

ITEM 4

Camden Local Strategic Partnership	
Meeting	27 March 2008
Report Title	Camden's Community Strategy: Camden Together 2007-2012 Progress report on "Protecting the environment for us and for future generations" sub-theme
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Purpose	This is the third in a series of reports looking at how we are delivering the commitments in the community strategy <i>Camden Together 2007-2012</i> .
Recommendations	The LSP is asked to note and comment on the report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Protecting the environment is integral to the LSP's vision of a sustainable Camden. Our challenge is to deliver sustainable growth while balancing economic, social and environmental concerns. Whilst climate change is the greatest environmental threat we face and an urgent priority, we also need to use natural resources wisely; reduce, reuse and recycle our waste; protect plants and wildlife; and reduce pollution. Our work on environmental sustainability will help us to achieve broader benefits - such as improving health, well-being and social cohesion - and to fulfil Camden's vision as a 'borough of opportunity'. Indeed, the LSP recognised when it agreed 'Camden Together' that work to protect the environment cuts across the entire community strategy: from working together to manage a growing population, to creating a strong local economy, to a connected community where people lead active, healthy lives.
- 1.2 This paper focuses on providing an overview of progress in the delivery of the commitments in the sub-theme of the community strategy entitled "Protecting the environment for us and future generations". In this sub-theme, the LSP committed to making a contribution to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in line with national targets (the Government is proposing a 60% CO₂ reduction target by 2050 in the Climate Change Bill) and to a short term goal to make Camden a low carbon and low waste borough by 2012. The new national indicators on *per capita CO₂ emissions in the local authority area* (NI186) and *residual household waste per household* (NI191), which are being considered separately by the LSP for inclusion in the Local Area Agreement, will help us to quantify this goal over the next couple of months and set targets for the next three years.
- 1.3 These two national indicators are part of an environmental sustainability set to be included as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. Whilst the others within this set will not be assigned targets in the LAA, they will inform

the Council's wider work and offer further opportunities for partnership working. These include:

- NI 187 - Tackling fuel poverty – people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating
 - NI 188 - Adapting to climate change
 - NI 192 - Household waste recycled and composted
 - NI 197 - Improved local biodiversity – active management of local sites
 - NI 198 - Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used
- 1.4 To achieve its targets and goals, the LSP will need to provide leadership – leading by example in reducing the environmental impacts from its members' own estates and operations, as well as engaging the community to play its part. We will need to overcome the challenges and constraints we face as an inner London borough, such as an increasing population, the high number of 'hard to treat' homes and the lack of space for new infrastructure, for instance, for large-scale sustainable energy and waste plant. We will also need to find imaginative ways to lever resources and investment on environmental sustainability from other partners, including the business and voluntary sector, as well as residents.
- 1.5 Importantly, we will need to work collaboratively with regional partners such as the Greater London Authority, London Development Agency, Transport for London, North London Waste Authority and London Energy Saving Trust Advice Service to develop large-scale solutions with significant economies of scale, on issues such as: transport planning; sustainable, decentralised energy supply; waste minimisation; and advice and support for homes and business.
- 1.6 The LSP has already identified the priority areas of focus in the community strategy and has committed to:
- Reduce carbon emissions and waste from their (the Council and its partners) buildings and services in line with national targets.
 - Make it easier for residents and businesses to protect the environment.
 - Encourage all developments and growth to be:
 - Sensitive to the environment, including to open spaces, local character and the natural environment.
 - As low carbon and low waste as possible; and overall
 - To promote sustainable development.
 - Explore how major developments could generate heat and power for surrounding areas.
 - Reduce pollution from transport through both traffic reduction and the use of cleaner vehicles, including the promotion of walking, cycling and public transport.
- 1.7 The rest of this paper provides an update on our progress against each of these commitments. This is largely qualitative as we have not yet finalised our key baselines and targets. However, quantitative data is included where available. The report also includes some examples of progress from LSP

partners. These are not intended to be exhaustive but rather to give a flavour of some of the work already done. Firstly, though, Section 2 outlines the strategic work the Council has been undertaking to lay the foundations for our medium to long term plans for this area of work.

