

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Climate Action Plan 2026 – 2030 (SC/2025/50)	
REPORT OF Cabinet Member for Planning and a Sustainable Camden	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee Cabinet	DATE 8 December 2025 10 December 2025
STRATEGIC CONTEXT <p>The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 supports the Council’s We Make Camden vision for a Camden community working to address our shared challenges. The Climate Action Plan supports the We Make Camden aim of creating a Camden which tackles injustice and inequality; ensures everyone has a safe place they call home; and creates a green, clean, vibrant, accessible, and sustainable place.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan specifically supports the We Make Camden Missions and Challenges, notably the Estates and Neighbourhood Mission for Camden’s estates and their neighbourhoods to be healthy, sustainable and unlock creativity and the Food Mission to help transform the local food system and support access to affordable and sustainable food, and the Challenge that “Camden’s local economy tackles the climate emergency” by creating the enabling conditions for environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth.</p>	
SUMMARY OF REPORT <p>This report provides Cabinet with the opportunity to consider and approve the Climate Action Plan 2026-30. The report details how the draft Climate Action Plan 2026-30 builds on the last Climate Action Plan 2020-25 and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan 2023-25 to provide a complete response to the climate crisis – one that focuses on tackling the climate crisis and building resilience to its impacts in a way that supports Camden’s ambition to reduce social, economic and health inequalities and addresses the everyday needs of the community. It is the product of an extensive public engagement exercise which continued the approach established by Camden’s 2019 Citizens’ Assembly on the climate crisis, which placed citizens at the heart of the policy design and decision making.</p> <p>The report provides a brief overview of the Climate Action Plan 2026-30, explaining how it responds to the engagement and consultation process by designing outcomes and actions around seven priority areas. The report also summarises the consultation, which concluded with strong support for the new Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>The report highlights the Council’s role as a leader and enabler of climate action, recognising that while the Council has control over one-third of borough-wide emissions, it can create the enabling conditions for environmentally sustainable investment and growth in Camden that supports our zero-carbon ambition whilst</p>	

protecting those most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis.

At the request of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee, the report also appends the 2023-24 Annual Review of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25. The annual review was due to be considered by the Committee in February 2024 but was deferred on the basis that it would be included in this report for information.

Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information

No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report:

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RECOMMENDATIONS

The Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report and make any recommendations to Cabinet and note the 2023-24 Annual Review of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25 in Appendix 4

Cabinet

That having considered the engagement set out in section 5 and the Equalities Impact Assessment in Appendix 2 and having due regard to the needs set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Cabinet:

1. Approves the Climate Action Plan 2026 - 2030 in Appendix 1.
2. Notes that subject to 3, the Climate Action Plan will be delivered under existing delegations to officers set out in the Constitution
3. Should existing delegations to officers set out in the Constitution not cover the actions and steps required to put the plan into effect delegates authority to the Executive Director Investment, Place and Opportunity to take formal decisions following consultation with the relevant Cabinet member to authorise projects outlined under the seven programme themes of the Climate Action Plan to expedite delivery.



Signed:

