

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Update and Progress Report
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Purpose of Report:

Ealing Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and responded with its Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in January 2021, in pursuit of a carbon neutral outcome by 2030. The council subsequently published its Council Plan 2022-26 (July 2022) with one of its three strategic objectives to expedite the council's work in 'tackling the climate crisis'. This report updates cabinet on delivery over the first two years of work toward the objectives set out in the strategy. It also proposes activities over the next three-year horizon 2023-2026 for Cabinet to note.

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1.1. Notes the two-year progress report (2021-2023) on delivering the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (Appendix 1)
- 1.2. Notes the planned activities within the progress report to deliver the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy between 2023-2026 which includes enhanced activity across all council activities towards carbon neutrality by 2030.

- 1.3. Notes the links between inequality and climate impacts and recognises that climate action is an opportunity for the council to make a positive contribution to social justice, with these actions achieving the greatest benefit for those already most vulnerable to climate change.
- 1.4. Notes the plan to ramp up our work on campaigning for the changes necessary to deliver on the Net Zero ambition including greater powers and funding in support of the transition, and that the Cabinet Member for Climate Action will formally write to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero urging government to increase funding for retrofitting homes and active travel measures.
- 1.5. Notes that the council will evaluate all future planning applications against the retrofit first principle, in line with the Council Plan commitment to pursue retrofit and as set out in the Strategy, to prevent the needless demolition of buildings in the Borough.
- 1.6. Notes the establishment of a new Climate Leadership Board which will coordinate cross-council working to deliver the Strategy and engender a greater climate conscious culture within the council.
- 1.7. Notes the council's recent success in securing greening and decarbonisation grants and delivering works in line with grant objectives and agrees to develop a holistic and cross-cutting Ealing retrofit programme to further enhance and expedite investment to improve energy performance of council assets.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, 2021 – 2030

- 2.1. The council has committed to treat climate change as a crisis, where a swift, intensive and substantial response is compulsory. Climate change presents an opportunity for communities to unite behind a common cause and proactively change their behaviours, prepare for the future, and mitigate ongoing harm to our natural environment.
- 2.2. In recognition that the effects of climate change are predicted to cause profound impacts on humanity and the ecological systems it relies on, Ealing's full Council declared a climate emergency in April 2019 and pledged to make Ealing carbon neutral by 2030. In Ealing, the risks of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and excessive heat are likely to rise profoundly, affecting health and livelihoods. The scope of the declaration and the January 2021 Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) aims to address all carbon emissions, both produced and consumed, by everyone in the borough.
- 2.3. The council's strategy is structured around five themes, where the organisation has the most control and direct influence, based on policies, procurement, projects, and stakeholder relationships.
- 2.4. Each of the themes within the strategy identifies unique objectives, targets and actions that will either reduce or capture carbon emissions in Ealing and beyond. As outlined in the CEES and the subsequent Council Plan, the

council has been prioritising efforts to meeting its 2030 pledge. However, since the climate emergency declaration, the council has also had to mitigate unforeseen challenges including the pandemic, the cost-of-living crisis, and inflationary pressure in all sectors of the economy including construction costs.

- 2.5. The delivery of the CEES, first drafted in 2019, has been impacted by unprecedented global events. The pandemic response necessitated a diversion of resources from many council services to support residents and businesses in times of hardship and uncertainty. Further, global events have led to an escalation of the cost-of-living crisis, increased levels of fuel poverty, and have impacted the markets of raw materials and labour, adding to the market shocks caused by the pandemic.
- 2.6. Underlying assumptions adopted in the development of the council's climate strategy were central government's commitment to make regulatory changes and strategic investment to ensure the nation meets binding targets agreed in the 2008 Climate Change Act and subsequent carbon budgets. Neither has been forthcoming to the pace and extent forecast, which makes delivering the strategy far more challenging than previously estimated. Although the impacts of these challenges are recognised, the council must continue its efforts, capitalise on emerging opportunities, and find solutions to mitigate the impact of these challenges on our aim to achieve the 2030 net zero pledge.
- 2.7. Notwithstanding the challenges, the council made Tackling Climate Crisis one of its key cross cutting strategic objectives in the Council Plan 2022-2026, and the role of Cabinet Member for Climate Action was first created in the intervening period, reinforcing its commitment to addressing the key challenge.
- 2.8. Successful delivery of the climate strategy depends on the integration with, and implementation of, other council strategies, action plans, and innovation in the delivery of many services. To improve the effectiveness of implementation, a new Climate Leadership Board is established to mainstream delivery, uphold accountability, and engender a greater climate conscious culture within the council.

Ealing's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in summary

- 2.9. The Strategy sets out the council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030; the strategy comprises the following thematic objectives:
 - 2.10. **Energy**
 - Prioritise energy performance (retrofitting)
 - Ensure net zero new builds
 - Invest in renewable energy
 - 2.11. **Food**
 - Create a food partnership
 - Improve access to sustainable food
 - Improve information about sustainable food

2.12. **Nature**

- Enhance biodiversity
- Expand natural (green) infrastructure services
- Improve operational CO₂ emissions

2.13. **Travel**

- Increase active travel
- Reduce vehicles travelling in/through borough
- Decarbonise essential vehicle journeys

2.14. **Waste**

- Get circular
- Reduce waste arisings
- Improve operational CO₂ emissions

2.15. Ealing's Council Plan 2022-2026 focuses on three cross cutting strategic objectives: Creating Good Jobs, Tackling Climate Crisis, and Fighting Inequality. Identifying the Climate Crisis as the key theme commits the organisation to putting sustainability at the heart of everything it does and taking leadership in ensuring the future of the borough is sustainable. Because the development and adoption of the CEES preceded the publication of the Council Plan, this update includes the linking principles and commitments from both strategic documents.

