



# Westminster Scrutiny Commission

<b>Date:</b>	22 March 2022
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Climate Emergency Programme: Action Plan Implementation Update
<b>Report of:</b>	Raj Mistry, Executive Director for Environment and City Management
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio:</b>	Cllr Rachael Robathan, Leader of the Council
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	City for All
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	<b>Amy Jones</b> <b>Director of Environment</b> <a href="mailto:ajones9@westminster.gov.uk">ajones9@westminster.gov.uk</a>

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 In September 2019, Westminster City Council's Full Council meeting declared a climate emergency and committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2030 for the Council and by 2040 for the wider City. In addition, by 2050 the Council committed to be a zero-carbon emitter, without needing to offset any of its emissions.
- 1.2 A [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#) (CEAP) for Westminster was published in November 2021, setting out nearly 70 ambitious actions across five themes of Efficient Buildings, Clean and Affordable Energy, Sustainable Travel & Transport, Reducing Consumption & Waste and Green & Resilient City. The Plan is intended to be a living document with certain elements being regularly reviewed, and the whole plan being fully reviewed after three years.
- 1.3 The Climate Emergency team presented most recently to the Westminster Scrutiny Commission in November 2021 and covered progress towards the 2030 net zero target for the council, a selection of key 2040 actions, and next steps with partnership working. This new update will summarise progress and achievements during 2021-22, as well as provide a brief look ahead at next steps and challenges.

## 2. Progress and Achievements during 2021-22

- 2.1 One key achievement during 2021 has been the publication of the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) for Westminster and the public engagement surrounding this. Whilst the net zero targets remain our final goal, the CEAP has provided clearer interim targets to work towards and to measure our progress against.
- 2.2 Over the past year we have improved our governance and reporting processes around the CEAP actions, and this work will continue throughout 2022. Recent progress includes embedding our carbon assessment toolkit within project planning, enabling us to predict more clearly the carbon impact of future projects. We have also worked with departments to implement a new single reporting mechanism for all climate projects.
- 2.3 We have continued to monitor our performance against our emissions reduction trajectories. A brief summary of the most recent emissions data is provided below, for both the council and the wider city.

*Council Emissions (Currently includes scopes 1, 2 and limited scope 3)*

Financial year	Actual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	Target for change in emissions (%) (Assuming a linear reduction)	Actual change in emissions (%)
2018-19	44,619 (Current baseline)	N/A	N/A
2019-20	42,770	-8.3%	-4.1%
2020-21	39,535	-9.1%	-7.5%
2021-22	Awaiting data	-10.0%	Awaiting data

*City-Wide Emissions (Currently includes scopes 1 & 2)*

Open Data Source	Actual emissions (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Change in emissions (%)
BEIS website	1,924,785 (2017) 1,876,551 (2018) 1,700,921 (2019)	2017 to 2018: <b>-2.5%</b>  2018 to 2019: <b>-6% (-11% from 2017)</b>

- 2.3 The section below summarises the main achievements of the climate programme during 2021 and early 2022. Most of these achievements relate directly to one or more of the actions within the CEAP.
- 2.4 *Key climate programme achievements during 2021-22 (covering 2030 and 2040 targets) – Please note this list is not exhaustive.*

## 2.5 Capability Building

- **Carbon Assessment Toolkit:** We have developed and launched a bespoke Carbon Assessment Toolkit in partnership with GEP Environmental, which will allow project managers across the council to predict the carbon impact of proposed projects. One application of the tool will be to assess the carbon impact of all future bids submitted to the council's Capital Programme.
- **Staff Capability:** We delivered carbon literacy training to 69 staff (with more training sessions planned in the coming months) and continue to develop the role of the Green Champions staff network.

