

Equalities Analysis in Lambeth

Proposal Title *

Lambeth Climate Action Plan

Author

Theresa Greene

Please provide name of lead author and/or those within project team who may be required to contribute to this assessment

Who will sign off the assessment?

Rob Bristow

Please indicate who will be involved in approving this assessment. This will need to be signed off by the Director

Q1a. What is changing?

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a borough wide strategy which will guide stakeholders across the borough from the public, private and third sectors, together with our communities, to drive towards the overarching goal of achieving carbon net zero by 2030, as well as adapting to the climate change that is already happening. The CAP involves five key themes each with four goals which together set the course towards net zero and a more sustainable future. The CAP has been co-produced following extensive consultation with a variety of sectors and with the input of the major emitters in the borough, who will also be forming the governance panel (referred to as the Climate Partnership Group) to take principal responsibility for the delivery of the CAP going forward. The CAP is also heavily influenced by the findings and recommendations of last year's Lambeth Citizen's assembly and its principal themes of fairness, impact and collaboration. The Council will clearly be a key stakeholder in the implementation of the CAP which will now follow. Although given that the Council is ultimately only responsible for a small part of the borough's overall carbon emissions, the CAP is intended to be jointly owned by all key stakeholders in the borough, and act as a call to action for individuals to play their part in the transition to net zero.

What is the most significant or key change taking place? Can you indicate the type of change in your response (e.g. policy/decision/strategy/ service/procedural/ geographic/procurement etc.) so it is clear what is being equalities assessed? Why is this change happening? What do you aim to achieve? Can you clearly indicate what decision-makers are being asked to take a decision on?

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Q1b. Who will be involved in approving this decision?

The following people will be involved in approving the Climate Action Plan.

- Cabinet – the CAP is being presented for decision at cabinet on 21st March
- Rob Bristow - Director, Planning, Transport and Sustainability

Who else will be involved in signing-off this decision?

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Q2a. What do we know about the people who will be impacted by this change?

There are approximately 325,000 residents and c14,000 businesses in Lambeth. Everyone will be affected by climate change, but the effects will not be felt equally, with those who are least responsible often worst affected by the impacts. The Lambeth Annual Public Health Report 2020 (APHR) identified a number of factors that put people at greater risk of being negatively impacted by climate change. These included age (very young and very old); pre-existing health conditions; socioeconomic status (poverty); race and ethnicity, particularly as it intersected with the other characteristics.

The report explained that those who were least able to adapt to a changing climate were most likely to be negatively impacted. Access to finance impacts on the ability to adapt. Almost 90,000 residents are living in poverty once housing costs are taken into account, and 20% of people in Lambeth are paid below the London Living Wage.

There are 37,000 people living with illness or disability and over half of our residents aged 75 and above have a limiting health condition. Deprivation limits options to adapt homes and recover from climate events such as flooding, and research tells us that climate events are likely to amplify existing inequalities.

Climate change risk can intersect with existing inequalities, meaning that women, multi-ethnic groups, older and younger people, and disabled people are also more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and climate policy. These factors are interconnected, and anyone with multiple vulnerabilities are more likely to experience worse health impacts.

In creating the CAP, we built upon the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly and held a number of workshops with key stakeholders. This including meeting with disabled people and young people to feed their ambitions for climate action into the Citizens' Assembly and subsequently the CAP. In addition, during the CAP development process we held workshops with groups representing people of faith, young people and older people and asked for feedback online. During this engagement there was extensive discussion of how both climate change, and climate mitigation policy could impact different communities in Lambeth, including those sharing protected characteristics. Several themes emerged:

- **Fairness:** Fairness was a key theme which emerged. Assembly members frequently talked about a new awareness of the issue of fairness in working to address climate change. They reflected that the contributions of members affected by disability access issues helped them to understand the impact changes in transport infrastructure in particular can have on disabled

people.

- **Opportunity:** Climate Action represents the opportunity to create something better than before, which is focused on quality of life and meaningful social connections. This can provide opportunities to particular communities across Lambeth.
- **Participation:** There were concerns around meaningful input and engagement in the changes which will happen. The Citizens' Assembly was recognised as exemplary in this aspect but the desire was to ensure that this was not lost in the implementation of climate action. There were particular concerns that people with disabilities are not valued enough in decision-making that engagement can be tokenistic
- **Just transition:** Ensuring that there are good green jobs and economic opportunities for all of the borough's residents was a priority, particularly for people with disabilities and young people. They did not want voluntary work to be the default option
- **Unintended consequences:** Some groups engaged found that policy changes can have unintended on certain groups in Lambeth. This was particularly the case when those groups may not have engaged with the Council. Ensuring representation in decision making will be key to preventing this from happening

Climate implementation plans and policy will need to have independent EqIA's undertaken for each key policy, strategy or implementation decision, to ensure individual actions taken contribute towards a more equitable borough.