2 The Council's strategic approach to environmental sustainability

- 2.1 Over recent months, the Council has been developing a more strategic approach to environmental sustainability. This has included:
- The ongoing work of the advisory, all-party Sustainability Task Force (a group of Camden councillors concerned about Climate Change).
 - The commissioning of a study by SEA-Renue, entitled "Delivering a Low Carbon Camden", which has considered scenarios for achieving various CO₂ reduction targets, including the Government's target to reduce CO₂ by 60% by 2050 proposed in the Draft Climate Change Bill.
 - The commissioning of an Independent Review of the Council's work on environmental sustainability (and climate change in particular).
- 2.2 The Sustainability Task Force has a programme in 2007-08 to produce four reports on the themes of: (1) Energy and Energy Efficiency; (2) Waste and Recycling; (3) Transport; and (4) Food, Water, Biodiversity & Green Spaces. The first three of these were reported in May and October 2007 and March 2008 respectively, while the fourth will follow in May 2008. Some of the initiatives highlighted later in this report originated as Task Force recommendations.
- 2.3 The SEA-Renue Study concludes that, in Camden, a 60% CO₂ reduction target by 2050 can most cost-effectively be achieved through the creation of large-scale gas-powered combined, heat and power (CHP) plants linked to district heating networks, serving large buildings, council estates and other nearby buildings. Biomass-powered CHP and building-scale CHP also create significant reductions, and by 2050, photovoltaic (PV) panels would also contribute significantly. Road transport policies can also contribute by reducing motor traffic and by encouraging more low-carbon vehicles.
- 2.4 With regard to the Camden Sustainability Review, the consultants' key emerging findings are that Camden is very active in sustainability and is at the top end of the peer group of councils (inner London boroughs) in the setting of long-term carbon dioxide emissions target for 2050, our activities in transport and air quality and our recycling of household waste. In most other areas, the consultants' view is that the Council is performing well and is in the leading group within the peer authorities. However, amongst several suggestions for improvements, it has identified that there is more to be done on community leadership - engaging with the LSP on sustainability issues and communicating with the public - and they have made a specific recommendation that Camden implements "an Islington-style Climate Change Partnership for major businesses and public sector partners".
- 2.5 The Council is establishing a new, expanded Sustainability Team from April 2008 and an interim team is currently leading work on drafting a Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Plan, intended as both the delivery plan for the environmental sustainability commitments in the Community

Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan, as well as a medium to long term plan for achieving our long term CO₂ emission reduction target. The Plan will build on and supersede our current Climate Change Action Plan 2006-09 and contain headline targets and actions from our other environmental sustainability strategies, such as those on waste, transport, biodiversity, housing, planning and the built environment and air quality. Performance will be measured against the full environmental sustainability set of indicators in the CAA which will be augmented by other local indicators.

2.6 In parallel to the development of this Plan, the Council are devising an external communications strategy to:

- Encourage residents, businesses and other organisations to live and work more sustainably so that Camden can become a sustainable, low carbon and low waste borough.
- Build the Council's reputation as a sustainable organisation providing leadership on climate change/low carbon living: being seen as an effective and trusted adviser and as having our own house in order.

3 Reduce carbon emissions and waste from their (the Council and its partners) buildings and services in line with national targets.

3.1 The Council currently has a 1.5% annual energy efficiency improvement target which we estimate will achieve a 49% reduction in CO₂ emissions for our buildings by 2050. We are currently preparing a comprehensive work programme to identify energy efficiency measures which will help to meet and improve on our carbon reduction targets. We achieved an overall reduction in energy use of 4.3% for 2006-07 based on our 2005/06 baseline. In 2007-08, we established a pilot £250k Revolving Energy Fund to deliver CO₂ and financial savings in Council buildings that can be reinvested in the Fund, with a further £250k added to the Fund in 2008/09. The Fund should therefore lead to a further significant reduction in energy consumption over the next 24 months.

3.2 The Council procured 31% of its electricity from renewable sources in 2006-07, but our target to increase this in future will become difficult due to changes in our energy procurement strategy and potential price hikes due to insufficient availability.