2.16. The objective of Creating Good Jobs is interlinked with the delivery of the CEES, as the transformation of local and national economies require the skills of new green economy. By delivering the CEES, the council both directly creates and incentivises the creation of the jobs of the future in energy efficiency, design, construction, installation, surveying, monitoring, and compliance. By continuing the delivery of capital programmes, and through its contracts, the council delivers local employment, training, and education opportunities for young people.

Building the tackling of inequalities into climate action: the co-benefits for health equity and climate justice.

2.17. Fighting Inequality is one of the three Council Plan priorities. Climate action is an opportunity for the council to make a positive contribution to social justice, thus advancing both Council Plan priorities concurrently. It is well documented that it is the most disadvantaged that are disproportionately impacted by climate change, as was the case in the pandemic which revealed rampant health inequalities.

2.18. The same people affected by unfair and avoidable differences in health and economic prosperity in Ealing will be more likely to experience the worst impacts of climate change – excessive heat, floods, droughts. They will also face more barriers to being able to take positive climate action. Social and economic deprivation, and a person's experience of discrimination including racism, are possibly the strongest and most interconnecting factors.

2.19. The series of maps below shows the relationship between data related to heat and flood risk, indices of multiple deprivation and ethnicity. The

highest numbers for each category are shown on the maps, i.e., highest two categories of heat and flood risk, top three deciles for indices of multiple deprivation and the highest counts of non-white Ealing residents.

- 2.20. Where heat and flood risk are high, a proxy for high climate risk areas, the maps show corresponding data indicating experience of high deprivation and the borough's highest numbers of non-white residents. To fully understand the nature of any correlation further analysis would be needed.

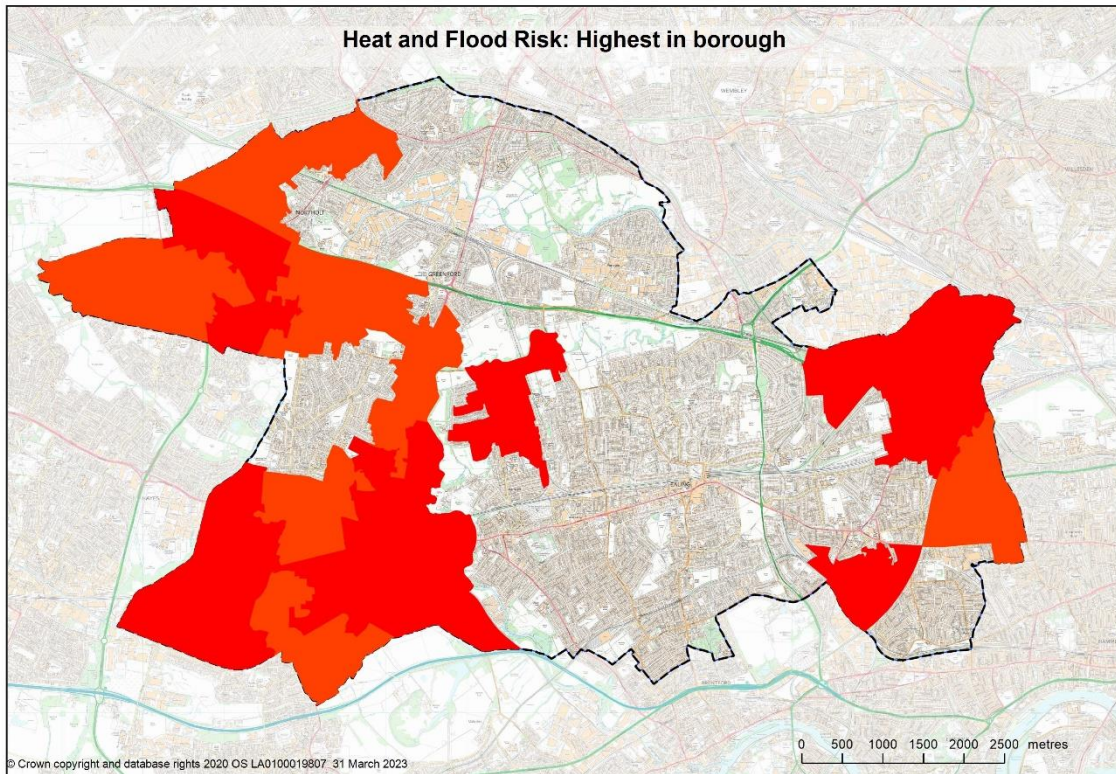


Figure 1. Map of Ealing Heat and Flood Risk. Two highest risk categories selected, showing in red.