The biggest risk from climate change in Lambeth is inaction. If we do not act, then existing inequalities will be exacerbated, and our communities will not have the resilience to cope with climate shocks. At the same time, with as with any policy change, we need to ensure that it does not have unintended consequences. Following inaction, there are three main risks from climate change in Lambeth, these are heat, floods and poor air quality.

Lambeth is the fifth most densely populated borough in England and Wales with an average of 12,020 residents per square kilometre with limited green space. 31% of our residents live in areas of high deprivation. These factors mean our residents are more at risk of heat exposure and the Urban Heat Island effect than people living in rural areas. The Urban Heat Island effect (UHI) is whereby heat is absorbed and retained in the artificial surfaces that make up our buildings, roads, pavements and other urban structures. The urban heat island effect means that cities the size of London can be up to 10°C warmer than surrounding areas, and therefore a greater proportion of our residents are more exposed to the health risks of hotter temperatures than people living in rural areas or with access to gardens. Extended high temperatures put the health of our residents at risk.

Up to 70% of Lambeth residents live in flats. London wide, by the 2030s, three in four flats are projected to experience indoor temperatures over 28° in heat wave scenarios. Noise, air pollution and high crime deter people from opening their windows, which leads to even higher indoor temperatures.

Increased rainfall also raises the risk of surface water flooding across the borough - a type of flooding which happens when rainwater overflows drainage systems and cannot soak into the ground fast enough. Impermeable surfaces such as roads, pavements, buildings and driveways, exacerbate the risk of all types of flooding. There are current gaps in our data in terms of understanding the capacity of communities across Lambeth to adapt and the goals set out in this CAP strive to rectify this.

Vulnerability to flooding is associated with: the capacity to mitigate a flooding incident especially individual mobility and ability to make decisions, resulting in older people and people with mental health and disability being at high risk. It is also associated with the capacity to adapt to the risk. Households on low income are less likely to have insurance and enough resources to renovate after a flooding incident, and are also more likely to be impacted by transport disruption

The APHR also identified air quality as a climate change risk. Air pollution and climate change influence

each other through complex interactions. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases can lead to temperature changes that change the chemical composition of the atmosphere

People who are most vulnerable to poor air quality are:

- Unborn babies, children and older people;
- People with existing heart or lung conditions;
- Overweight people; and
- People in poorer working and living conditions.

There is a strong correlation with socio-economic inequalities. Those on low incomes tend to live in environments where they are more exposed to air pollution, for example from busy roads or in unhealthy housing and are less likely to be able to afford to move home. There is a specific goal in the CAP to break the association between inner London living and poor air quality.

What does your information tell you about the people who will be affected by this change? Are protected groups impacted? What information do you hold on the protected characteristics of the people affected by the change? (Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race/ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, health, socio-economic, language) Are there any gaps or missing information?

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Q2b. How will they be impacted by the change?

The aim of the CAP is to help protect Lambeth and its residents from the adverse impacts of climate change and to play our part in reducing global emissions. The key principles of fairness, effectiveness and collaboration are intended to ensure that as we implement our climate action plan, we are doing so in a way that reduces inequality, maximizes co-benefits and promotes the voice of those most impacted by climate change in decision making.

We recognize that climate change is likely to exacerbate existing inequalities, and therefore climate actions must work hard to help reduce this. We can do this by ensuring that we focus our climate action on those groups most at risk, and ensuring that we are open, inclusive and accountable in our policy-making. While we are not able to set out the equalities impacts of individual climate actions (these are yet to be developed), we can describe how the CAP's actions and principles have been developed to help reduce inequality, and the ways that this might work in practice.

