

**Cabinet**

28 January 2008

**Departmental action plan responses to Climate Change  
Commission Scrutiny Report**

All Wards

**Cabinet Portfolio:**

Various

**Report Authorised by:**Executive Director of Environment, Culture  
& Community Safety: Robert Overall**Executive summary**

Climate Change Commission report is the culmination of a detailed scrutiny investigation led by a cross party group of councillors into efforts by Lambeth Council to tackle the threats of climate change.

There is an overwhelming body of scientific evidence highlighting the serious and urgent nature of climate change. This has been widely accepted by the scientific community and the need for action has pushed the issue to the top the political agenda locally, nationally, and globally.

This report contains a significant number of recommendations for the organisation.

**Summary of financial implications**

It is hoped that many of the recommendations in this report will lead to efficiency savings over the longer term and that the opportunity to reinvest these savings to cover costs arising from other recommendations will be taken.

It is expected that the majority of recommendations are met from within existing budgets, however in developing the action plan officers may be required to apply for growth in expenditure through the normal budgetary process for future years.

**Recommendations**

- (1) That the recommendations of the Climate Change Commission report be approved in principle subject to the production of the more detailed action plan.
- (2) That officers are directed to prepare a more detailed action plan clearly articulating how the recommendations would be delivered to be returned to Cabinet for approval.

## Consultation

Name of consultee	Directorate or Organisation	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Action Plan Template				
Recommendations to departments via CCOs and other relevant officers – actions to be returned with full departmental clearances (including financial and legal) as per usual departmental channels by 5 <sup>th</sup> November	SCS: Reg. & Hou. CYPS: Fin. & Res.: ECCS:	17 September 2007	2 November 5 November 27 November 27 November 29 November	
Completed report with action plan:				
Tony Otokito		27 November 2007	27 November 2007	<i>Para 3.</i>
Mike Dickens		27 November 2007	27 November 2007	<i>Para 4</i>
Robert Overall		27 November 2007	29 November 2007	
Strategic Leadership Board		4 December 2007	18 December	5.2 to 5.7
Elaine Carter	Acting Head of Scrutiny	4 January 2008	8 January 2008	
Councillor Lib Peck	Cabinet Member	6 September 2007		

## Report history

<b>Decision type:</b> Key decision; June 2007, Forward Plan		<b>Urgency item?</b> No	
<b>Authorised by Cabinet member:</b>	<b>Date report drafted:</b>	<b>Report deadline:</b>	<b>Date report sent:</b>
	04.01.08	07.01.08	04.01.08
<b>Report no.:</b>	<b>Report author and contact for queries:</b>		
218/07-08	Byron R. Green, Lead Scrutiny Officer 020 7926 2510		

## Background documents

Climate Change Commission Scrutiny Report (2007) which is available from the following link:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/CouncilDemocracy/Scrutiny/ClimateChangeReport0807.htm>

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Action Plan response to Climate Change Commission Scrutiny Report - December 2007

## **Departmental action plan responses to Climate Change Commission Scrutiny Report**

### **1. Context**

- 1.1 Cross-party commitment here was evidenced in Lambeth by the signing of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in December 2005 by the Council's three major party leaders.
- 1.2 The Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Subcommittee resolved to establish a Climate Change Commission as part of its work programme in July 2006 in order to examine efforts to address climate change to date and to help move things forward.
- 1.3 It commenced its work in October 2006.

### **2. Proposals and reasons**

- 2.1 The Commission recognised that the Council has an important role in reducing its impact on climate change through the careful management of the properties it manages, the services it provides, and the purchases it makes.
- 2.2 A significant number of recommendations have been made as a result the Commission's deliberations. Implementing them will involve departments and officers across the council and have a direct impact on the wider community.
- 2.3 In total there were 45 recommendations grouped under the following headings:
  - The Role of Local Authorities - Existing guidance, support and practice
  - Leading the Way
  - Educating the Community
  - Building Schools for the Future (BSF)
  - Planning Policy
  - Housing
  - Transport and Travel
  - Energy Management
- 2.4 In addition, the Commission suggested that further work be carried out in 2007-08. The Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Subcommittee has agreed to reconstitute a Climate Change Commission as part of its work programme this year.

**3. Comments from Executive Director of Finance & Resources**

- 3.1 It is hoped that many of the recommendations in this report will lead to efficiency savings over the longer term and that the opportunity to reinvest these savings to cover costs arising from other recommendations will be taken.
- 3.2 It is expected that the majority of recommendations are met from within existing budgets, however in developing the action plan officers may be required to apply for growth in expenditure through the normal budgetary process for future years..

**4. Comments from Director of Legal and Democratic Services**

- 4.1 Arrangements for Scrutiny Commissions are set out in Rule 20 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, at Part 4, Section 5 of the Council's Constitution. Rule 20.1 states:

*The Overview and Scrutiny Committee or relevant scrutiny sub-committee will establish all scrutiny commissions and determine their constitution, the appointment of co-optees, terms of reference and tenure of each commission.*

Rule 20.5 states:

*"Commission reports will be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the relevant Scrutiny Sub-Committee for consideration, prior to submission of the report to the Cabinet, unless otherwise specified by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee."*

- 4.2 By virtue of section 2, Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have the power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. This power may be exercised in relation to, or for the benefit of, the whole or any part of the authority's area or all or any persons resident or present in their area.
- 4.3 The section 2 power includes power for a local authority to, inter alia, give financial assistance to, enter into an agreement with, or provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to, any person. However, the well-being power does not enable the authority to raise money, nor to do anything which it is unable to do by virtue of any existing statutory prohibition, restriction or limitation on its powers.

**5. Results of consultation**

- 5.1 The Commission consulted widely with council officers and welcomed contributions from the public. The commission was grateful for the contributions made and have taken the information received into account in reaching their findings.

5.2 Further internal officer consideration resulted in the following suggestions:

- The organisational and resource implications of the recommendations outlined in the action plan needed to be clearly defined and articulated in a further report.
- Further consideration should be given to how the council intended to deliver the recommendations, the timescale in which they would be delivered, and which recommendations should be prioritised.
- It was agreed that the recommendation in the report to Cabinet should state that the action plan drawn up in response to the Commission's recommendations should be approved in principle, with a note that a further detailed action plan, as discussed above, would be brought back to Cabinet for approval.
- Where a saving was indicated it was important to check that it had not been counted elsewhere.

## **6. Organisational implications**

### **6.1 Risk management:**

The Commission is of the view that delays in taking action against climate change could significantly impact on this organisation's effectiveness in tackling the issue.

### **6.2 Equalities impact assessment:**

None

### **6.3 Community safety implications:**

None

### **6.4 Environmental implications:**

The report recognises that early action to address climate change is an imperative and that addressing the recommendations in this report provides an opportunity for Lambeth to make a significant contribution.

### **6.5 Staffing and accommodation implications:**

Implementing some of the recommendations will require improvements to be made to accommodation. There will be issues around educating and obtaining the buy-in of all staff.

### **6.6 Any other implications:** None

## **7. Timetable for implementation:**

7.1 The detailed action plan will be scheduled for further consideration as outlined in para. 5.2 above.

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