

Committee	Date
Property Investment Board with Corporate Assets Sub Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	19 August 2020
Resource Allocation Sub Committee (<i>For Decision</i>)	7 September 2020
Planning & Transportation Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	8 September 2020
Procurement Sub Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	9 September 2020
Open Spaces Chairs (<i>For Information</i>)	9 September 2020
Projects Sub Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	15 September 2020
Corporate Asset Sub Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	15 September 2020
Property Investment Board (<i>For Information</i>)	16 September 2020
Resource Allocation Sub Committee (<i>For Decision</i>)	18 September 2020
Port Health & Environmental Services Committee (<i>For Information</i>)	22 September 2020
Finance Investment Board (<i>For Information</i>)	23 September 2020
Policy & Resources Committee (<i>For Decision</i>)	24 September 2020
Court of Common Council (<i>For Decision</i>)	8 October 2020
Subject Climate Action Strategy	Public
Report of The Town Clerk & Chief Executive	
Report Author Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth	For Information

Summary

This paper contains a scoped and costed Climate Action Strategy for the City of London Corporation, to be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee in September and the Court of Common Council in October 2020. It presents:

- i. **Appendix 1:** The proposed Climate Action Strategy;
- ii. **Appendix 2:** Action sets by committee; and
- iii. **RASC Confidential Appendix 3:** Resource Allocation Sub Committee only with an approach to funding the strategy.

The proposed strategy has three, interlinked primary objectives for the City Corporation and the Square Mile: to support the achievement of net zero emissions, to build resilience and to champion sustainable growth.

Climate Action is an extension of our work to advance London and UK as centre for excellence in green finance. Championing sustainable growth is therefore already core to the work done across the City Corporation. It is also an integral part of our work under the Responsible Business Strategy (2018-23). This paper therefore focuses on the other two primary objectives:

- Net zero: mitigating the impact of climate change by achieving net zero emissions for the City Corporation and the Square Mile; and

- Resilience: ensuring our buildings and public realm are resilient to the more extreme weather conditions that are going to occur.

Founded on science-based targets, rather than simply a call to action, the proposed strategy sets out a vision and goals for the next two decades. The City Corporation would be committing to:

- 1. Achieve net zero emissions by the end of:**
 - **2025 for the City Corporation's direct emissions**
 - **2040 in the City Corporation's wider value chain**
- 2. Achieve net zero in the Square Mile's direct and indirect emissions, excluding those resulting from investment activity.**
- 3. Further reduce climate-related risks by strengthening climate resilience of the Square Mile and the City Corporation's assets to extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels.**

To do this, we will cut the emissions associated with our direct activities such as buildings, and business. We will also tackle indirect emissions that are associated with our purchased goods and services, and our investments and other parts of our value chain. We will optimise the role of our open spaces and the public realm in removing carbon and as places for people and nature. We will work with our partners across the Square Mile to build upon our efforts to increase climate resilience and reduce risks posed by climate change. And we will maximise how net zero and resilience mutually reinforce each other, especially with respect to buildings.

The Climate Action Strategy introduces a new and permanent way of working for the City Corporation, where all decision-making integrates considerations of the risks and opportunities associated with climate change. It reinforces existing City Corporation strategies and will be pivotal to achieving the outcomes at the heart of the Corporate Plan (2018-23). As much as the overarching strategy addresses the next 20 years, the baselines, action plan and targets will be reviewed and refreshed every five years to drive transparent performance tracking and accountability. Learning on which actions and interventions are most efficiently driving impact will be incorporated on a more frequent basis.

Through this strategy, we will secure and strengthen our market position globally as a financial centre. Locally, we will ensure the competitiveness of our buildings, investment properties and public spaces as attractive places to work, live, study and visit, both now and in the future.

Though focused on tackling climate change, the strategy's impact will be wider. It will support the economy. It will enhance the physical environment and open spaces. And it will benefit individuals through creating jobs and improving air quality. More immediately, it will also ensure that the City Corporation has a strong platform to present at the Green Horizon Summit in November, one year ahead of the United Nations annual climate meeting, COP26.