3.3 Meanwhile, Green IT is a priority within the Council's ICT Strategy. The goal is to reduce annual IT carbon emissions by around 40% by the year 2012. This will be accomplished by using new "virtualisation" technology, which makes it possible for several different computer systems to be run on the same server. Other environmental issues being addressed by Corporate ICT include extending hardware lifecycles, hardware recycling and PC power management. A particular success for Camden has been the recycling of computers into the community.

3.4 In respect of the Council's fleet, over 50% of vehicles are fuelled by LPG or electricity or are hybrid vehicles. Following a proposal from the Sustainability Task Force, we will be setting up a trial for a bio-methane powered bus, and will look to roll this out further if successful.

- 3.5 The Council will need to bring its current approach to buildings and fleet management in line with the requirement to report on two further national indicators in the CAA: NI 185 (CO₂ reduction from Local Authority operations) and NI 194 (Level of air quality – reduction in NOx (nitrogen oxides) and primary PM10 (particles measuring 10µm or less in diameter) emissions through local authority's estate and operations). Defra has just issued the tool for calculating baseline emissions for both of these indicators. Although the first reporting year will be the 2008 calendar year, we will be trialling the tool with 2007 data over the coming months, as both a test run for establishing our 2008 baseline and so that we can start using the data as the basis for an internal staff communications campaign.
- 3.6 The tool has been designed for use by all public sector bodies and organisations and therefore offers the opportunity for LSP members to establish CO₂ baselines in a consistent manner. We hope to be in a position to offer advice to any LSP members who wish to use this tool for their own estate and operations in due course.
- 3.7 Whilst the tool relates to the energy used in buildings and transport in delivering the functions of a local authority, it does not capture the embedded emissions of goods procured or emissions relating to the levels of waste created. We will therefore need to develop a different approach to improving our performance on procurement and waste management. This wider system will help us implement a Sustainability Task Force recommendation to "investigate how a system of carbon accounting could be introduced for the Council".
- 3.8 For waste, we hope to be able to monitor both waste and recycling tonnages from our corporate buildings from winter 2008. For procurement, the sustainability of all our major contracts is independently reviewed through the "tollgate" process and we will be assessing options for monitoring emissions from the procurement of our goods and services over the coming months. Contracts which have paid particular attention to environmental issues in the last year include repairs & maintenance, building cleaning, foodstuffs, passenger transport, printing services and vehicle acquisitions.
- 3.9 In respect of our 33,000 council-owned housing stock, we have a range of environmental programmes in place. To date in 2007/08, we have installed cavity wall insulation in over 500 council dwellings, we have been working on the low carbon refurbishment of a Victorian house which aims to reduce CO₂ emissions by 81% and we are piloting the installation of heat meters in communally heated dwellings to provide residents with the incentive to save energy.
- 3.10 We are aware of some excellent examples of good environmental practice from our LSP partners. Examples from Origin Housing Group outline the sort of work being undertaken in the social housing sector. All the newly commissioned schemes for the past two years' programme have been to Ecohomes Very Good rating and have met the 10% 'Merton rule' renewables target where appropriate, with new schemes in London including 10% renewable energy created on site. Origin has also undertaken a range of actions in relation to the way they manage and maintain their properties, including:

- Setting up recycling schemes for the majority of properties in Somers Town and plans to set up schemes for others not close to a community scheme.
 - A programme of replacing communal light time clocks with day and night sensors. Low energy bulbs are also given out to all new tenants at sign up.
 - The insulation of existing stock has been progressively improved mainly through cavity wall insulation where appropriate, upgrading loft insulation, weather-stripping, upgrading of windows to double glazing on renewal.
 - The mansion blocks refurbishment programme in Holborn includes block heating, solar thermal water heating and wind turbines.
- 3.11 An example of work from the business sector is Olswang, a large law firm in Holborn and leading member of The Holborn Partnership. Olswang has introduced policies to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, reduce business travel by car, green its procurement of goods and services. They also have a comprehensive staff engagement programme. Olswang came 6th overall in the UK in terms of its environmental work in the 2008 Sunday Times' best 100 companies to work for survey. Examples of its initiatives include:
- Recycling facilities for all dry waste, a separate battery recycling point and recycling of toners with money collected donated to charity.
 - Incentives for staff cycling and use of phone-conferencing.
 - All paper is 100% recycled and pens are made out of recycled CDs.
 - A Green Team with representatives in all offices.
 - Holding workshops to advise their clients who are interested in going green.
- 4 **Make it easier for residents and businesses to protect the environment including:**
- Reducing, reusing and recycling their waste.
 - Reducing their carbon footprint
- 4.1 The Council is engaged in a range of activities to make it easier for residents and businesses to reduce their own impacts in relation to: saving energy in the home and at work; reducing, reusing and recycling waste; and green travel alternatives.
- 4.2 In respect of waste and recycling, Camden is the best performing authority in inner London for recycling, achieving 28% in 2006/7. We are also leading on innovative waste projects involving mobile phones, batteries, garden composting, smoking-related litter, school wormeries, cotton nappies, reusable bags and junk mail. Summer 2007 saw completion of the refurbishment of the Kentish Town recycling centre. There are new and enhanced features to allow residents to recycle more items and to make visits safer and more pleasurable. These include:
- New materials that can be recycled include hard/rigid plastics such as garden furniture/toys, hardcore and rubble, paper based food and liquid cartons i.e. tetra pak and all electrical goods.
 - A new one way system has made the centre easier and safer to use.
 - New signage has made it easier to find containers and provides feedback on how much the site recycles.

- 4.3 The Council is now looking at ways to take food waste out of the waste stream. As a result of Sustainability Task Force recommendations, we are undertaking a feasibility study on a localised pilot Rocket-based composting scheme and are also consulting with residents on the conversion of one of the domestic waste collections to a trial food waste collection service.
- 4.4 Camden continues to promote the freephone Camden Energy Advice Helpline, now operated by the London Energy Saving Trust Advice Service. The Helpline provides free advice on a range of domestic energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives including grant schemes. We have made £40k available in 2007-08 for the Council's own Eco-grants of up to £3,000 for green measures. The Council will also be trialling promotion of the Mayor's Green Homes Concierge Service from March 08. This is a tailored service designed to help residents reduce carbon emissions and take away the hassle factor of installing measures. The initial fee of £199 includes a home energy report and use of the Concierge Service for 12 months.
- 4.5 We have also been engaging with business and the community. Each summer we host the biggest free Green Fair in the UK, attended by 25,000 people in June 2007. We are working with over 150 businesses to reduce their impact through the Better Climate for Camden initiative and held a successful awards event to mark the initiative's first year. We are also increasing our work with schools through our Sustainable Schools Forum.
- 4.6 Voluntary Action Camden has also been working with the Council on a pilot Better Climate for Camden service for voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough. The pilot project has consisted of one-to-one support, including a free sustainability audit of the organisation and a tailored recommendations report on improvements and events and workshops. These have included: "How Green is your Charity?", Preparing an Environmental Policy, Green Office Surgery, and, for community centres and nurseries: "5 steps to a greener centre".
- 4.7 London & Continental Stations & Property Ltd (LCSP) – owners and developers of St Pancras Station - provides a good example of business activity in this area. LCSP are responsible for managing the collection, segregation and disposal of waste arising within St Pancras International station in collaboration with the station users and retail outlets and specialist waste contractors. Systems are in place for source segregation of glass (via Camden Council) and cardboard and further segregation of dry recyclables (paper, plastic and cans) is being implemented through the use of coloured bags; making it easier for station users and businesses to contribute. Domestic and international train operating companies have also been consulted on the implementation of their waste strategy and systems for recycling are being considered and developed.

5 **Encourage all developments and growth to be:**

- **Sensitive to the environment, including to open spaces, local character and the natural environment.**
- **As low carbon and low waste as possible; and overall**
- **To promote sustainable development**