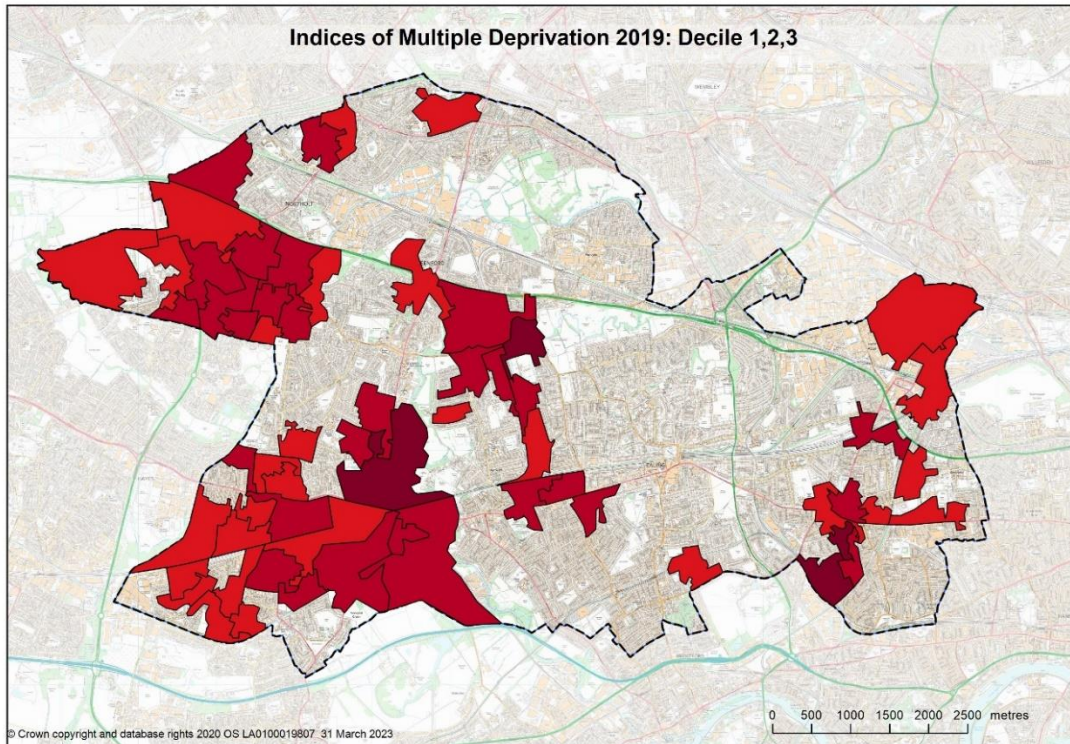


Figure 2. Map of Ealing Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019. Three categories selected, showing highest instances of deprivation in the borough.

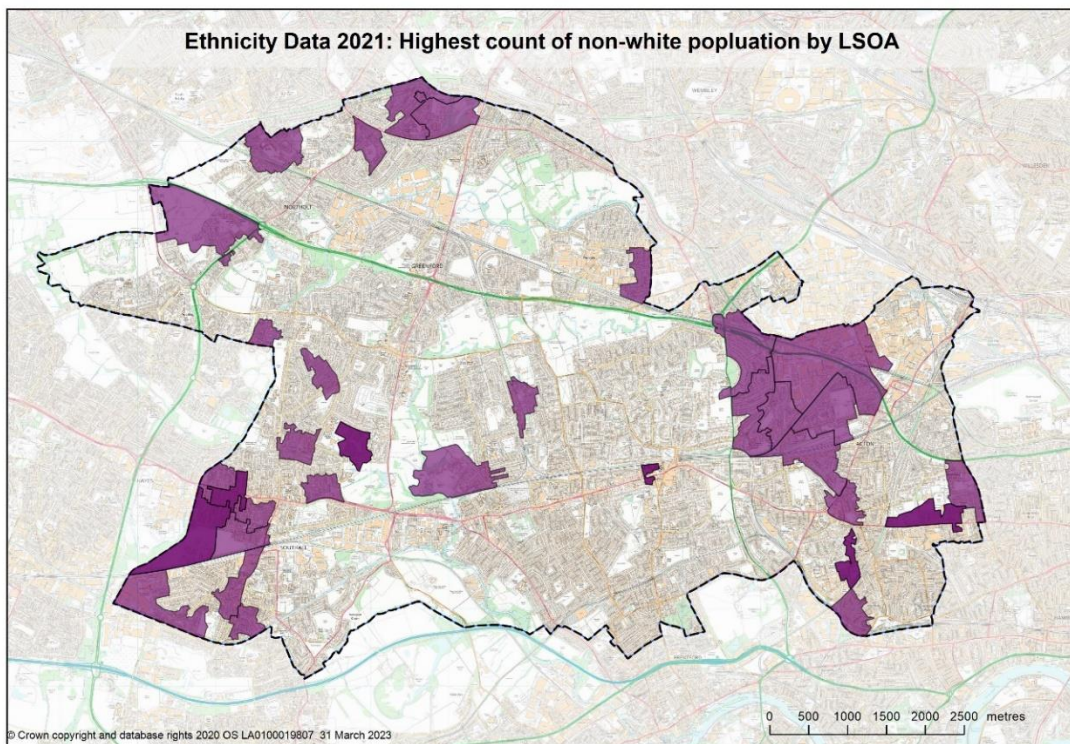


Figure 3. Map of Ealing Ethnicity Data 2021. Data selected shows highest counts of non-white residents in the borough by Census Lower Super Output Area.