## 2.6 Efficient Buildings & Clean and Affordable Energy

- **Social Housing Portfolio:** We are progressing towards our target of retrofitting 100 of our least energy-efficient social homes by the end of March 2022. Progress during 2021 includes installing electric heating in 52 homes, installing insulation measures in a further 40 homes, and starting to roll out heat pump pilots. We have also recently been awarded £3.3 million from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which will enable the retrofit of a further 360 homes.
- **Corporate Property (Operational Portfolio):** We are retrofitting 63 properties and have made excellent progress towards the target completion date of March 2022. The total energy savings will be c.1,700 tCO<sub>2</sub>e representing a 19% decrease in carbon emissions by March 2023. Key achievements to date include completing pipework insulation and draught proofing projects, whilst the LED lighting rollout is almost complete. We are also delivering the BEMS optimisation and EC fan replacement projects, with the pool cover project starting shortly. The installation works for both solar PV and Air Source Heat Pumps are also on track, including the recent completion of a 90 panel solar array at the Queen Mother Sports Centre and a 416 panel solar array at Moberly Sports Centre.
- **LED Lighting:** We will have replaced 93% of our streetlights with LEDs by the end March 2022, totalling nearly 14,500 lamps, and saving 1,335 tonnes of carbon in total.
- **Council-Led Developments:** We have pushed the decarbonisation of council-led developments further, including incorporating heat pumps into Luxborough Street and Queen's Park Court developments, and targeting Passivhaus standard for Westmead and Darwin House developments. We also secured funding to retrospectively replace gas boilers with heat pumps at the Ashbridge and Ashmill schemes.
- **Town Planning Action Plan:** Our Town Planning team are developing an action plan that will target the following key areas relevant to the climate programme: supporting retrofit of historic buildings, supporting

householders to retrofit, upskilling planning staff, and developing a consistent approach to demolition and embodied carbon analysis.

- **Carbon Offset Fund:** We are developing a new approach to spending funds from our Carbon Offset Fund (current value £4mn), with a project to ringfence an initial £1mn to deliver energy efficiency improvements to community buildings in Westminster. This will consist of an end-to-end service, with the council facilitating industry expertise and grant funding to help communities identify and install cost effective carbon savings. Pending awarding of the funds, the project will launch in 2022. We are also undertaking a review of the guidance underpinning the fund, with the aim of making it more accessible to potential applicants and focusing on delivering cost-effective carbon savings in the community.
- **ESPD and CoCP:** We published our new Code of Construction Practice in February 2022, and this will be shortly followed by the final Environmental Supplementary Planning Document. Both policies will be key in helping to drive down emissions from the construction and renovation of buildings across the city.
- **Sustainable City Charter:** We collaborated with the Westminster Property Association on the publication of a research paper on retrofitting historic buildings and on a Statement of Intent on the Sustainable City Charter. We will continue to work in partnership with the WPA to develop the Sustainable City Charter, with the aim of launching the Charter in June 2022.

## 2.7 Sustainable Travel and Transport

- **Fleet Electrification:** In September 2021 we unveiled a new 60-strong electric fleet containing waste, street cleansing and delivery vehicles. Preparations are now underway to upgrade the entire waste collection vehicle fleet to electric and to secure an ongoing electricity supply for waste vehicles at SELCHP, powered by electricity generated from the city's waste.
- **EV Charging Rollout:** We are progressing towards our target of having 1,500 EV charge points across the city, including 30 rapid chargers, by the end of March 2022. During 2021 we installed a further 451 EV charging points and became the first local authority to pass 1,000 EV charging points in total.
- **School Streets:** We launched our trial of 10 new School Streets at primary schools across the city. School Streets are created using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order, and prohibit vehicles from entering the streets during operating hours, thereby improving air quality, emissions and noise pollution around schools.
- **Cycle Lanes:** We consulted on the future of the 11 temporary cycle lanes installed as part of our Covid-19 Movement Strategy. Following high levels of support for keeping the lanes, we are now developing proposals to ensure these lanes can be kept permanently.

- **Homecare travel:** Our Adult Social Care teams have identified ways of reducing travel associated with our homecare contracts including by moving to a system of homecare recipients using personal assistants who are more local to them and finding ways to avoid duplicating visits from NHS staff and contractors.
- **E-Scooter Rental Trial:** We joined the TfL e-scooter rental trial scheme in August 2021. Since the launch, the trial has demonstrated strong safety records and by the end of 2021 we had achieved 500,000 trips undertaken by e-scooter. Westminster now has 69 e-scooter parking bays, and across the 10 boroughs taking part in the scheme, 25% of the e-scooter trips have been undertaken in Westminster.
- **Partnership Working:** We are co-leading the London Councils Low-Carbon Transport Programme, which has an ambition to halve petrol and diesel road journeys by 2030. Through this we have helped develop an action plan focusing on areas including improved data, research into demand management interventions and reducing emissions from freight and servicing. We also continue to work closely with landowners and businesses to implement our Freight, Servicing and Deliveries (FSD) Strategy, including through the monthly FSD-focused Zero Emissions Group.