Richard Bradbury, Director of Environment and Sustainability

Date: 27 November 2025

1. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the adoption of the Climate Action Plan 2026 – 2030. The proposed Climate Action Plan supports the delivery of the We Make Camden “Missions” and “Challenges” and will help to provide the enabling conditions for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth in Camden.
- 1.2. At the request of the Culture and Environment Scrutiny Committee, this report also appends the 2023-2024 Annual Review of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25. The annual review was due to be considered by the Committee in February 2024, but it was deferred on the basis that it would be included in this report for information.
- 1.3. In 2019, Camden declared a “climate emergency” and held the UK’s first Citizens’ Assembly on the climate crisis. The Citizens’ Assembly concluded with seventeen policy recommendations for how Camden and its community should respond to the climate crisis. The recommendations formed the foundation for Camden’s Climate Action Plan 2020-25, which was approved by Cabinet in June 2020, and which expires this year. Prior to its adoption in 2020, the Council also set an ambition for Camden to “do everything it can to be a zero-carbon borough by 2030”.
- 1.4. Given that the cost of achieving a zero carbon Camden exceeds £10 billion over business as usual life-cycle replacement costs, and that the Council only has control or influence over approximately one third of emissions in Camden, the Climate Action Plan 2020-25 was designed to set a vision for climate action across the borough, where businesses, community groups, and citizens were empowered to share in the endeavour of addressing the climate crisis.
- 1.5. As the Climate Action Plan 2020-25 concludes, carbon dioxide emissions have reduced across the Council’s own estate and operations by 64.5% since 2010 (excluding Housing) with the support of our corporate retrofit programme, and borough wide emissions have reduced by 52%.
- 1.6. The Council continues to focus on and challenge itself in its response to the climate crisis. This was demonstrated most recently through the Full Council debate in September 2025 on ‘becoming a circular economy borough’ which showed the strength of the Council’s commitment to the climate emergency and the openness to scrutiny.
- 1.7. The Climate Action Plan 2020-25 has also led to unprecedented levels of community-led climate action and leadership across Camden, while attracting over £35 million of external grant funding to develop the programme. The Mayor of London funded Somers Town Future Neighbourhood 2030 programme, Government financed energy efficiency projects at Swiss Cottage Library, Talacre Leisure Centre and Acland Burghley school, as well as our community energy partnership with Power Up North London being notable examples.
- 1.8. Despite the successes of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25, the Council’s 2024-25 Climate Budget, published as part of our 2025-26 Council Tax Setting report highlights that there is an estimated £900m funding gap to decarbonise the

Council's estate, while the goal of a zero carbon borough remains beyond the financial and operational reach of the Council for the reasons stated in 1.4.

- 1.9. Despite progress on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, the last five years have seen Camden experience climate impacts with flooding in 2021/22 and summer heatwave events, including 40-degree temperatures in 2022, with the impacts particularly affecting lower income households and residents with health conditions. At the same time, the 2025 Institute of Health Equity study for RAISE Camden, a taskforce to address child poverty and children's health, co-chaired by Councillor Richard Olszewski, leader of the Council, and Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Director of the Institute of Health Equity at University College London, highlighted how health and income inequalities have widened across Camden, suggesting that vulnerability to climate hazards may increase.
- 1.10. Camden's climate programme has already begun to shift focus towards building the borough's resilience to climate risks, through the Council's 2023-25 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan and Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022-27, however Camden's infrastructure, buildings and communities remain vulnerable.
- 1.11. Shaped by over five months of community and business engagement, the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 represents the continuation of the citizen informed approach to climate action in Camden.
- 1.12. The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 proposes a refreshed framework for how the Council, communities and local organisations should work together over the next five years to help tackle and prepare for the climate crisis. It also proposes to create the enabling conditions for growth that protects those most vulnerable to a changing climate. In summary, Camden must not only further reduce greenhouse gas emissions but also help to build the borough's resilience to the impacts of a changing climate in a way that improves the lives of residents, strengthens community resilience, and reduces social, economic and health inequalities.

2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS

- 2.1. This report proposes that the Council adopts the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 presented in Appendix 1. The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 is the product of an extensive engagement process, the aim of which was to keep residents at the centre of climate policy design and decision-making with a view to creating a plan that reflects the lived experiences, priorities and ideas of Camden's community.
- 2.2. The process began in December 2024 and concluded with a resident focused Community Climate Action Day in April 2025, and a business and community organisation focused We Make Camden Summit workshop in May 2025.
- 2.3. From December 2024 to March 2025, place-based 'Community Conversations' took place with over 145 residents, targeting those most at risk to the impacts of climate change including young people, residents living in higher flood- and heat-risk areas, and those facing health and economic vulnerabilities. This included trialling a new interactive engagement tool to support residents to more easily

understand how climate policies may be suitable for their local area, developed by University College London and NESTA, a UK's innovation charity working to test and scale new solutions to societal challenges such as the climate crisis.