- 2.21. This complex but stark relationship between ill-health and the effects of climate change calls for a **whole system approach to climate justice and health equity**.
- 2.22. Climate justice demands that action against climate change is understood as an issue of equity. Health equity can only be achieved long term through work on the ‘building blocks of health and wellbeing’, the life conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. These life conditions include living in healthy and stable environments, protected against the impacts of climate change.
- 2.23. In alignment with the Council Plan strategic objective ‘fighting inequality’ in Ealing, the climate and ecological emergency strategy will implement climate actions to achieve greatest benefit for those already most vulnerable to climate change. Tackling inequality in climate impact will benefit everyone.
- 2.24. Equally, Ealing’s Joint Local Health and Wellbeing strategy for 2023-2028, ‘*Together in Ealing*’, currently under development, is focussed on addressing health equity through improvements to the building blocks of health including a whole systems approach to the creation of healthy and stable environments.
- 2.25. Climate action which explicitly addresses equity involves:
- Acknowledging inequity in current impact and taking action to reduce this gap and
 - Ensuring that equity and fairness is established as a core principle for all climate action, including the building of climate resilience.
- 2.26. Actions in both the CEES and the Joint Local Health and Well-being Strategy for Ealing, will work to reduce inequality, and co-create a healthy, sustainable and thriving environment for Ealing residents.

Climate and Ecological Emergency progress to date

- 2.27. When the council published its Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in 2021, the Citizen Review Panel and public consultation shaped and challenged the draft plans. The result was a focus on the most meaningful actions to address climate change throughout the borough. Produced at the height of the pandemic and delivered during the onset of the cost-of-living crisis, the strategy has been stress tested against multiple competing strategic challenges.
- 2.28. These emergency responses highlight a greater need to act with agility and foresight to achieve outcomes from council services and project delivery whilst simultaneously delivering on the council’s pledge to make Ealing carbon neutral by 2030. Moreover, putting climate action at the heart of council policy development and investment decisions would help make the borough more resilient to future socioeconomic shocks. It also underscores opportunities to deliver on climate commitments, hand in hand with communities, who have proven themselves to be vital in facing these cascading challenges.

- 2.29. The first progress report of the Ealing Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy (CEES) is set out in Appendix 1. This document gives an indication of the scale of activities from the council and its partners and progress made over the past two years, towards becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It sets out ambitions for 2023-2026 and it highlights where delivery and performance gaps exist, and further improvement is needed.
- 2.30. As with the strategy itself, the progress report is structured around the five themes of the CEES and each chapter refers to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), which highlights the global importance of local climate actions.

Climate action highlights from 2021-2023

- 2.31. With 42% of borough emissions produced in homes, **retrofitting** them is vital to becoming carbon neutral as a borough. While the electricity grid is projected to decarbonise nationally, heat electrification has to be delivered along with the complementary action of reducing energy demand from buildings. Since the adoption of the CEES, the council has won more than £29m in grant funding, allocated Housing Revenue Account, and other capital budgets and delivered domestic and office retrofits for Ealing.
- 2.32. Greening borough homes: the council has made steady progress improving home **energy efficiency** and installing renewable energy across the borough. Council officers successfully bid for £39m of funding for West London to establish programmes to deliver home retrofits at an unprecedented scale. A deep retrofit pilot is nearing completion of 44 council homes, with residents enjoying the benefit of comfort and financial protection from rapidly rising energy bills.
- 2.33. Further funding success has led to £16m of **energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation** projects to retrofit 14 corporate buildings. Work will complete on seven schools, with an additional school to progress significantly along with four sheltered blocks by the time this report is published. Another £13.8m has been awarded to decarbonise three leisure centres and seven schools over the coming year.
- 2.34. On the **food** front, the council is grasping the rewarding task of establishing a food partnership, with an experienced project lead now in place. The food partnership seeks to bring together Ealing's food community to ensure access and choice of healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food across the borough.
- 2.35. The collaborative work of the 20 community organisations initiating the **food partnership** has been recognised in the latest nationwide 'Every Mouthful Counts' report by Sustain, making Ealing one of a small group of local authorities leading the way in supporting and creating more sustainable ways for growing, selling and delivering food in Ealing.

- 2.36. Aligning the climate strategy with **nature** is an important connection point for local residents and staff. In 2022, the council launched a new Biodiversity Action Plan to address the **ecological emergency** to protect and enhance plant and animal diversity locally. The targets match up across both plans, giving the council a clear mandate.
- 2.37. The Council Plan reinforces the important role nature plays in combatting climate change, setting a target of 50,000 trees to be planted by 2026. Ten new parks and open spaces are planned to reintroduce nature to 800,000 m2 of the borough through re-wilding and pioneer 10 new community growing spaces in our housing estates and new developments. The bold target will require partnerships to plant and maintain trees, and invites residents and businesses to host their own trees to expand the urban forest.
- 2.38. One-third of borough emissions relate to the use of fossil-fuelled **travel** in the borough. Encouraging residents and businesses to choose **active travel** is non-negotiable in regard to the climate emergency – and health, despite it being a major behavioural shift for many stakeholders. The hugely successful Schools Streets programme serves as an exemplar project where health, safety and climate benefits meet to serve the community in a multitude of ways. To date, 21 schools have embraced their school streets, which eliminate vehicle traffic around schools at peak times. A further 29 programmes are in the pipeline through 2026. As part of the Southall Reset Programme, the council has also commenced engagement with the Southall community to co-design a significant investment in active travel infrastructure in Southall town centre.
- 2.39. Where it isn't possible to eliminate car **travel**, the council is supporting **electric vehicle charging** infrastructure. Electric vehicles come with their own set of downsides and inequalities, but they are agreed to be a step in the right direction for local air quality and carbon emission reductions. The 450 charging points in the borough exceeds the council's climate target of having every home within a 10-minute walk of a charging point by 2025.
- 2.40. We are supporting the emergence of a **circular economy** in the borough by creating opportunities for the community to reuse, repair and maximise the life of materials. One example of this is the council supported Let's Go Southall project, where volunteers are rescuing abandoned and old bikes, and repairing them to be given to local residents in support of active lifestyles.
- 2.41. **Food waste** is also a core focus of the climate strategy, and a programme to increase access to food waste collection is making steady progress. Teams have successfully rolled out the food waste collection service for flats, and currently 29% of flats in the borough are served with food waste recycling, up from 8% in 2019.

