

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE</b> Climate Action Plan – Annual Review 2022/23	
<b>REPORT OF</b> Director of Environment and Sustainability	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO</b> Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee	<b>DATE</b> 06 February 2024
<b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b> <p>Camden Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and committed to do all that we can to help tackle the climate crisis. The Climate Action Plan 2020-2025 was developed to set a vision for climate action across the borough. The Climate Action Plan committed to an annual review to share progress on the actions completed and include new actions developed in response to completed feasibility work or new regional or national policy.</p> <p>This report provides a summary of the 2022/23 annual review (the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review), which shows that 98% of all Climate Action Plan actions have either been completed or are in delivery. An update on greenhouse gas emission reductions has also been provided, showing that borough wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen by 45% since 2005, while emissions from our own estate and operations are 59% lower since 2010. The report also highlights key progress updates on all actions and explores examples of climate action taking place in the community and among the Council's own operations.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b></p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officers:</b></p> <p>Maggie Tapa, Sustainability Officer  5 Pancras Square,  London, N1C 4AG  <a href="mailto:maggie.tapa@camden.gov.uk">maggie.tapa@camden.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Harold Garner – Head of Sustainability, Air Quality and Energy  5 Pancras Square,  London, N1C 4AG  020 7974 2701</p>	

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee considers and comments on the report and the Climate Action Plan Annual Review 2022/23.

Signed:

  
Richard Bradbury, Director of Environment and Sustainability

Date: 24th January 2024

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the progress of delivery of the Council's Climate Action Plan, after the publication of [the third annual review](#), marking three years since the Plan was adopted by Cabinet.
- 1.2. The report sets out the background to the Climate Action Plan and provides an update on greenhouse gas emissions reduction across Camden. The report also provides an overview of progress against the agreed actions in the Climate Action Plan and explores some examples of climate action projects across the community and the Council's own estate and operations.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In 2019, the Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and committed to do "everything we can" to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Camden to 'net-zero' by 2030. The resulting Climate Action Plan sets out a borough-wide vision for a net-zero Camden.
- 2.2. The Council has influence over approximately 1/3 of greenhouse gas emissions in Camden. More than half of the emissions reductions required rely on people and businesses choosing 'low-carbon' solutions locally<sup>1</sup>. In acknowledgement of the Council's role in emission reduction, Camden held a Citizens' Assembly to allow residents with a broad range of experiences and backgrounds to develop an approach for how businesses, community groups, and citizens could collectively take climate action, and how the Council could help facilitate this.
- 2.3. The recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly helped to shape the resulting Climate Action Plan. The plan strikes a balance between the need to act quickly to reduce carbon emissions in Camden, while ensuring that the transition to a low carbon Camden does not have adverse social and economic impacts on residents given that the cost of a zero carbon Camden exceeds £10 billion – please see [Carbon scenarios to 2030](#) for further detail.
- 2.4. The Climate Action Plan sets out our shared approach for mitigating the causes of climate change locally across four vision areas: People, Places, Buildings and Organisations. The structure, developed from the Citizens' Assembly recommendations, responds to the need for: behaviour change by citizens to live more sustainably; the public realm to facilitate sustainable travel choices and increase greening, reduced direct emissions from energy use in homes and commercial buildings, and for organisations such as the Council and other key institutions to lead by example in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.5. The Climate Action Plan was adopted in 2020 and committed to report annually on progress. The third annual review provides an evaluation of

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<sup>1</sup> Both statistics are from the [Committee on Climate Change's sixth carbon budget review](#), and the role local authorities play in this.