## 2.8 Reduced Consumption and Waste

- **Household Food Waste Collection:** We completed the planning and preparation ahead of launching our food waste collection service in early 2022. The first wards to receive the new service will be Abbey Road and Regent's Park in February 2022. In total the new service aims to divert around 3,000 tonnes of food waste a year away from incineration and into anaerobic digestion instead.
- **Responsible Procurement and Commissioning Strategy:** We finalised a new approach to the council's £500 million annual spend on third party contracts, with a strong climate-focused element. The new strategy requires all suppliers for contracts over £2 million to have an action plan for reducing their emissions to net zero, and has also introduced an additional 5% climate action weighting to all applicable tenders. Work is also ongoing with the council's ten highest-carbon contracts to drive down their emissions, as well as to improve our understanding of the council's full scope 3 emissions.
- **Highways Carbon Reduction:** Following the successful King Street low-carbon highway repair pilot in 2020 (which saved 79% on operational emissions compared to an average project), 6 new schemes are now using similar methods to cut emissions. We have also worked with FM Conway to calculate the carbon intensity per £1 million spent on our highways contract and have set a target to reduce this from the current level of 374 tonnes per £1 million down to 90.5 tonnes per £1 million.

## 2.9 Engagement (see a selection of photos below in Appendix B)

- **Resident Engagement:** We have carried out a wide range of resident climate engagement during 2021-22, including:
  - Community engagement activities in summer 2021 to gather views on our draft Climate Action Plan. Activities included an online survey, pop-up street stalls, and workshops with the VCS and young people. In total 366 people took part in these activities.
  - Two 'carbon bubble' events at Westminster Cathedral Piazza (July 2021) and Trafalgar Square (October 2021), which featured a balloon to visually demonstrate the size of 1 tonne of carbon. Activities were provided for children and visitors were encouraged to sign up to a personal carbon-reduction pledge through the 'Count Us In' platform.
  - Two Community Climate Action Open Days, one in the north of the borough in November 2021, and another in the south of the borough in February 2022. Both Open Days were free to visitors and featured a wide variety of stalls and activities relating to local climate and sustainability initiatives. Both open days were very popular.
  - An Open Forum Q&A session in January 2022, where Cabinet Members and the Director of Environment took questions from residents on our work to tackle the climate emergency. There were 109 views of the event and over 50 questions were submitted online.
  - A joint seminar with the Westminster Property Association in February 2022 to launch a retrofit research paper and to signal intent on the Sustainable City Charter. The event was attended by over 280 people (in-person and online).
- **Schools Engagement:** We have strengthened our partnership with local schools over the past year, and have delivered the following:
  - A Climate Action Classrooms competition with local schools in 2021, culminating in an exhibition of the entries in Westminster libraries during early 2022.
  - Piloting a Climate Education workshop in schools, which we are now rolling out to 20 primary schools across the city during 2022, with the first set of workshops taking place in February 2022.

## 3. Next Steps and Challenges

- 3.1 Looking ahead, whilst good progress has been made across many areas (as outlined above), there remain substantial challenges. Some key challenges include accurately measuring and achieving reductions in emissions from areas outside of the council's control, ensuring sufficient capacity across departments to deliver actions, and meeting the substantial future funding requirements of the programme.

