

Children, Environment and Leisure Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	15 th May 2017
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Greener City Action Plan (2015-2025) – update
Report of:	Stuart Love
Cabinet Member Portfolio	Environment, Sports and Community
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	Greener City
Report Author and Contact Details:	Ceridwen John x1021 cjohn@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

The Council's 10 year sustainability strategy – the Greener City Action Plan (GCAP) was adopted 18 months ago, with the previous Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Environment and Customer Services playing a key role in its development.

The main purpose of this report is to update the current Committee on progress against the GCAP's targets. The Year One performance report is included as Appendix 1 to give context to this report, and the **Committee is invited to review the year one update and note the good progress made so far.**

In the past 18 months, some environmental issues in London (e.g. air quality) have risen up the political agenda and the recent revision of City for All, together with the recent portfolio changes; have resulted in commitment to new, additional sustainability-based action from the Council.

Appendix 3 sets out specific commitments listed in the newly adopted corporate strategy (City for All 2017/18) and a list of the most pressing targets requiring quickest delivery at this time from within the existing GCAP are shown as Appendix 2.

The Council is keen to ensure that resources are allocated judiciously. This report, therefore, also provides the opportunity for the **Committee to holistically consider the Council's sustainability priorities (shown in Appendix 2 and 3) and make comment on our current focus and prioritisation to ensure that this work remains fit for purpose.**

2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration

- The Committee is invited to review the performance update in Appendix 1. Is the Committee satisfied with the progress made so far towards the initial 3 year targets (due by 2018) and if not, make recommendations for action?
- The Committee is invited to suggest ideas on how best to deliver the new greener city priorities (detailed in Appendix 3), and is asked to provide comment on the existing commitments suggested for prioritisation in Appendix 2.
- Does the Committee agree to a further short year two update (similar to Appendix 1) being provided at the end of year two (late autumn 2017) and the following year to conclude the first three year targets, or just at the end of year three?

3. Background

3.1. Introduction

The GCAP was developed with extensive input from internal and external stakeholders and was adopted in 2015. It is a ten year plan focusing on nine priority themes:

1. Addressing noise pollution across the city
2. Improving local air quality
3. Ensuring local energy security and delivering carbon reduction
4. Making better use of the City's waste resources
5. Supporting a sustainable transport system for Westminster
6. Making the best use of open spaces and improving local biodiversity
7. Managing water use and flood risk
8. Ensuring that sustainability is delivered through economic development
9. Communicating and empowering environmental action in Westminster

3.2. Developing the GCAP

Officers from across the Council and external partners helped inform its development and the overall strategic responsibility sits within the council's Policy, Performance and Communications directorate (PPC) which also leads on some pilot projects, for example the Low Emissions Neighbourhood (LEN) in Marylebone.

3.3. Responsibility in delivering the GCAP Actions

Operational delivery of a 'greener city' falls across a number of council directorates - but the majority of actions sit within City Management and Communities (CMC) and Growth, Property and Housing (GPH). CMC coordinate the delivery of actions through a specific delivery plan which is reported through to the Executive Management Team member responsible for sustainability; Stuart Love – Executive Director for CMC.

3.4. Reporting

It is suggested that this Committee will receive an annual GCAP performance report, which will align with an annual event with stakeholders to highlight progress, key issues and to discuss and agree next steps. A key theme that we have stated regularly in interactions with partners is that although the Council is strategically leading the GCAP, significant input from external delivery partners and stakeholders is essential to achieve the wider objectives, and we will continue to engage in stakeholder development on these issues. Delivery can and often should be non-Council-led wherever possible.

3.5. Accountability and Governance

Ongoing feedback is welcomed and the PPC team will continue to monitor progress against actions and update the strategic document as required to ensure it remains relevant alongside coordinating the relevant policy and strategy functions of the Council's work on City for All 2017/18 (CfA3) - 'greener city'. The strategy is a living document and the Council is keen to keep the document relevant.

PPC will work with the Cabinet Member and colleagues across the council and keep abreast of wider issues and developments, especially where agreed and published targets need to be amended for legislative, financial, organisational or other reasons e.g. the relationship with the Mayor's new Environment Strategy, which is due to be published later this year.

The role of delivery and monitoring and performance is split between the Business and Evaluation Team in PPC, where activities are already included in existing business plans and they will provide the high level governance and real time data tracking information.

CMC lead on the more detailed project management and internal performance monitoring, and will be responsible for leading on or coordinating operational delivery of GCAP projects, run internal engagement and support a network of officers to resolve barriers and ensure timely and resourced actions are delivered.

Good progress has been made over the first 18 months of the ten year GCAP. However, certain themes of the GCAP have emerged over recent months (specifically the air quality agenda in central London) as clear priorities both politically and publicly and consequently the Council is keen to ensure that resources and focus is set in the areas of highest need. The GCAP remains an agreed strategy and

all of the themes remain relevant and important - but the Committee is asked to specifically consider the proposed priority actions shown in Appendix 2 and 3, which seek to take a more focused approach around air quality issues in particular.

4. Next Steps

As mentioned, the GCAP short-term targets are three year targets and are, therefore, due to be delivered by 2018/19. Most targets are on track, and additional actions linked to the City for All actions are now included. Consequently, the Committee is asked to consider the suggested priorities and provide feedback and actions or ideas that may promote and achieve successful delivery of a greener city.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact Ceridwen John x1021
cjohn@westminster.gov.uk

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Year one performance update

Appendix 2 – Proposed priority GCAP actions for delivery in the next 18 months

Appendix 3 – Additional City for All corporate priorities (new actions)

For any supplementary documentation; especially from external stakeholders or documents which do not fit this template.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

For context, the original GCAP strategy, summary document and year one update (also below as appendix 1) can be found here:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/greener-city-action-plan-0>

Appendix 1: The Year One Performance Update (next page)