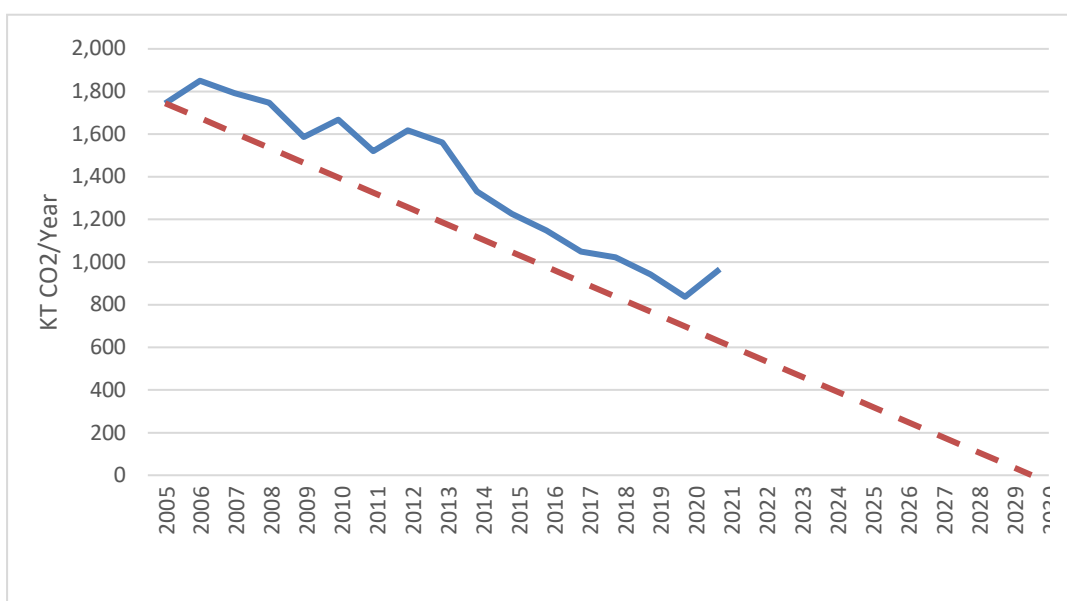
progress of all live actions at the beginning of 2022/23. The review also sets out six new actions that have been added to the programme. Highlights of action from across the community are also provided for the four vision areas.

- 2.6. The Climate Action Plan continues to be supported by Camden's Climate Citizen Panel. The panel of fifteen residents meet quarterly to help shape the development of projects within the Climate Action Plan. In the interests of transparency, the work of the Citizen Panel is publicly available at <https://www.camden.gov.uk/citizen-panel>. The establishment of the panel was a direct recommendation of the Citizens' Assembly.
- 2.7. In November 2023, Camden also published its first two-year Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. The publication of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan was an agreed 2023 action in the Climate Action Plan and has been produced to improve our understanding of climate hazards while devising a set of activities to improve the borough's resilience to them. The plan was informed by a public consultation on climate readiness along with outputs from a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Data review conducted by Arup in 2023. The Climate Citizen Panel also supported the design and communications approach for the plan at their meeting in July 2023. The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan is provided in Appendix 2.