- 5.1 Camden's achievements relating to sustainable land use planning includes the introduction of car-free housing on a far greater scale than other boroughs, with planning permission granted for 5,776 car free and car-capped housing units.
- 5.2 We have also set ambitious environmental requirements for the King's Cross development. In recognition of the continual advances in environmental and construction technologies, the Council is working in partnership with site developers (Argent King's Cross Ltd) who have undertaken to incorporate best practice energy efficient design and technology measures into all future buildings at the time of their design rather than being restricted to the current measures. Each building will be designed to exceed the building regulations requirements in operation at the time of construction by at least 5%. The site will include provision of combined heat and power, wind turbines, solar photovoltaics and a showcase fuel cell. There are also measures on water efficiency, construction and operational waste and a site-wide Travel Plan will ensure that the development maintains the emphasis on sustainable transport.
- 5.4 The Council has recently embarked upon the preparation of the next generation of Camden's planning policies under the Local Development Framework (LDF), which is due to replace the Camden Unitary Development Plan in 2010. We have conducted the 'Issues and Options' consultation, seeking local views on the important issues which we need to address in Camden for two key documents in the LDF, the Core Strategy and the Development Policies. These have adopted the principles of the Community Strategy and set out the wider issues facing the borough over the next 15 years.
- 5.5 The Issues and Options paper posed the following issues which could be addressed through the Core Strategy in respect of environmental sustainability:
- Whether sustainability and climate change issues should be the overriding principle for new development in Camden, or whether this should be given equal weighting to other matters, including design considerations.
 - Ways in which sustainable transport could be promoted in Camden.
 - A focus on development around transport interchanges to improve accessibility.
 - Encouraging recycling and expect developments to provide for the sorting and storage of waste.
- 5.6 The following issues were suggested for possible inclusion in Development Policy guidelines:
- The most appropriate targets for sustainable design and construction.
 - Energy efficiency in construction and new renewable energy standards.
 - Sustainable approaches to the use of materials in construction.
 - Targets for water consumption and rain water capture.
 - Re-use and recycling of materials.
 - Encouraging walking and cycling in the borough through careful design and the provision of necessary facilities.
 - Reduction of heavy goods movement and the use of the Regent's Canal for some freight transport.
 - Developer contributions to public transport facilities.

- Encourage people to live without access to a car.
 - Minimise the impact of development upon travel and transport.
- 5.7 Responses to the 'Issues and Options' consultation are now being analysed to help develop the preferred options for tackling these important issues. The intention is to consult on the preferences in summer 2008 before submission to the Secretary of State in spring 2009.
- 5.8 LSP partner, London & Continental Stations & Property Ltd have worked to maximise the sustainability of the new St Pancras Station. Restoration has maximised the retention of existing heritage materials where feasible, including the reuse of materials where practical or using substitute new materials from the original source (e.g. bricks and slates). The design of the station has opened up the under-croft area bringing natural light into the international concourse and retail areas and the glazing and open nature of the train shed extension has maximised use of day lighting for users of the East Midlands Trains platforms. Photoelectric cells positioned within both the domestic and international stations further limit use of electric lighting. Space heating and ventilation is largely limited to retail units and station arrivals and departure areas.
- 5.9 Camden Council is producing the North London Waste Plan jointly with six other boroughs (Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Islington, and Waltham Forest). The Plan will ensure that sites are identified for the range of facilities needed to manage all of the waste produced in the seven boroughs to 2020. Consultation on key issues and options for the Plan took place in January and February 2008. The Councils are now considering the responses received and the results of supporting/background studies and will prepare their "preferred options" for consultation in October - December 2008. This will be followed by consultation and a public examination into a draft of the Plan (late 2009/early 2010), with adoption by the seven boroughs of the North London Waste Plan due in late 2010.

6 Explore how major developments could generate heat and power for surrounding areas.

- 6.1 We are pursuing a three-pronged approach to combined heat and power (CHP) in Camden. Firstly, we are planning to undertake a large-scale CHP feasibility study for a council-owned estate and surrounding buildings. Secondly, we are seeking to extend existing or planned networks. Thirdly, we are including combined heat and power in S.106 negotiations for new sites. (Section 106 agreements (S.106) are legal agreements between local authorities and developers, which are linked to a planning permission)
- 6.2 In respect of opportunities for our own housing, we commissioned SEA-Renue to identify 3 options for a preferred site. The final report issued in January 2008 identified the 3 best 'clusters' in Gospel Oak, Kentish Town and Somers Town. We will shortly be undertaking a site specific technical feasibility study and should the study demonstrate that there is an economically viable scheme, we will then consider options for establishing an Energy Service Company to operate the scheme.
- 6.3 The Council has held exploratory talks with Argent regarding the potential for the planned Kings Cross Energy Centre to connect with estates in Somers

Town or Maiden Lane from 2011. We also plan to meet with the University College London and Bloomsbury CHP schemes operated by Utilicom and with the Swiss Cottage Leisure Centre operated by Greenwich Leisure Ltd to explore other opportunities.