Recommendations

Planning & Transportation Committee, Resource Allocation Sub Committee, Procurement Sub Committee, the Open Spaces Chairs, Projects Sub Committee, Corporate Asset Sub Committee¹, Port Health & Environmental Services Committee and Finance Investment Board are recommended to:

- i. Note the report, the draft strategy at **Appendix 1** and the action sets by committee at **Appendix 2**.

Resource Allocation Sub Committee only is also recommended to:

- ii. Consider the options for funding the additional budget required to deliver the strategy, shown at **Confidential Appendix 3**, and decide which to recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval.

Main Report

Background

1. In June 2020, Policy & Resources Committee agreed that a Climate Action Strategy should be presented to the Committee in September, and the Court of Common Council in October, for approval. Building on a series of studies which reported in June/July, there has been intensive work over the summer to develop the strategy, so that it is impactful, affordable and deliverable.
2. The City Corporation's approach to developing this strategy has been set out in previous public papers and is summarised in the strategy at **Appendix 1**.

Current position

3. The baseline position, describing current and projected resilience risks, emissions sources and carbon removal capacity for the City Corporation and Square Mile, was shared with Members at a briefing in May and is also summarised in the strategy at **Appendix 1**.
4. With enormous financial pressures, affordability is critical. Initial indications pointed to additional spending of £100m-£120m for the remaining four years of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Over the summer, departments across the City Corporation have worked at pace to strengthen the financial modelling, strip out costs and both reprioritise and align with existing programmes. Members have also looked at how to achieve the outcomes while managing cost and risk. As a result, the additional envelope for the MTFP amounts to an annual cost of £15m capital and £2m revenue. (N.B. These figures were being finalised at the time of submission and will be confirmed in the confidential appendix on funding options.)

¹ Property Investment Board reviewed the information presented here at their 19 August meeting and agreed the actions associated with the Investment Property Estate.

5. There is also a major financial upside. These capital investments will also bring major reductions in energy costs. In the case of the owned/operated properties, this will drive down future revenue requirements, as less money is spent on energy. This has the potential to save £3.5m per annum in future revenue costs. Equally, on the investment property estate, the reduction in energy costs amounts to £2m per annum. This offers an opportunity to enhance yields/values. Given time lags, these reductions are excluded from the funding options.

Options

6. Funding options are set out in **Confidential Appendix 3**, for consideration for Resource Allocation Sub Committee, only, so that it can put forward its recommendation to Policy & Resources Committee.

Proposals

7. Proposed actions for the first five years of the strategy are set out at **Appendix 2** to inform relevant committees before these are put to Policy & Resources Committee for decision.

Public and stakeholder engagement

8. The engagement plan, approved by Policy & Resources Committee in June 2020, has three phases. Phase 1 – April to June 2020 – involved workshops with expert officers and external technical experts, written submissions from stakeholder groups and a survey of businesses about their climate action plans.
9. Phase 2 – mid-July to the end of August 2020 – broadened out the opportunity to share views to the wider public by means of an online survey on a dedicated web portal. Its purpose was to check levels of priority and the feasibility of potential options with our stakeholders and to gather contact details and followers in preparation for phase 3. At the time of drafting, over 2600 people had responded to the survey. 16% were residents, 44% were workers, 20% were visitors, 4% were students and 8% work at the City Corporation. 77% said climate change should be extremely important to the City Corporation. More information is available on request.
10. Phase 3 will commence with the launch of the strategy following approval by the Court of Common Council and continue for the duration of the strategy. Its purpose is to support implementation and local action.

Next steps

11. The governance timetable is set out in the title box of this report. If Policy & Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council approve and endorse this strategy, the cross-departmental officer team will firm up detailed action plans and key performance indicators for the first period of the strategy, taking

us up to 31 March 2025 . The first step is to ensure the financials and actions are embedded in departmental budgets and Business Plans.