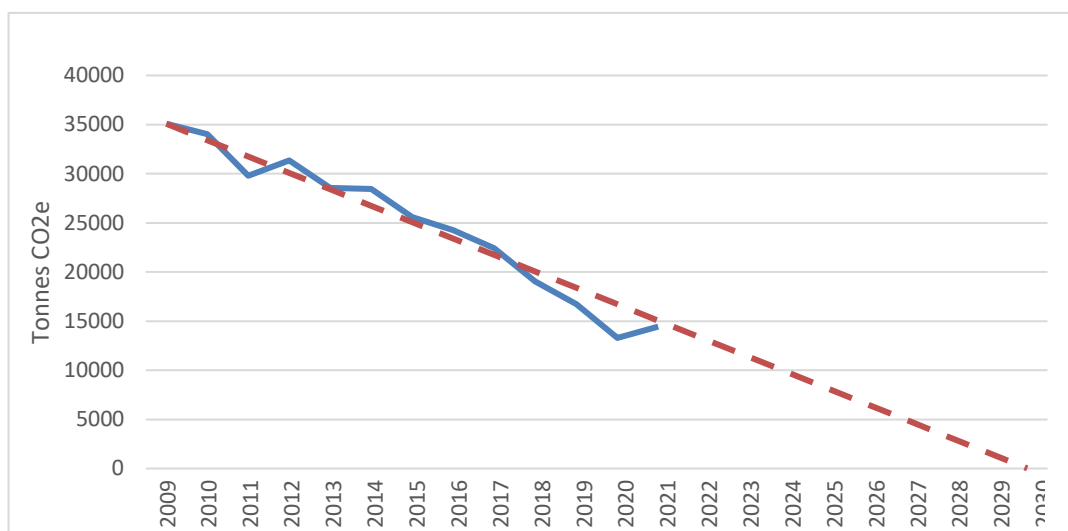
### **3. CARBON REDUCTION PROGRESS**

- 3.1. The key measure of progress against the Climate Action Plan is the level of borough wide greenhouse gas emissions (hereafter CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). The Council's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across our own corporate buildings and operations are also measured annually to capture organisational progress.
- 3.2. Borough wide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have fallen by 45% since the baseline year of 2005 (Figure 1). Reporting of borough wide emissions is completed annually by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero annually but is published 18-months after year end, with 2021 therefore being the most recent reporting year.
- 3.3. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our own estate and operations (excluding Council housing) are 59% lower (2020/21) than the 2010/11 baseline financial year (Figure 2). Emissions of our own estate and operations are calculated using energy use data from the Council's corporate buildings, schools and fleet.
- 3.4. The transition back to normality following the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 is reflected in this most recent emissions data. 2021/22 emissions have risen when compared to the previous reporting year in 2020/21. The increase is consistent with national trends, with 96% of local authorities experiencing an increase in emissions between 2020 and 2021.

**Figure 1: Borough-wide territorial CO2 emissions**



**Figure 2: Camden Council Own Estate and Operations – territorial CO2 emissions**



#### 4. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – PERFORMANCE DATA

4.1. Since its adoption, 98% of all Climate Action Plan actions have either been completed or are in delivery. The third annual review measures progress against the 72 current actions in the Climate Action Plan using an indicator developed by the Climate Change Committee<sup>2</sup>. The third annual review shows that ten actions have been achieved, two have been partly achieved, with 60 actions in delivery.

<sup>2</sup>Climate Change Committee – Progress Report to Parliament: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2022-progress-report-to-parliament/>

- 4.2. Of the 60 actions underway, 52 of these are performing well and on track to deliver. The remaining eight have been delayed or are facing barriers to delivery. A further six new actions have been added to reflect the changing nature of the climate programme.
- 4.3. **Table 1** outlines the key metrics that are reported on for each Annual Review. It is not possible to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> reduction impacts of each action, as many of the benefits will be realised through low-carbon behaviour change or will reduce emissions outside of the borough boundary. The metrics provide an update on some of the measurable programmes of work that help to facilitate carbon reduction across the borough.
- 4.4. Strong progress has been made in many of the plan's KPIs, including a 70% increase in the number of Electric Vehicle charging points and a 218% increase in carbon reduction achieved through energy efficiency programmes such as the Camden Climate Fund and Solar Together when compared to data presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual review.

**Table 1: Summary of progress metrics from the Climate Action Plan second annual review 2021-22.**

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Reporting year</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Change on previous year</b>
Percentage of council owned homes with a SAP rating of C or above	2022/23	68%	N/A (new metric)
Estimated private sector carbon reduction from Council led energy efficiency programmes (Including the Camden Climate Fund, Solar Together and others)	2022/23	500 Tonnes CO2e	218%
Average collective carbon reduction from Camden Climate Alliance members	2022/23	22%	-2%
Percentage of Camden's fleet comprised of low/zero emission vehicles	2022/23	19%	+2.5%
Total signatories to the Camden Climate Pledge and Schools Climate Charter	to August 2023	59	+5%
Percentage of Camden Council's pension fund that is divested from fossil fuels	2022/23	98%	No change
Number of Camden Climate Change Alliance members	2022	428	+3%
Number of visits to Camden Council's 'what can you do' Climate Crisis webpages	to August 2023	819	+5%
Percentage of the Borough covered by low-traffic neighbourhoods.	to July 2023	20%	No change
Total length of protected cycle routes installed	2022/23	29km	+14%
Total number of EV charging points on Camden streets	2022/23	560	+70%
Total number of trees planted by Camden Council	2022/23	1718	+54%