- 2.4. In addition, the Council hosted a Youth Climate Summit in February 2025 where seventy secondary school pupils reflected on the recommendations from the original Citizens' Assembly from a young person's perspective and shared their priorities for future climate action in Camden.
- 2.5. The community engagement concluded with a Community Climate Action day, with over fifty residents recruited to reflect the diversity and lived experience of the borough, including members of the original 2019 Citizens' Assembly. The group reflected on the findings of the preceding community conversations, reviewed the original Citizens' Assembly recommendations and the achievements of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25, and proposed new areas of focus for the new Climate Action Plan.
- 2.6. From March to May 2025, a series of business and organisation focused workshops took place to embed the role of the local economy in the new Climate Action Plan given the We Make Camden Challenge and that 58% of emissions are caused by the commercial sector in Camden. This included the Knowledge Quarter, Fitzrovia Partnership Business Improvement District, UCL Hospital Trust, Camden Town Unlimited, and key Voluntary and Community Organisations such as Think & Do, Feastwithus, KOVE and Somers Town Community Association.
- 2.7. Key insights from this engagement process included:
 - A zero-carbon Camden remains important to the community, but residents want honesty and transparency about the financial and practical challenge. It was recognised that the Council could not finance it.
 - Conversations about climate, costs and equity are intertwined - the cost of living remains a major concern, particularly for lower-income households who are more exposed to climate risk but contribute least to emissions.
 - Climate risks are real and rising - Camden's communities feel increasingly exposed to climate hazards; in particular heat risk, flooding and air pollution, and need help to build their resilience.
 - People want practical, accessible support to help take action in areas including energy efficiency, greener travel, food growing, reuse and repair
 - The Council should continue to lead by example and businesses should do more to help. People wanted to hear more on the actions the Council was taking and the progress being made by business.
 - Businesses want to tackle the climate crisis but need clarity on how they can help as well as support and opportunities for collaboration.
- 2.8. In response to the engagement process and the Council's own evidence base of how the climate crisis should continue to be addressed, the appended Climate Action Plan 2026-30 sets a vision for Camden to be a "resilient, inclusive, and climate-ready borough where people, organisations, buildings and public spaces are equipped to help tackle the climate crisis and adapt to its impacts in a way that improves the day to day lives of our community".

- 2.9. To deliver on the vision, the Climate Action Plan is organised around the following seven priority areas and linked objectives:
1. Enablers – Objective: Responding to the urgency of the climate crisis, the Council will enable zero carbon and climate resilient economic growth in Camden
 2. Council operations – Objective: the Council will lead by example to address its own operational emissions as well as build the Council's climate resilience,
 3. Local circular economy – Objective: the Council will support a local, zero waste, repair, re-use and sharing economy and reduce the borough's consumption emissions
 4. Buildings and retrofit – Objective: the Council will work to ensure that Camden's homes, workplaces, schools and other community buildings are resilient to climate risks, energy efficient and help to provide energy security for occupiers,
 5. Empowerment, education and communication – Objective: the Council will ensure everyone in Camden is empowered and educated to take action to help tackle the climate crisis, build their energy security and resilience to climate risks,
 6. Greening and growing – Objective: the Council will create climate-adapted, resilient and biodiverse green spaces,
 7. Sustainable travel – Objective: the Council will enable active, inclusive travel and healthy lifestyles on climate friendly streets and reduce transport emissions,
- 2.10. Each priority area targets a range of outcomes and describes the actions the Council and partners will take to achieve these over the next five years to deliver on the overarching vision in 2.8.
- 2.11. The Climate Action Plan adopts a missions-led, place-based approach to activating communities, framing climate action as a way to meet every day needs – improving energy security through energy efficiency measures, improving health and wellbeing through active travel and healthier homes, cutting air pollution and greening public spaces, improving employment and learning opportunities through green skills, cutting costs through sharing economy principles – all while addressing the climate crisis.
- 2.12. The Climate Action Plan also responds to increasing levels of flood and heat risk by proposing action that builds climate resilience, with a focus on those most vulnerable to, and those most affected by, the impacts – recognising the social justice issue intrinsic to the climate crisis whereby lower income households contribute the least but are often less able to protect themselves.
- 2.13. The Climate Action Plan focuses on the Council creating the enabling environment for low-carbon investment and inclusive growth that supports the local economy without adding to the climate crisis and its social impacts. For example, Camden's retrofit programme, renewable energy projects, planning policies, sustainable