Challenges to delivery

- 2.42. It is important to celebrate the successful delivery of projects by the council and its partners over the last two years. Equally it is necessary to

be candid and transparent about the underlying challenges the council has in delivering its **carbon neutral 2030** pledge and identifying keys to unlocking success in the short term. The update report recognises central government policy direction and funding has a fundamental bearing on the success of the council and its partners meeting the 2030 pledge. To date both the policy direction and the level of committed investment are not sufficient to enable a carbon neutral borough in 2030. Therefore, the Cabinet Member for Climate Action will be writing to government urging them to accelerate investment and legislative changes.

- 2.43. The council will continue delivering on renewed commitment to working with communities, academic institutions, developers, investors, businesses, and civil society to shape new planet-friendly, community-enriching behaviours. Over the next three years, the council will continue working ambitiously with established and emerging partners to deliver the multi-year projects and achieve actions highlighted in the update report.

Key delivery activities 2023-2026

- 2.44. Energy - the council is focused on supporting more schools, households and businesses in the transitions to energy efficiency and replacement of natural gas to renewable energy sources. In support of this, the council aims to:

- Deliver eight retrofits on schools and three leisure centres to reduce energy demand and decarbonise heating. Further energy audits for schools and leisure sites will set out plans to decarbonise heating systems that will enable capital grant bids.
- The Healthy Homes Ealing programme will be fortified to deliver more home visits and energy efficiency measures to residents to help with the cost-of-living crisis.
- Local Plan policies and council projects will underpin the commitment for new buildings to meet zero carbon ambitions. Subject to the statutory Examination in Public (EiP) phase in 2024, the draft new Local Plan will emphasise the council's retrofit first principle requiring applicants to demonstrate that it is essential to demolish and rebuild rather than retrofit. Applicants will also need to demonstrate the future resilience of their buildings both from a durability perspective and from an alternative use perspective to prevent buildings that gain consent today not needing to be demolished in the future.

- 2.45. Food – the council will convene Ealing's food community through a food partnership, focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and bringing greater visibility to healthy, seasonal, local and sustainable food across the borough. Activities in support of this include:

- Lead a food mapping exercise to gain a full understanding of the borough's food system and identify potential physical spaces for siting local food markets.

- Commission a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the Local Plan, covering the full range of green infrastructure assets required for food growing provision.
 - Increase Ealing schools' access to practical food education including site visits, outreach within schools, facilitating the Cultivate Ealing schools' competition, Grow Some Share Some, Growing Kids and Cooking Kids programmes.
 - Pioneer 10 new community growing spaces in our housing estates and new developments.
- 2.46. Nature – the council will strengthen connection with nature by evolving its approach to management and maintenance. Over the next three years the council will:
- Plant 50,000 trees over the four year period, supported by £5 million Tree Planting Programme.
 - Create 10 new parks and open spaces, and rewild 800,000 m2.
 - Electrify 100% of our maintenance equipment by 2025 where equipment is available and fit for purpose.
 - Install sustainable urban drainage systems, flood attenuation and alleviation projects at: Dean Gardens, Belvue Park and Lammas Park and carry out the Glade Lane Sewer daylighting scheme part of the Southall Wellbeing Way.
- 2.47. Travel – the council will be supporting active travel, reducing the use of cars on the roads and supporting Ealing's residents' transition to electric vehicles. In the next three years projects fulfilling this ambition include:
- Ensure school children can actively, and safely, get to 50 of our schools by strengthening and expanding our school streets programme.
 - Install 25 new bike hangers by April 2023, and another 25 by the end of summer. Then install at least 25 more each year to 2026.
 - Expand access to Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCP) by adding 400 EVCP on streets each year, working towards having 2,000 charge points by 2026.
- 2.48. Waste - supporting Ealing residents to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill, projects introduce infrastructure across the borough to accelerate the model where residents fix, reuse, upcycle and recycle. Actions supporting this transition include:
- Trial a new approach for food and commercial waste collections to increase efficiency and minimise the CO2 emissions of the fleet.
 - Support the circular economy with a neighbourhood approach to waste minimisation and opening Ealing's first Library of Things. These projects aim to inspire positive behaviour change, where the community will consume differently, waste less and reuse, repair, share and recycle more.

- Investigate the potential of the whole life assessment in the borough, for those carbon emissions resulting from the construction and the use of a building over its entire life, including its demolition and disposal.