## **5. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN REVIEW 2022/23 – CLIMATE ACTION HIGHLIGHTS**

5.1. The annual review provides a summary of some of the highlights of delivery by the Council and across the community. The following sections provide some examples from the Annual Review, with the full breadth of activity available in **Appendix 1**.

## 5.2. People

- 5.2.1. **Somers Town Future Neighbourhoods:** Camden and the Somers Town community won £3M from the Mayor of London's Future Neighbourhoods 2030 programme, with over £3M of additional funding secured from local partners to deliver a sustainable neighbourhood in the area. Launched in March 2022, the programme has already created 15 temporary green jobs, facilitated the retrofit of 30 homes to improve their energy efficiency and supported the development of over 200m<sup>2</sup> of green spaces across estates. A new online engagement platform has also been created to share progress and celebrate achievements.
- 5.2.2. **Continued support for community climate action:** Camden have been working closely with community organisations including Think & Do to deliver community events to help tackle the climate crisis through promoting circular economy initiatives, sustainable food and knowledge transfer. This includes the F.E.S.T (Fix, eat, swap and talk) and sharing spaces, taking place across housing estates and underused halls in London. Over 1,000 residents attended a sharing space in 2022-23.
- 5.2.3. **Sharing economy initiatives:** In 2022, Camden's Library of Things Kentish Town celebrated its first birthday and a new Library of Things opened in Kilburn Library. Over 2,290 borrows have now taken place from the Library of Things reporting 27.6 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved and 13.9 tonnes of waste prevented. The Fixing Factory electrical repair shop, which opened in October 2022 on Queen's Crescent, has now supported over 400 residents to repair electrical items with over 200 items now back in use.

## 5.3. Places

- 5.3.1. **Sustainable transport:** The number of electric vehicle charging points in Camden increased to 560 during 2022/23, a 70% increase from the previous reporting year. In addition, 300 cycle hangars in Camden and over 29km of protected cycle routes had also been installed by the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review.
- 5.3.2. **Safe and Healthy Streets expansion:** In 2022/23, the Savernake Safe and Healthy Streets scheme was delivered to restrict vehicle traffic, extend the pavement, and add new trees and planting space, supporting both community health and climate resilience outcomes in the area. At the end of 2022-23, there were over 30 Healthy School Streets in Camden with an additional six schools that had traffic restrictions in place over Autumn.
- 5.3.3. **Tree planting and greening:** In 2022/23 a total of 600 trees were planted by Camden Council, 61 more than in 2021/22. Third parties, including the Communi-trees project, planted a further 83 trees and 500 whips. Camden's nature conservation Green Gym, which supports resident participation in managing wildlife and green spaces in Camden, celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022/23, and has now delivered 5,154 hours of volunteering.



5.3.4. **Broader public realm improvements:** The £2.3M Princes Circus Scheme was completed in 2022-23, transforming the area into a traffic free public square. The project has led to improved pedestrian and cyclist safety with widened pavements, seating, a new pedestrian crossing and safer walking and cycling routes. Following a review of the Council's pilot parklet programme, Camden is establishing a permanent programme in 2023-24 to repurpose more parking spaces across Camden into green spaces.