transport and green infrastructure investment all show how the Council can create opportunities for socially and environmentally responsible investment and growth.

- 2.14. The Climate Action Plan's ambition for zero-carbon has not weakened although it acknowledges the limits of a Council-led zero carbon goal for the borough, given the cost and extent of Council influence. The plan sets out how the Council would enable zero-carbon by creating the foundations necessary for others to take action alongside the Council, for example through our planning policies, heat network improvements, lobbying, and local energy planning. At the same time, the Council will continue to lead by example through our own decarbonisation programme, retaining a 2030 target across our own estate and operations.

3. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 3.1. The following options were considered when proposing that the Climate Action Plan 2026–30 in its current form should be adopted:

3.2. **Do nothing - not recommended**

- 3.2.1 The Council could choose not to adopt a new Climate Action Plan 2026-30 and continue with delivery of the existing programme developed under the incumbent Climate Action Plan 2020-25. However, with most actions closed and achieved under the current Climate Action Plan, the climate programme may lose momentum and miss opportunities to attract external investment. The approach would also ignore the ideas and priorities identified during the engagement process and undermine the Council's leadership role.

3.3 **Produce a new Climate Action Plan 2026 – 2030 that responds to the insights from the engagement process – recommended option**

- 3.3.1 The recommended option is to adopt the new Climate Action Plan 2026-30, co-designed with the community and aligned with current climate science and policy.

4. WHAT ARE THE KEY IMPACTS / RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 4.1 Please see table below, summarising how the key risks will be addressed.

Risk	Mitigation
Lack of public support Public do not support the Climate Action Plan 2026-30	The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 has been developed through an extensive public engagement process. The new plan will be delivered with oversight from the community, building on the Climate Citizen's Panel approach to oversight of the Climate Action Plan 2020-25, and has a significant focus on ongoing engagement to strengthen and retain support for the agenda.

Financial The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 is insufficiently funded or places unrealistic financial pressures on the Council and partner organisations	The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 has been designed to align with existing Council programmes and with teams across the Council to ensure that actions are deliverable within existing resources. The plan aligns with and supports the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Camden Transport Strategy amongst others. This ensures that interdependent strategic plans are mutually supportive. Where new actions are proposed outside of existing resources, they are subject to external funding. Please see the Finance section for further detail.
Lack of business support The business community does not support the Climate Action Plan 2026-30.	The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 was developed in consultation with the business community with the support of the Camden Climate Alliance and We Make Camden. Many organisations and businesses in Camden also see climate as a key business focus and the plan seeks to support these business objectives whilst building businesses capacities to contribute to Camden's communities' priorities.
Reputational The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 fails to drive decarbonisation in Camden	There is a risk that Camden will be unable to reach the zero-carbon target by 2030. The Climate Action Plan 2026-30 recognises this risk, provides transparency on the nature of the challenge, and includes a focus on the Council's role as an enabler for a just transition to a zero-carbon borough.
Cost of Living Crisis The Climate programme is compromised as reduced Council resources are directed towards the Council's response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis.	As noted above, many of the proposals within the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 help to address the cost of living, for example enabling home energy efficiency improvements to tackle rising energy bills and would therefore assist in the Council's response to easing the cost of living. The plan has been developed with a focus on climate activities that also help to improve the day-to-day lives of residents, helping to reduce economic, social and health inequalities.

5. CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1 As noted above the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 is the product of an extensive engagement process, which began in December 2024 when over 159 residents, 60 businesses and organisations, and 70 students from eight of Camden's secondary schools reflected on the last five years of climate action in Camden, their current priorities and concerns, including their experience of climate impacts. The findings were then considered by over 50 residents (recruited to represent the diversity and lived experience of the borough), at an independently facilitated Community Climate Day to help shape the new Climate Action Plan.
- 5.2 The resulting draft Climate Action Plan 2026-30 was subject to formal public consultation from 26 August to 23 September 2025 on the We Are Camden consultation hub. The consultation was publicised on the Council's social media accounts including targeted promotion to tenants' and residents' associations, community networks and businesses. The consultation was also promoted through the Voluntary Action Camden e-bulletin, the Faith Network e-newsletter, the Camden Learning headteachers' news e-bulletin, and Camden Newsletter.

- 5.3 A further 74 responses to the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 were received including detailed written responses from Climate Emergency Camden. Written responses were also received from the British Library, the Fitzrovia Partnership and Camden Town Unlimited.
- 5.4 The formal public consultation asked for comments on the proposed structure of the plan, before seeking views on the outcomes, actions across the seven priority areas: Enablers, Buildings & Retrofit, Council Operations, Greening & Growing, Local Circular Economy, and Empowerment, Communications & Education.
- 5.5 There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the Climate Action Plan 2026-30, with 74% of respondents agreeing with the objectives, 79% agreeing with the proposed outcomes, and 78% agreeing with the proposed actions averaged across the seven priority areas.
- 5.6 38% of respondents agreed that the seven priorities of the Plan covered all areas of climate action they felt was important. 50% of respondents felt that they did not cover all areas of action, however many of the clarifying comments mentioned topics covered by other Council action plans, such as the Biodiversity Action Plan and Clean Air Action Plan.
- 5.7 Appendix 2 provides a detailed overview of the consultation responses and an explanation as to how the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 has been amended.
- 5.8 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was also concluded as part of the Climate Action Plan 2026-30 development – please see Appendix 3. The EIA concluded that the Climate Action Plan has the potential to advance equality and foster good relations between protected groups and other groups in the local community by enhancing the health and well-being of everyone living in Camden and by improving the natural environment shared by everyone.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Cabinet must consider, in coming to any decision, the Council's equality duties. These require the Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Equalities Act; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding). The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. In respect of the first aim, the protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership is also relevant.
- 6.2 In considering the application of its duties, Cabinet should consider the EIA including as to whether there is any potential for discrimination and whether all appropriate opportunities to advance equality and foster good relations have been taken.
- 6.3 Members need to carefully consider the results of consultation and take them into account within their overall consideration. It is important that consultation outcomes

have been factored into the formulation of the recommendations. Members should also content themselves that it was a reasonable, proportionate and effective exercise, which meets the basic requirements of good consultation being that it was clear, had sufficient time to ensure adequate participation and that the results have and will be fully taken into account.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 As noted in the risks section above, the Climate Action Plan has been designed to align with existing Council programmes and with teams across the Council to ensure that actions are deliverable within existing resources.
- 7.2 Where additional revenue and capital budgets are required, the Council does have funding it can draw on, both internal such as the section 106 Carbon offset fund and external by maximising grant and other funding opportunities. In some cases, such as energy efficiency, the actions may deliver financial savings to the Council, residents or its partners. However, funding is limited and will become increasingly so given local and national pressures on public finances.
- 7.3 As acknowledged in section 2 of the draft Climate Action Plan, the Council does not have the financial resources or the reach to achieve zero carbon emissions by itself and so partnerships and influencing are critical to achieving the Plan's goals.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Climate Action Plan 2026-2030 is designed to drive Council progress on the environmental agenda. It has unambiguously positive environmental implications.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 9.1 The intention is to publish the Climate Action Plan as soon as possible after Cabinet and to implement it over the next five years.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Climate Action Plan 2026-2030

Appendix 2 - Consultation Summary

Appendix 3 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 4 – Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan Annual Review 2023/24

REPORT ENDS