Supporting successful delivery

- 2.49. Corporate governance processes supporting the delivery of the strategy will be refreshed to ensure it remains a cross-cutting priority and aligns with Council Plan. The Strategic Director of Economy and Sustainability will assume the role of strategic sponsor and will hold the organisation to account and ensure council actions set an example for external partners and communities.
- 2.50. The Council will ensure efficiencies and collaborative opportunities are identified and acted upon, and council budgets and services are aligned to achieve the CEES actions. Further, the establishment of an internal governance board will signal executive commitment and accountability for the success of the strategic goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Cross-council steering groups who co-developed the strategy will be re-engaged to help ensure the successful delivery of the strategy.
- 2.51. The council's work on building retrofits will be brought together in an "Ealing retrofit programme". This will bring efficiency and coherence to the work of strategic property, housing asset management, the schools project delivery unit, facilities management and climate action teams. It provides the opportunity to utilise learning from past projects, bid and tender collectively and resource project delivery most effectively.
- 2.52. The Local Planning Authority also has an important role to play in promoting the retrofit agenda. Future planning applications will be evaluated against a retrofit first principle requiring applicants to demonstrate the necessity to demolish rather than retain and refurbish. Where the case is made to demolish buildings, applicants will be encouraged to reuse materials from existing buildings. Furthermore, in order to mitigate future demolitions applications for new buildings will be required to demonstrate both their durability and future adaptability.

Staff engagement on climate action

- 2.53. In autumn 2022, the climate action and sustainability team conducted a staff survey to measure the awareness of climate change and understanding of sustainability in the workplace. Results indicated 83% of officers are concerned about climate change. This suggests an sympathetic audience who, given appropriate tools and training, can support the council in effectively delivering the CEES.
- 2.54. However, only 12.8% of officers said they are aware of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. Officers also highlighted the responsibility of managers and directors in delivering sustainable services. These findings support better internal communication and engagement with staff

and leadership to ensure they have the knowledge and skills to deliver on the council's climate change priority.

- 2.55. To address the potential for staff engagement and the current gap in knowledge, the council will take up a highly relevant, accessible, specialised training, e.g. carbon literacy, available to all staff. It will be especially important for senior leadership and members to become early adopters.
- 2.56. To increase the awareness of the strategy, the climate action and sustainability team is implementing a new internal programme offering opportunities to learn new skills and network with others: Be the Solution. As part of the programme, the current sustainability induction course has been updated with practical examples of what staff can do to take action on climate change. The team also created a new Be the Solution space on OneSpace, providing more accessible and bite-size knowledge about climate change and sustainability. Lastly, a Teams space for officers interested in connecting and networking with others has been launched.

Carbon emissions data

- 2.57. The council's climate strategy sets out a plan to reduce carbon emissions as an organisation and outlines a commitment to use its influence to reduce emissions emitted across the borough to become carbon neutral. It's essential to look at these numbers to understand the impact of council policies and projects in Ealing and to understand their limitations.
- 2.58. Two data sets track emission reductions providing data sets to help the council quantify impact:
- The borough-wide emissions, which track trends related to produced carbon emissions reductions the council has influenced, especially in the areas of transport and home energy use.
 - The council's greenhouse gas reporting quantifies produced emissions from council operations.
- 2.59. The borough-wide baseline data for the climate strategy comes from the 2020 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) Local Authority carbon emissions estimates (Figure 4). Data show reductions related to the council's influence and support as a regulator or convener. The objective is to reduce the overall borough emissions from this 2020 baseline figure of approximately 1m tonnes CO₂e. This data set is produced annually by the government, two years retrospectively.