## 5.4. Buildings

5.4.1. **Corporate building and school energy efficiency:** Camden completed a comprehensive £3.7M energy efficiency retrofit of Swiss Cottage Library in 2023. The project included the installation of improved glazing, insulation, lighting, low carbon heating upgrades and will save an estimated 138 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. Energy efficiency projects at both Acland Burgley and Eleanor Palmer Schools were also completed, reducing emissions from both buildings by 45 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

5.4.2. **Housing retrofit programme:** With support from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, Camden commenced two major retrofit projects at 5-7 Belsize Grove and Brookes Court in 2023. Works include the installation of improved window glazing, insulation, and Solar PV, with additional retrofit works planned for a further 27 street properties in 2023-24. A further £3.1M was secured from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund in March 2023 to retrofit approximately 280 of our least energy efficient homes.

5.4.3. In 2022-23 Camden extended the Somers Town Energy network to Brill Place Tower, to allow more residents to benefit from a low carbon energy source.

5.4.4. **Sustainable infrastructure and developments:** In 2022-23, 221m<sup>3</sup> of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) capacity was approved through planning applications, the equivalent to the size of 1.3 Olympic swimming pools. Camden also conducted 320 Sustainability surgery appointments, providing written comments on 112 major planning applications and providing 79 Statutory Lead Local Flood Authority planning responses.

## 5.5. Organisations

5.5.1. **Climate action among businesses:** Camden Climate Alliance (CCA) business all time membership now stands at 428, with organisations reporting average annual carbon reduction of 22%. In 2022/23, Camden expanded its support offering for businesses through securing £640,789 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The Fund will support 125 more businesses in Camden and Brent to develop realistic plans to decarbonise and achieve net-zero.

5.5.2. The CCA also works to link local businesses with community-led climate projects through the Climate Connectors programme, which has been

renewed for 2023/24. In 2022/23, more than £27,000 in funding from businesses, £5,000 in corporate volunteering time and 239 hours were volunteered to support climate projects among schools and community groups.

- 5.6. **Climate action in schools:** Camden continues to support climate action among schools through the CCA and Climate Connectors programme. In 2023, we held a Dragon's Den style event enabling primary students from seven schools to pitch climate project ideas to businesses. Successful projects include a Kentish Town primary school, which received a £500 grant after pitching their idea to build a fruit garden on school grounds.
- 5.7. **Staff and community engagement in the Climate Action Plan:** Following the conclusion of the first two years of the Climate Citizen Panel, Camden recruited its second cohort in early 2023 to ensure continued resident participation in the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. The panel is comprised of residents from across the borough and they participated in two panel meetings during 2022-23. The Council also held its first Staff Environment Day in 2023 to bring together council staff to explain the climate related changes to Camden's Constitution and to promote the Climate Action Plan and Camden's new Environmental stewardship training.

## 6. FINANCE COMMENTS

- 6.1. The report provides a summary of the 2022/23 annual review of the Council's Climate Action Plan.
- 6.2. The Director of Finance has been consulted and has no finance comments to add.

## 7. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1. Legal comments have been incorporated into the body of the report.

## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Camden Climate Action Plan outlines how the Council will help to tackle the climate crisis by cutting greenhouse gas emissions in Camden, a key environmental issue. The Plan and subsequent annual reviews therefore have inherently positive environmental implications.
- 8.2. In addition to climate impacts, the actions with the Plan have a positive impact on biodiversity. Projects delivered through the Climate Action Plan and monitored through the annual review include increasing tree planting across the borough as well as the delivery of a nature recovery network as set out in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- 8.3. There will also be positive impacts on local air quality through the delivery of some actions within the Climate Action Plan. Gas boilers are the second-largest source of pollution, contributing 42% of NO<sub>2</sub> and 9% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in

Camden. Road vehicles are the main source of air pollution in Camden, contributing 31% of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions and 20% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions in the borough. The Climate Action Plan seeks to eliminate the use of combustible fuels for vehicles and heating systems in Camden and therefore has strong co-benefits for improving local air quality.

## **9. APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX 1 – CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23**

**APPENDIX 2 – CAMDEN CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN**

**REPORT ENDS**