- 3.2 To address these challenges, we will need to take bold action over the next year. This will include increasing staff capacity to work on the climate programme across departments, considering overall programme spend, and forging closer relationships with external partners who will be essential to driving down emissions from areas outside of the council's direct control.
- 3.3 The process of forging closer relationships with key partners will be pursued in part through the further development of the Climate and Air Quality Alliance during 2022. The Alliance will have an open model which brings everyone in Westminster with an interest in climate together at semi-regular community forums. This will be complemented with regular targeted engagement with key stakeholders, as well as with the future development of an online Alliance platform.
- 3.4 Over the year ahead we will continue to push ahead with the actions listed in section two above. We also aim to accelerate action in various additional areas, including the following:
- Raising the local cost of carbon through a new Planning Obligations SPD
  - Developing and agreeing a Clean Heat Strategy for the future of PDHU
  - Developing a Green Economy Strategy to help promote the transition to a circular economy
  - Working more closely with registered social landlords and private landlords to retrofit properties
  - Procuring support to develop a Local Area Energy Plan for Westminster

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact  
Amy Jones [ajones9@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ajones9@westminster.gov.uk)**

## Appendix A: Climate Emergency Programme 2021 Achievement Infographics

### WCC CE Activities – 2021 Achievements

#### Published the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Delivered a series of engagement activities (surveys, street stalls, workshops) between June – August to identify priority areas



With Anthesis, created an initial recommendation report, holding internal workshops to discuss the findings

Worked with internal directorates to establish an emission baseline for 2018 / 19



Published a draft plan to obtain resident and external feedback – facilitated this further with online workshops

Held numerous sessions with each directorate to identify action owners, agree timelines and high level outcomes for the first set of CEAP actions.

Directorates have worked to integrate the CE Team in to governance and operational activities.



Hosted our first Community Action Day in November – more planned in 2022

Continued to support 2030 action delivery. Used CAG to set the strategic direction and CEDB to improve the governance & monitor programme progress.

Created the **Carbon Assessment Toolkit**. Will be used to carry out carbon assessments of all WCC projects.

Finalised the announcement of the Sustainable City Charter Statement of Intent



Delivered Carbon Literacy Training to 55 WCC Staff, with 8 more sessions by March 2023



Hosted Carbon Bubble events in July & November

Completed the pilot of Climate Education workshops in primary schools – further rollout in 2022



Launched 'Climate Action Classroom' Competition encouraging action in schools

Updated how the Carbon Offset Fund is to be utilised – to release in 2022



## WCC CE Activities – 2021 Achievements

Installed clean heat measures (electric heaters) in 46 homes in 2021

LED Rollout Efficiency: At the end of 2021, 95% of installs had been completed, meaning nearly 14,500 lamp columns replaced



A further 13 School Streets are set to be launched in 2022 after all the preparation work completed in 2021

Produced the Environmental Supplementary Planning Document (ESPD) – set to be approved in early 2022

Continued to expand the size and role of the Green Champions, improving the climate culture in Westminster

Co-led the London Councils climate programme on Low Carbon Transport and presented on several topics at the LC Borough Climate Conference



Installed energy efficiency measures (insulation) in 27 homes in 2021.



In September, WWC and Veolia unveiled a 60-strong fleet of new and upcycled electric vehicles



Decarbonising Council Developments: Reduced the average operational energy demand of schemes by approximately 70% since 2016.

Completed the planning and obtained approval to launch an expanded food waste rollout – set to be launched in Spring 2022.



Decarbonising Council Developments: Air source heat pumps incorporated into Luxborough St and Queens Park Court developments. Westmead and Darwin House developments progressing with Passivhaus targets.



Installed 451 EV charge points in 2021, including 442 shared power supply charge points for residents. **Became the first local authority to reach 1000 charge points.**

Contributed to the Westminster Property Association White Paper on Retrofit

Integrated CEAP targets into new responsible procurement approach and review of carbon emissions for WCC's top 10 suppliers. In depth review of Scope 3 emissions.

6 schemes progressed aimed at trialing new methods to reduce the carbon impact of highways maintenance. King St Pilot: 79% reduction in operational carbon and a 50% reduction in embedded carbon.



Homecare re-modelling identified opportunities to reduce travel by 1) by aligning the geographical footprint for contractors with local NHS footprints and 2) Proposing increasing the use of local personal assistance to increase local employment and reduce travel time.

## Appendix B: Photos from Climate engagement events in 2021-22



Engagement events and pop-up stalls, Summer 2021



Carbon Bubble event at Trafalgar Square, October 2021



Climate Ed workshop at St Mary's of the Angels, October 2021



First Community Climate Action Open Day, November 2021



Climate Action Classrooms Exhibition Launch, January 2022



Building a Net Zero Future joint event with WPA, February 2022



Second Community Climate Action Open Day, February 2022