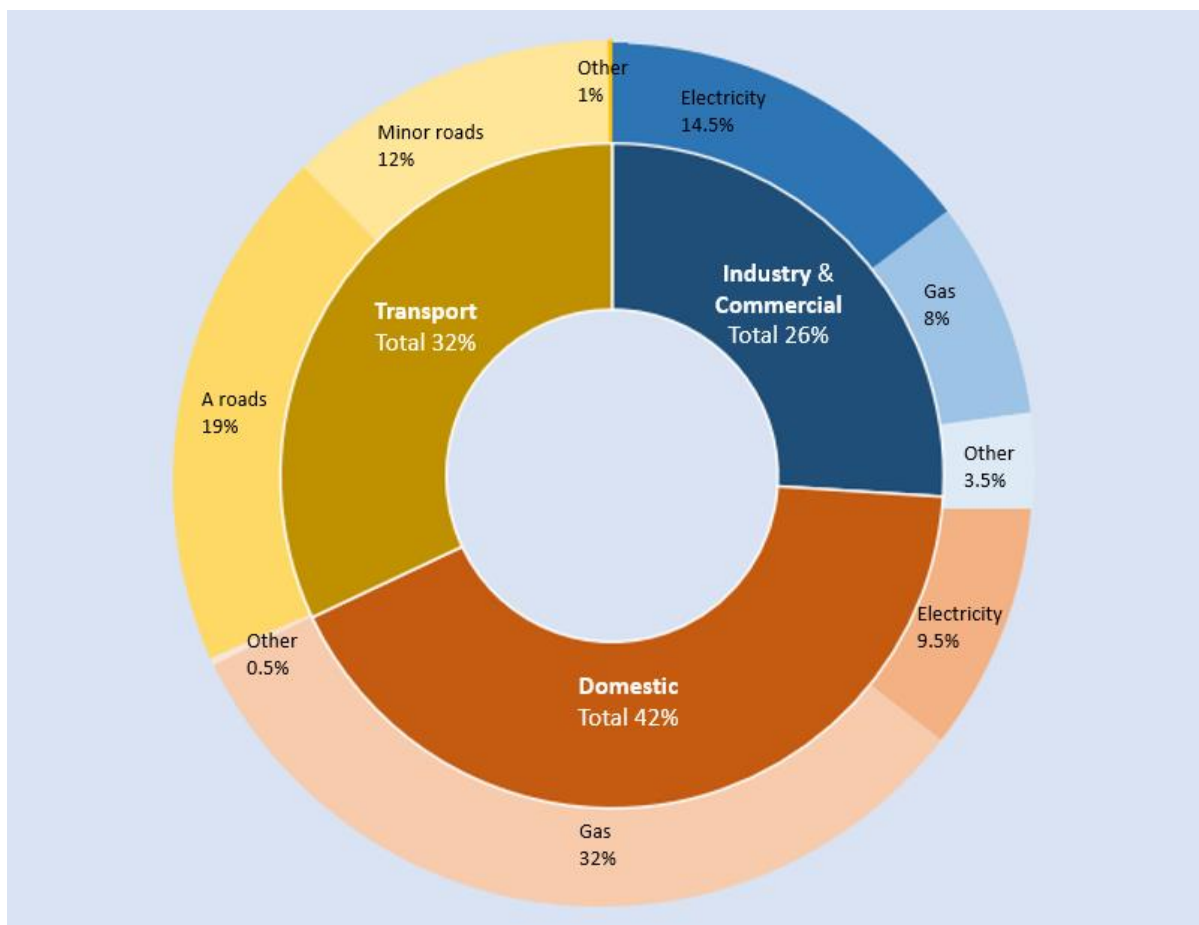


Figure 4. BEIS Ealing annual carbon emissions estimates: 1,008,700 tonnes CO₂e

2.60. The second data set focuses on the areas and projects where the council has direct control over activities and resources. The council's annual greenhouse gas emissions report tracks progress against the strategy's overall goal of achieving carbon neutral status by 2030. Figure 5 shows the downward trend of carbon emissions originating from council operations.

<u>Element of Footprint</u>	<u>Reporting Year (tonnes CO₂e)</u>			
	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
<u>Grid Electricity</u>	<u>3,892.47</u>	<u>3,265.89</u>	<u>1,874.73</u>	<u>2,090.55</u>
<u>Natural Gas</u>	<u>1,274.23</u>	<u>1,446.96</u>	<u>1,342.85</u>	<u>1,263.10</u>
<u>Council Fleet Vehicles</u>	<u>242.45</u>	<u>221.03</u>	<u>190.18</u>	<u>137.59</u>
<u>Business use of personal vehicles</u>	<u>55.78</u>	<u>98.28</u>	<u>45.37</u>	<u>45.39</u>
<u>Water – supply & treatment</u>	<u>101.88</u>	<u>101.88</u>	<u>138.09</u>	<u>22.09</u>
<u>Total Emissions (tCO₂e)</u>	<u>5,566.81</u>	<u>5,134.03</u>	<u>3,591.21</u>	<u>3,558.72</u>

- 2.61. Officers are currently improving data quality to further the understanding of baseline data and achieve better prediction of changes to emissions in the future. The analysis is currently focused on understanding the impacts of home working and other business changes including vehicle use since the pandemic shifted behaviours. It is generally agreed that while office carbon emissions show a falling trend, the emissions produced by employee households would have increased due to flexible working arrangements.

3. Key Implications

- 3.1 The CEES aligns council actions with national and regulatory requirements, whilst demonstrating ambitious and progressive leadership on this critical agenda.
- 3.2 Without the adoption of a Strategy and the implementation of an Action Plan, the council will not meet its 2030 carbon neutral pledge and will not make its necessary contribution to ensuring that global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- 3.3 Prioritising council resources to deliver the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy will deliver the following expected benefits:
 - Reputational benefits for demonstrating leadership in the borough through robust and consistent climate and biodiversity policies, projects and services
 - Reduction in the council's and borough carbon emissions
 - Protected and enhanced biodiversity within the borough
 - Improved health and wellbeing of residents that will help reduce the council's budget spend on health and social care
 - Increase resilience, social and economic, of Ealing's diverse communities to future shocks and the ongoing cost of living crisis
- 3.4 Utilising grant funding, complemented by the council's capital budgets, to deliver a holistic and cross cutting Ealing retrofit programme on both private sector homes and the council's own corporate buildings deliver multiple benefits including:
 - Financial savings to residents and the council through reduced energy and building maintenance costs
 - Demonstrating leadership in the borough with energy saving projects
 - Development of local case studies
 - Positive changes in staff behaviour at work, which could also lead to positive changes in behaviour outside work
 - Reduced cold-related ill health (excess winter deaths and winter hospital admissions)

- The growth of the Green Economy, supporting economic recovery and renewal through the skills agenda so residents can access good quality and secure employment

4. Financial

- 4.1 Recent work has been undertaken to understand the costs and beneficial impacts arising from the delivery of activities supporting the CEES. A tool has been developed that assesses projects against fifteen environmental, economic and social criteria to understand the impact of each project. It allows officers to input project cost data and relative carbon savings to derive an impact score.
- 4.2 The outputs have many uses, including offering a potential prioritisation metric and identifying where efficiencies and impact can be strengthened. This information can also be used to establish funding options including mainstreaming and re-purposing of existing budgets, as well as accessing grants, other funding streams and the use of prudential borrowing to the extent that this is affordable. It is proposed that the tool becomes part of the decision-making process on delivering the CEES going forward, with its use and effectiveness reviewed as part of future governance structures.
- 4.3 Any additional resource requirements (either revenue or capital) flowing from the strategy not already contained within the existing budget and MTFS will need to be considered within the budget and MTFS process in the medium to longer term. There will be close working between the service and finance to ensure that the strategy is closely aligned to financial planning going forward. Budget impacts in the shorter term will be considered on a project by project basis and brought to Cabinet in line with financial regulations.