12. Governance and accountabilities will also be firmed up within the revised governance arrangements and operating model, which will also underpin a comprehensive approach to capability. This offers opportunities to work more effectively across the City Corporation and improve how we drive performance. Funding will be released as and when sufficient controls – clear targets, transparency on outcomes and accountability – are demonstrably in place. And we will report annually on progress.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. Strategic Implications – This strategy complies with the latest climate science necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement (2015) and is complementary to London-wide and national efforts to reduce emissions and improve resilience of our communities and urban spaces. This includes the draft London Plan, GLA London City Resilience Strategy 2020, the London Councils' Leaders' commitment to a 'green recovery', the UK Committee on Climate Change, Climate Risk Assessment 2017 and National Adaptation Programme, as well as the landscape of policies set out by government.
14. It is integral to achieving economic, societal and environmental outcomes in the Corporate Plan, 2018-23. As stated above, it builds upon existing strategies and policies, including: The Responsible Business Strategy 2018-23, the Responsible Investment Policy, the City Procurement Strategy 2020-24, the Local Plan 2015, the draft City Plan 2036, the Transport Strategy 2018-43, the Air Quality Strategy 2015-20, the Climate Mitigation Strategy, the Carbon Descent Plan, the Transition to a Zero Emission Fleet Policy, the Renewable Electricity Policy & Sourcing Strategy and related campaigns, such as Plastic Free City. It is aligned to ongoing reviews of our financial and property investment portfolios and is influencing the development of the Bridge House Estates Strategy 2020-45 which is proceeding in parallel through governance.
15. Financial Implications – The additional envelope for the MTFP amounts to an annual cost of [£15m] capital and [£2m] revenue. Proposals on Climate Action beyond this MTFP will be brought to Members in the usual way, and savings made following investment in this first period should offset future investment requirements.
16. Resource Implications – Implementing the strategy will require changes in capability, capacity and culture. This will include expertise and skills sets in some areas that the City Corporation does not currently have. But it will be critical to the deliverability of the strategy that there is not only the funding for the capital works, but the capability to manage these projects successfully. Resource and capability requirements are being built into the new operating model. Any additional resources are included in the funding calculations or will be absorbed into existing budgets.

17. Risk Implications – This strategy is primarily focused on addressing risks to the competitiveness and physical environment of the Square Mile. These relate to unavoidable climatic events impacting critical infrastructure and natural resources, financial risk from decreased value of assets or opportunity loss and reputational risks from both operational failure and failing to adapt to UK and global decarbonisation commitments. Residual risks relate to successful implementation. These will be explored by means of a ‘deep dive’ discussion at Audit & Risk Management Committee on 1 October 2020, to provide additional assurance to the Court.
18. Legal Implications – There are no legal implications at this stage as recommendations are compliant with legislation, including the City Corporation’s obligations under the UK Climate Change Act (revised 2019), which has enshrined in law both a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and requirements for measures for climate adaptation (improved resilience). It is however highly likely that contracts and contract changes will result from the proposed actions.
19. Equalities Implications – A Test of Relevance was undertaken on the options put forward for consideration to Resource Allocation Sub Committee in June 2020. The purpose was to identify any potential detrimental impact on the nine protected groups defined in the Equality Act 2010. It showed that people in at least one of the following five protected groups - age, disability, race, pregnancy/maternity and gender - would be likely to benefit from actions set out in this strategy. This is due to the emphasis on improvements in air quality, the public realm and indoor comfort and on reducing fuel poverty. The widening of pavements would be expected to lead to an enhanced feeling of safety for all. No negative impacts were identified. Equalities analysis will be carried out throughout implementation so that any negative impacts can be mitigated and opportunities for positive impacts exploited.
20. The public survey included standard demographic questions to enable equality analysis. No statistically significant differences in feedback from the groups was identified. In terms of reach, 6% of visits to the website and survey used the Bengali translated site. Due to the timing and ongoing disruption at educational facilities, under 25 representation was low. This will be addressed in phase 3.
21. Security Implications – There are no security implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
22. Climate Implications – This section will be added to all committee papers seeking decisions going forward.

Conclusion

23. The Climate Action Strategy offers the City Corporation a unique opportunity to act decisively in responding to climate change – a key challenge of our time – while managing costs. The strategy has the potential to be a defining cross-Corporation policy. Founded on science-based targets, rather than simply a call to action, it will ensure that the City Corporation has a credible approach to climate action that is impactful, affordable and deliverable. This will allow us to protect our physical and financial assets for decades to come. It also positions the City to seize the opportunities presented by the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Appendices

1. The Draft Climate Action Strategy (2020-2040)
2. Action Sets by Committee
3. Confidential Funding Options (for Resource Allocation Sub Committee only)

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