

Committee	Date
Policy & Resources	11 June 2020
Subject	Public
Climate Action Strategy Governance and Engagement Plan	
Report of	
The Town Clerk and Chief Executive	
Report Author	For decision
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Summary

This paper sets out the proposed governance route and engagement plan for the City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy.

Recommendations

The Policy & Resources Committee is recommended to:

- i. approve the proposed governance route for the strategy; and
- ii. approve the proposed engagement plan.

Main Report

Background

1. In July 2018, Policy & Resources Committee approved the City of London Corporation's Responsible Business (RB) Strategy for 2018-23. The RB Strategy outlines the City Corporation's commitment to increasing its positive impact and reducing its negative impact across a range of sustainability issues. Within the RB strategy, the City Corporation committed to producing a Climate Action Strategy. This outlines the actions that will be taken to reduce emissions from the Corporation's own operations and those of the Square Mile, as well as how we will adapt to climate change.
2. In October 2019, the Policy & Resources, Planning & Transportation and Open Spaces approved the reprioritisation of relevant 2019-20 departmental budgets to cover the costs of consultancy support required to deliver the evidence base and support the development of options.
3. Several studies were commissioned in January 2020. A team of external consultants including Ove Arup, Carbon Trust, Buro Happold, the University of Surrey and AECOM are supporting the studies, whose full reports should be completed by the end of June 2020.
4. On 11 February 2020, a Member Briefing regarding Green Finance and Climate Action took place. A further Briefing followed on 14 May to share a high-level summary of the initial findings of the Climate Action work. These provided an assessment of total greenhouse gas emissions and initial findings regarding current carbon sequestration capacity and climate resilience.

- The recommended governance route and a high-level summary of the proposed engagement plan were also shared for comment. Members were given two routes to feedback - either at the briefing or in writing by 21 May - prior to submission to Policy & Resources for endorsement. At the second briefing, two comments were received in respect of the engagement plan. The proposed governance route received no comments. A third Member Briefing is planned for 2 July 2020.

Context and recommendation for the proposed governance route

- To keep the City Corporation at the forefront of conversations in London, the UK and globally, it is imperative we retain our ambition of publishing the strategy in autumn 2020. Maintaining momentum will allow the Corporation to show leadership and help us be ready for COP26-related events planned for later in 2020/21. The proposed timing also allows us to be in lock step with budget and business planning for Mid-Term and 2021/22.
- The strategy development timeline has been intentionally co-ordinated with the ongoing Fundamental Review and the Medium-Term Financial Plan to ensure alignment with longer term organisational aspirations.
- As discussed at both Member Briefings, this leaves little time for both robust strategy development and reporting to the relevant committees. The following streamlined governance route is therefore recommended:

Date	Meeting	Type	Purpose
2 July	3rd Members Briefing on Climate Action Strategy	Consultation	To seek comments on the draft high-level options and share the finalised engagement plan.
3 & 4 July	Resource Allocation Sub Committee Away Days	Consultation	To consider the high-level options in the context of other strategic priorities and financial position.
24 September	Policy & Resources Committee	Formal decision	To endorse the strategy and action plan.
8 October	Court of Common Council	Formal decision	To approve the strategy and action plan.

- If the normal cycle is followed, departmental budget estimates will be identified soon after the Resource Allocation Sub Committee Away Days. These will include financial implications from the strategy for 2021/22. Service Committees will then be presented with Business Plans and budget estimates in the autumn prior to the approval of the 2021/22 budget in March 2021. Service Committees

will monitor and drive performance against the actions through the normal business plan monitoring process and any deep dives they wish to conduct.

10. It is proposed that corporate level progress and the onwards development of the strategy continue to be driven and monitored by the Policy & Resources Committee for the duration of the strategy.