In total there are 20 goals set out across 5 themed areas; Buildings and Energy, Transport, Food Consumption and Waste, Biodiversity and Environmental Quality and Adaptation. The actions we take to respond to climate change can positively contribute to broader goals we have for our borough, such as improving health and wellbeing, increasing prosperity and opportunity, and reducing inequality. For example in Adaptation, we specifically recognise that we need to build adaptive capacity across our communities and improving businesses and communities' ability to prepare and respond to climate shocks. Building this capacity will reduce climate vulnerability for communities across Lambeth. In addition, we have a goal around the delivery of a borough wide heat mitigation plan to reduce the risk of extreme heat impacts on vulnerable groups for example older people, children and people with underlying health conditions.

We have also included a specific goal to eliminate fuel poverty to help direct the council and partners' focus on retrofitting low-income homes first, and ensuring that the approach to retrofitting reduces fuel costs. This will also improve indoor air quality and reduce exposure to market fluctuations in

energy prices.

Actions to decarbonize our buildings and transport will also improve our air quality, resulting in fewer instances of asthma (particularly for children), better overall health and longer livelihoods in Lambeth. We have included several goals that focus on improving our roads and streets by reducing the number of vehicles and congestion and creating safer cycling and walking routes. This will help everyone move around the borough more easily, quickly and cheaply, whilst considering the needs of people who require access to a vehicle.

In our Biodiversity and Environmental Quality goals, we recognise the role that greenery plays in residents mental and physical well being. Creating more green space in the borough filled with trees, plants and wildlife will help keep our buildings cooler during heat waves, which particularly impact the older people, children and people with existing health conditions. It also provides more opportunities for us to spend time in nature, such as through food growing or outdoor exercise, which benefits our mental and physical health. Spending time in nature and in particular in biodiverse spaces has been shown to reduce aggression and improve cognitive functioning in children. By setting a target on the proximity to green space in Lambeth, we can ensure all of our residents can benefit from access to high quality green infrastructure. This will be even more important in areas which have been identified as having nature deficits in the borough.

The goals in Consumption, Waste and Food recognise that systemic alongside individual change is needed. Reducing our waste can help residents save money, and sharing and repairing items rather than buying new and throwing away can bring residents together and create stronger communities. All of these actions will have a positive impact on Lambeth communities. As a local authority we have a duty to support the creation of *Strong, Safe & Prosperous Communities*. The creation of this CAP is one part of our role in delivering on this. By focusing on the impacts of the vulnerable in our borough, we can improve life for everyone but have an additional positive impact on those who are most vulnerable.

The majority of the 14,000 businesses in Lambeth are SME's. Due to their size, they are particularly vulnerable to climate shocks and changing policy. To ensure that businesses are brought along the journey we have worked closely with the Businesses Improvement Districts to understand their ambitions around Net Zero and some of the challenges they face. We are specifically working with students in KCL to support the Bids to understand the opportunities and challenges for their business communities. As the economy transitions to a low carbon economy, we need to ensure our business community are empowered to take opportunities to benefit from this. We have been working with Sustainable Ventures to offer support packages to sustainable diverse businesses in Lambeth to grow their businesses and reach their potential, alongside a bootcamp for Lambeth business to reach Net Zero. All of these initiatives will increase Lambeth's business community's resilience as we transition towards Net Zero.

The governance structures which will be established are intended to ensure that those who are most impacted have voice and influence in policy development, and that we are able to monitor any adverse impacts. Through the development of the CAP, the council has worked closely with a group of organisations who have a significant leadership and stewardship role in the borough. These organisations have agreed to join Lambeth's first climate partnership. Each has agreed to help lead and oversee the implementation of the CAP, recognising their shared interest and responsibility in ensuring the borough's future. For the implementation of the CAP we will establish an independent expert advisory group, comprising experts on climate policy, sustainable development, community engagement, equity and climate solutions. The group will review the actions and progress being made towards the goals, and provide advice on how this could be strengthened.

To ensure that the voices of those people most exposed to climate impacts are heard in the development and implementation of our CAP, we will establish a community climate action forum to

bring together organisations working with communities to share learning, support greater action, and collectively deliver on the ambitions of the CAP. In creating this forum we have ensured that all protected characteristic are represented to ensure that inclusive climate action is at the heart of all decision making. All of the three groups above will form the governance of the CAP to ensure that the principles of the CAP are adhered to e.g. Fairness, Collaboration and Impact.

Would you assess the impact as positive, adverse, neutral? Do you have any uncertainty about the impact of your proposal? Is there a likelihood that some people will more impacted than others? Can you describe the ways in which they will be affected? How might this change affect our 'general duty'?

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Q3a. How do you plan to promote and deliver any positive impacts of the proposal?