- 6.4 As part of Section 106 negotiations for 'North East Quarter' (Euston), we have secured 'in principle' agreement with British Land to undertake a joint feasibility study on linking the planned 300 kWe CHP unit to surrounding council district heating.
- 7 **Reduce pollution from transport through both traffic reduction and the use of cleaner vehicles, including the promotion of walking, cycling and public transport.**
- 7.1 The Council has a longstanding, best practice Green Transport Strategy which has recently been updated and issued for consultation. Traffic levels in Camden have reduced by over 23% between 1994 and 2005 and cycling has risen by 65% since 2001. To date, Camden has 66 Car Club vehicles at 37 on-street locations across the borough - one of the highest numbers of car clubs in the country. In August 2007, we were one of the first boroughs to introduce emissions-based annual residents' parking permits directly proportional to the CO₂ emissions that vehicles produce, with free permits for renewably charged electric vehicles. Camden is also working to ensure that all schools have a travel plan in place by 2009.
- 7.2 Camden's Draft Green Transport Strategy 2008-2012 will have a key role to play in helping to meet the LSP's CO₂ targets and goals by further:
- Encouraging the use of more sustainable transport modes wherever possible and reducing the need to travel overall.
 - Encouraging greater use of more sustainable, high-occupancy motorised modes for longer trips (e.g. by bus, rail, tram, and through car clubs or ride-sharing).
 - Encouraging walking and cycling for local trips.
 - Making the benefits of reduced traffic to local economies an explicit element in transport appraisals.
- 7.3 The Metropolitan Police's Corporate Sustainable Travel Plan was published in October 2006 and the Ride2Work scheme was rolled out in January 2007. Over 2,020 MPS staff took the opportunity to lease a bicycle through the scheme. The MPS Car Share Scheme was also officially launched in December 2006. In addition, police officers have free use of the London underground, buses, and rail services up to about 70 miles outside London - all of which discourages the use of private cars.

8 How local people are contributing

- 8.1 The community strategy contains a section on 'how local people can contribute'. It mentions the following:
- Reducing the amount of energy and water used in the home.
 - Walking, cycling and using public transport, including for the school run.

- Reducing waste and recycling more
- Shopping locally.
- Using trains rather than planes where possible.
- If you are a business, taking action to reduce your impact on the environment.

Local people's willingness to contribute is demonstrated by examples such as the success of the Green Fair and the progress in recycling rates outlined earlier in this report.

- 8.2 In the Annual Residents Survey in November 2007, questions were included on climate change and the environment to help monitor changes in residents views and behaviours on a number of issues. The results were as follows:
- 79% of respondents reported that they were either 'concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change.
 - 74% 'strongly agreed' or 'tended to agree' that Camden Council should be seen as a leader in tackling climate change.
 - 20% reported that, in the last 12 months, they had changed their lifestyle 'a great deal' to reduce their impact on the environment, with a further 56% reporting that they had done this 'a little'.
 - 31% of respondents reported that they would consider contacting the Council for advice on tackling climate change and protecting the environment.
- 8.3 This survey has therefore provided extremely valuable baseline information which we can use to assess the effectiveness of our activities and communications over the coming years.

9 Conclusion and next steps

- 9.1 On 15th April, there will be an LSP seminar and strategic discussion on this area of work. The agenda for this seminar includes an update on the Council's Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability Action Plan and Sustainability Communications Plan, presentations from LSP partners on their activities and a presentation from the London Borough of Islington about the Islington Climate Change Partnership. These presentations will lead to a discussion on how the LSP might work together in establishing a Camden Climate Change Partnership
- 9.2 The LSP is asked to note and comment on this report. We will keep the LSP updated on this area once we have progressed negotiations with GOL on our proposed LAA targets on per capita CO₂ emissions and residual household waste.

Ends