Context and recommendation for the proposed engagement plan

11. The proposed engagement plan consists of three phases during which we need to engage different stakeholders and partners for different purposes.
12. Phase 1 - Evidence Gathering. This will involve the targeted gathering of technical expertise to inform the studies, followed by the development of options for carbon reduction, carbon sequestration and climate adaption. This phase commenced in late April 2020 and runs until the end of June 2020. Technical experts engaged include City Corporation officers, as well as those from selected partner organisations, such as TfL, who run essential services to facilitate the smooth running of the organisation and support the Square Mile's resilience.
13. Key stakeholder groups such as residents' associations, trade bodies, voluntary and community sector associations, and Livery Companies will also be invited to contribute to Phase 1. This may be in the form of previously commissioned studies that could help inform the current studies, or the development of options.
14. Phase 2 – Engaging Stakeholders. This phase will commence a week after Resource Allocation Sub Committee Away Days. It will end in late August 2020 when the strategy will be finalised for submission to Policy & Resources Committee. Its purpose is to check the feasibility of potential options with our stakeholders to test and refine our thinking. This is important because the Square Mile element of this strategy requires action from stakeholders. A realistic strategy requires a level of ambition that is both stretching and achievable for all stakeholders. This includes tenants and suppliers, but also our own workforce and the general public.
15. Due to current restrictions and service changes relating to Covid-19, it will not be possible to engage the public using physical means, such as placing information on the street and in community spaces, or to use the print or post rooms for mailouts during phase 2, and possibly longer. However roughly 80% of public engagement across the UK was carried out digitally in 2019 and, having good connections with our community representatives and through our own services, we are confident we can reach a representative audience.
16. Public engagement is not a statutory requirement for this strategy, nor will it necessarily contribute significantly to its high-level direction. However, it will test public appetite and understanding, and allow us to contact interested individuals and groups. It will also inform the design of engagement and communications activities in phase 3.
17. Phase 3 - Strategy Launch and Implementation. This phase will commence as soon as the Court of Common Council approves the strategy and continue for

the duration of the strategy's implementation period. This phase will support both implementation and the onwards development of the strategy. Targeted engagement with all stakeholder groups, including students at our family of schools will therefore be important. It will build on previous engagement exercises carried out for transportation projects such as the Aldgate Project. It is likely to involve campaigns and activities linked to the global climate diary. Examples include themed competitions to raise awareness of issues and other events to generate ideas that can be integrated into local climate action plans.

18. Any funding needed for this phase will be included in the funding implications section for the strategy when it is put to Policy & Resources Committee in September 2020.

Corporate and strategic implications

19. The approach outlined supports the commitments set out in the Corporate Plan, 2018-23, and the strategy itself is being designed to impact upon the following outcomes and high-level actions:

Outcome 1: People are safe and feel safe

- Prepare our response to natural and man-made threats.

Outcome 5: Businesses are trusted and socially and environmentally responsible

- Model new ways of delivering inclusive and sustainable growth.
- Support, celebrate and advocate responsible practices and investments.

Outcome 7: We are a global hub for innovation in financial and professional services, commerce and culture

- Support organisations in pioneering preparing for a responding to changes in regulations, markets, products and ways of working.

Outcome 11: We have clean air, land and water and a thriving sustainable natural environment

- Provide a clean environment and drive down the negative effects of our own activities.
- Provide environmental stewardship and advocacy, in use of resources, emissions, conservation, greening, biodiversity and access to nature.
- Influence UK and global policy and regulation and international agreements to protect and environment.

Outcome 12: Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained

- Build resilience to natural and man-made threats by strengthening, protecting and adapting our infrastructure directly and by influencing others.

20. No legal, security, financial or resourcing implications arise from the recommendations in this report. Activities described in phases 1 and 2 of the engagement plan will be delivered using existing budgets and resources. The costs associated with Phase 3 will be addressed in the Strategy submission in the autumn.

21. There is no statutory duty to consult on this strategy. An Equalities Impact Assessment of the engagement plan is underway to ensure that all necessary adjustments are made to meet our Public Sector Equality Duty (2010).

Conclusion

22. The governance route and engagement plan outlined in this paper offers the City Corporation a unique opportunity to act decisively in seizing the initiative regarding how the Square Mile manages climate change. Furthermore, it represents an important opportunity to engage proactively with Members, technical experts and all stakeholder groups in a key strategic issue of our time.