A communications plan will be in place for the launch of the climate action plan. Alongside this we are working closely with our partners to deliver shared communications on the CAP to maximise reach and impact. A big focus on the development of the CAP has been on the inclusive and collaborative nature. The focus on communicating this will be the same. The governance structures set out will be used to ensure that we have a large reach across our communities. We also want to ensure that all parts of the borough see their place in the CAP, from employees in Lambeth, to business owners, residents to leaders of faith groups and community organisations, there is a role for everyone to play in delivering upon and sharing the goals of the CAP. As so many groups and organisations have been directly involved in the creation of the CAP, there will be a vested interest in sharing the CAP through local networks across Lambeth. We will also be working with our school's networks to reach school children and their families across Lambeth. Through raising awareness on the solutions to climate change we can galvanise local communities and provide them with the tools and information to tackle the climate crisis alongside those in the borough with larger carbon footprints. The CAP sets out a number of principles to follow when considering climate action. These are Fairness, Impact-focused and Collaboration. The actions we take to respond to climate change can contribute to broader goals we have for our borough, such as improving health and wellbeing, increasing prosperity and opportunity, and reducing inequality. The goals set out in this CAP are intended to contribute to these wider goals and maximise the benefits of climate action for local people.

How might the principles of fairness, equality of opportunity and positive relationships be further promoted as a consequence of this proposal? How do you propose to measure your positive outcomes and the benefits outlined to find out if these have been achieved?

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Q3b How do you plan to address and mitigate any negative impacts of the proposal?

There are no negative impacts identified with the CAP. However, we must recognize that both climate change and mitigation policy have the potential to exacerbate or create new inequalities. Our approach to reducing negative impacts in future climate policy is:

- Adherence to the principles set out in the CAP
- Robust governance that includes the voice of those most impacted by climate change
- Ongoing engagement and collaboration with partners and communities

- Transparency and accountability through governance and reporting
- EqlAs to accompany individual decisions

What impact has this evidence had on what you are proposing? What can you do differently that might lessen the impact on people within the timeframes i.e. development-implementation? Who can help you to develop these solutions?

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Q4. How will you review/evaluate your proposal, mitigating actions and/or benefits? Who will be responsible for this?

A measurement and evaluation framework is currently being developed. This will be put together in 2022 with the ambition of ensuring that the qualitative and quantitative targets can be measured and evaluated in terms of impact. The Climate Partnership group will review the proposed framework to ensure that it is fit for purpose. In terms of internal governance, the usual governance procedures will be followed to ensure that the framework put in place is adequate to ensure the trajectory towards Net Zero is on track and that there are no unintended consequences.

As mentioned above, the governance of the CAP will additionally involve (alongside the principal governance panel of the Climate Partnership Group of major emitters), an Expert Advisory Panel, and a community forum panel - both of which will provide advice and feedback on the CAP to the Climate Partnership Group, and work, amongst other matters, to ensure that monitoring of progress is robust and transparent.

Who will you be accountable to for the above actions/outcome? How will those responsible know these actions have worked? What performance indicators will you use to demonstrate this? Are there any other forms of evidence you can use to support this assessment of their effectiveness?

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Section to be completed by Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

Outcome of equality impact assessment

- No adverse impact, no change required
- Low adverse impact, minor adjustment required
- Significant adverse impact, further action required
- Significant impact identified unable to mitigate fully
- Unlawful in/direct discrimination, stop and rethink

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Comments from Sponsor/Director/Head of Service

The CAP is designed to address climate change and deliver an equitable

transition to net zero and a more sustainable future. People with protected characteristics are at the heart of these considerations as evidence shows that many people with protected characteristics will be effected disproportionately by climate change. Accordingly the CAP is designed to counteract that imbalance and to deliver positive impacts for people with protected characteristics. Overall, as set out above, the CAP is not considered to give rise to adverse impacts for people with protected characteristics. Nevertheless, the detailed policies, strategies and plans which will now be developed to implement the CAP will each require an EQIA going forward to ensure that equalities impacts are carefully considered at each stage of the process going forward.

Submit for approval

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When you are ready for the assesment to be reviewed by your Director, please select 'Submit for Approval' from the drop down. (Or select Resubmit if requesting approval after a rejection)

Executive Approval

Approved

For Directors: Please use the drop down to Approve or Reject the Assessment. (You will need to click 'Edit Item' at the top of the form to do this)

Attachments
[EIA 1.1.docx](#)

Close