs such as bags of litter collected, the number of volunteers and eco-agents, and connections with PTAs and school governors. The coordinator will be able to track the scheme progress across the borough.

The Green Economy and CGH Partnership Board

- 3.47 The partnership board will be formed in the Spring 2020 and will include strategic level stakeholder representation from across all the main industries in the borough and various agencies such as Transport for London, Network Rail, Heathrow and others. The board will provide oversight of the programme and will be the key driver of partnership working to enable the significant changes as outlined above, especially in developing green economy in the borough.

4. Key Implications

- 4.1 The Greener Framework sets out the Council's high-level position on improving the borough's environment and reducing our use of the earth's resources. It provides a clear governance framework including a key role for community representatives and for the efficient development, delivery and monitoring of the associated action plans.
- 4.2 The objectives set out in the strategy are ambitious and the associated action plans will look to set out a clear pathway to achieving these, alongside specifying robust monitoring arrangements to ensure the relevant boards can effectively track progress (and through Cabinet annually).
- 4.3 Delivery of the various action plans included within this framework will contribute significantly to the direct health and wellbeing of our communities whilst also ensuring Hounslow plays its part in addressing the global climate emergency. There will also be wider co-benefits, for example financial savings through increased recycling rates, less waste and through the establishment and expansion of the green economy.

5. Financial Details. Financial Impact on the Budget

- 5.1 The Greener Borough Framework sets out a high-level framework for delivering the council's aspirations in respect to enhancing the environment and reducing our use of resources. Individual action plans under each of the objectives have either been developed already and approved by Cabinet (e.g. Air Quality Action Plan) or are due for update/development as outlined in this report.
- 5.2 As each new action plan or action plan revision is brought forward it will be supported by an assessment of the financial implications of each plan and progressed as invest to save options, capital investment requirements and resource/revenue requirements.
- 5.3 The overall framework requires an initial investment of £142k to fund its development and resource it appropriately over the next year with a projects resource (£50k), enable short term delivery objectives such as implementing Environmental Champions (£32k), whilst also enabling the development of the business cases for investment in green infrastructure through the appointment of consultants (£60k).
- 5.4 The major initiative to plant more trees/specimens (Up to 50,000 specimens) over the next 10 years is expected to cost in the region of £4.5-5 subject to

where they are placed. It is expected that these will be in part funded through seeking external funding and through developing a communities funding strategy to support our community to access available funding for their initiatives, with the Council investing appropriately in line with action plans and associated business cases.

- 5.5 The interventions to implement the allotments, parks and open spaces strategies and the action plans is expected to need capital and revenue budgets allocated to progress with any proposed capital improvements and additional maintenance costs and to fund the resources that may be required to deliver these improvements. All efforts will be made to contain increases of revenue budgets where possible.

6. Comments of the Executive Director for Finance and Resources

- 6.1 As noted above, the financial impact of the individual action plans that make up the Greener Borough Framework will be considered at the time these plans are considered by cabinet.
- 6.2 The report also contains a proposal to delegate the spend of an initial £142k from the Environment fund to the Executive Director of Environment, Culture and Customer Services for the delivery of the Greener Borough Programme.

7. Comments of the Head of Governance

- 7.1 Delivery of the ambitions and aspirations set out in the Greener Borough Framework will be underpinned by the governance arrangements set out in paragraph 3.37 and Figure 2 above, designed to ensure that Cabinet Members and senior officers take the lead on all plans and actions, and that progress is benchmarked and reported.
- 7.2 Methods of making the climate emergency a fundamental consideration in the delivery of all the Council's functions, perhaps by introducing a section on climate emergency considerations in Cabinet/Committee reports, will be further considered as part of the Constitution Review currently taking place.

8. Value for Money

- 8.1 As noted above, the cost of the individual action plans will be considered at the point these are reviewed by Cabinet.

9. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

- 9.1 The intent of the Greener Borough Framework is to put in place a high-level framework guiding the Council's work to enhance the environment and reduce resource use which are both key sustainability considerations. Further specific consideration of proposals that form part of individual action plans will be considered at the point these are reviewed by Cabinet.

10. Risk Management

- 10.1 Risks associated with the projects included in the individual action plans will be considered at the individual project level using the Council's normal processes and reported to the relevant board as set out in section 3 of this

report. A formal register of risks will be maintained and monitored at the programme level.

11. Links to Council Priorities

- 11.1 The Greener Borough Framework sets out a high-level framework for delivering a wide range of Council priorities in the Corporate Plan, especially around improving the environment and reducing our impact on the environment, improving health and wellbeing and delivering these in a joined-up way. There is a focus on reducing carbon emissions following the declaration of a climate emergency at the June 2019 borough council.

12. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

- 12.1 The Council must give due regard to its Equalities Duties, with respect to general duties arising from section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Having due regard to the need to advance equality involves the need to remove or minimize disadvantages suffered by equalities groups.
- 12.2 The Council has considered the relevance of the proposal to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, for those with the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and the Human Rights Act 1998. Equalities Duties are not engaged by this proposal. The proposal is also compatible with Human Rights Articles and as the report does not have any significant bearing on the substantive equality duty it is not considered necessary to undertake an Equality Analysis at this time.
- 12.3 Individual equality impacts will be considered further through the development of the detailed action plans that together will form the Greener Borough Framework. This is expected to consider how plans are adapted to mitigate the unique impacts associated with climate change, particularly in how they affect age and health.

13. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications

- 13.1 Action plans that form part of the strategy are expected to include actions that relate to reducing emissions from the Council's estate and interventions that target staff and workforce behaviours such as recycling, vehicle use and more.

14. Property and Assets

- 14.1 Action plans that form part of the framework are expected to include actions that relate to reducing emissions and resource use arising from the Council's estate, redesign of localities and spaces - impacts are expected to be significant and considered as each action plan is brought forward.

15. Any Other Implications

None noted.

16. Consultation

16.1 The Greener Borough Framework has been informed by the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. Individual action plans that make up the strategy will be subject to consultation and engagement as required and it is noted that there is a strong ongoing civic engagement function built into the governance as summarised in section 3.37 of this report.

17. Timetable for Implementation

17.1 An implementation timetable for the individual action plans will be set out in the relevant documents. The timeline below sets out the timeline for the presentation of the various action plans:

Month	Action title
January 2020	- Greener Borough Framework - Climate Emergency Action Plan
February 2020	- Programme Governance Implemented including establishing the Community reference groups ready for recruitment - Hounslow's Reduction and Recycling Plan approved by GLA
March 2020	- Green Economy/CGH Partnership Board Established - Launch of Environmental Champions Scheme
April 2020	- Greening the Borough Action Plan - Updated Waste Strategy - Allotments Strategy
June 2020	- Updated Bio-diversity Action Plan - Updated Air Quality Action Plan - Park and Open Spaces Strategy
August 2020	- Green Economy Action Plan
December 2020/January 2021	- Review of 1 st year of action

18. Appendices

None.

19. Background Information

None noted.

REPORT ENDS