5. Legal

- 5.1. The Climate Change Act 2008 is the basis for the UK's approach to tackling and responding to climate change. It requires that emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases be reduced and that climate change risks are prepared for. The Act also establishes the framework to deliver on these requirements.
- 5.2. The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050.

6. Value For Money

- 6.1. One aim of the Strategy will be to quantify the projects and policies delivering the best value over the long term and making strategic investment.
- 6.2. Best value will not always mean the lowest short-term financial cost to the council, but it will deliver the greatest benefit to residents, the environment and the local economy over the medium to long term. As part of the final strategy, officers have identified co-benefits of working on the climate

change agenda, especially be health, biodiversity, community cohesion, housing and/or avoided future costs.

- 6.3. When planning for projects and programmes of work, value for money will be driven by the selection of contractors on the basis of Most Economically Advantageous Tender where the successful contractor is selected on the basis of both price and quality. All contracts will be procured under the council's Contract Procedure Rules, applied as appropriate to the value of contract. In many cases the contract value will exceed the £500,000 threshold and requires full Cabinet approval.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

- 7.1. In response to the council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency and commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, Ealing Council has made a commitment to deliver and enable the delivery of projects, policies and services that support its climate commitments enshrined in the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1. The most pressing risk is that of the council missing its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. There are several external factors contributing to this risk, including a hostile and challenging delivery environment tied to inflation and skills and labour shortages in key green economy sectors. The strategy itself was deliberately ambitious when it was adopted, and while the council has demonstrated many delivery successes summarised in this report, the compounded pressures faced today have made delivery particularly challenging, requiring a new approach.
- 8.2. This paper proposes mitigation in the form of a renewed governance structure and decision-making frameworks that embed and persistently reinforce climate action as a council priority. The cross-cutting leadership board will ensure delivery resources – teams and funding, and the council operating model are fully aligned to deliver the ambitions of Council Plan and the climate strategy.

9. Community Safety

- 9.1 None

10. Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough

- 10.1 The council's administration has three key priorities for Ealing. They are:
- *Creating Good Jobs* - the "green economy" is a growing sector of London's economy, with the market growing 90% in the decade leading to 2017/18. The CEES creates opportunities for job creation and should be used to invite job growth in low carbon, renewable energy, and environmental sub-sectors.
 - *Tackling the Climate Crisis* –The CEES addresses the priority directly.

- *Fighting Inequality* – with its emphasis on active travel and green spaces the CEES is foundational to tackling health inequalities. Improved air quality and access to mental health enhancing open spaces will benefit Ealing residents. The CEES also addresses running costs of homes when delivering retrofit, and on account of design choices that improve energy efficiency and the health of residents.

11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

- 11.1 Equalities Analysis Assessment considers Equalities implications of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy. [EAA Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, 2021 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/eaa-climate-and-ecological-emergency-strategy-2021)

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

None

13. Property and Assets

- 13.1 The Public Sector Decarbonisation retrofit programme aims to improve both the energy performance and physical environment of council corporate properties. The energy efficiency upgrades can mean 100% funded projects as a result of successful grant awards. Well executed retrofits result in renewed assets, which are likely to require less maintenance and associated costs. The reduction in energy demand translates to cost avoidance, particularly during this turbulent time for energy pricing.

14. Any other implications:

None

15. Consultation

None

16. Timetable for Implementation

The council's commitment is to become carbon neutral by 2030.

17. Appendices

Appendix 1. Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Progress Report, 2023.

Appendix 2. Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy Targets, 2021

18. Background Information

- 18.1 Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy, adopted January 2021: https://www.ealing.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/15879/climate_and_ecological_emergency_strategy_2021-2030.pdf

Consultation

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent to consultee	Date response received	Comments appear in paragraph:
Internal				
Connor McDonagh	Assistant Director, Economic Growth	27/3/23	27/3/23	Throughout
Cllr Deirdre Costigan	Cabinet Member for Climate Action	28/3/23	28/04/23	Throughout
Sandra Fryer	Interim Strategic Director, Growth and Sustainability	28/3/23	05/04/23	Throughout
Maddy Gupta-Write	Consultant in Public Health	31/3/23	31/3/23	2.12-2.21
Adam Whalley	Assistant Director Capital Investment Programme	12/4/23		
Jessica Tamayao	Assistant Director of Strategic Property and Investment	12/4/23		
Martin Shaw	HRA Capital Programme Manager	12/4/23		
Peter George	Strategic Director, Growth and Sustainability		20/4/23	Throughout
Rusell Dyer	Head of Accountancy	12/4/23	25/4/23	Section 4
Jackie Adams	Head of Legal	12/4/23	24/4/23	Section 5

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
For information	No
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:
	First and surname, job title