

Camden Local Strategic Partnership

Meeting	23 April 2009
Report Title	Update on the Camden climate change alliance and an introduction to climate change adaptation
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Purpose	This report will update the LSP on progress with the Camden Climate Change Alliance project, introduce the subject of adapting to climate change, and suggest some actions for the LSP that will have immediate impact.
Recommendations	The LSP is asked to note the report and pass on the contact details of the most relevant person in their organisation that could be contacted about climate change adaptation.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Proposals for the Camden Climate Change Alliance were presented in a report to the LSP on 4 July 2008. A verbal update was provided on 9 October 2008 and it was agreed that the LSP would receive six-monthly updates on the project.
- 1.2 Whilst the Camden Climate Change Alliance is focussed on mitigating carbon dioxide emissions from the non-domestic sector which account for 64 percent of the Borough's CO₂ emissions, the need to adapt to climate change is becoming increasingly important. Scientists agree that society is already committed to at least a two degree rise in global temperature, therefore, some adaptation to a new climate and weather regime will be required.
- 1.3 Cross borough action is needed to transform Camden into a borough that is able to adapt well to the changing climate and weather. Engagement with the LSP, regional bodies such as Transport for London, Thames Water, and the London Climate Change Partnership, and national organisations such as the Environment Agency and UK Climate Impacts Programme, will help stimulate and guide this action.
- 1.4 This report is in two parts. Part one provides an update on the Camden Climate Change Alliance and part two introduces climate change adaptation and some early actions that LSP members could implement.

2 Part One: The Camden Climate Change Alliance

Alliance Advisory Board

- 2.1 The Alliance Advisory Board comprises representatives from ten external organisations and Council staff. The public sector, voluntary sector, and private sector are represented. A full list of Board members is available in appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Advisory Board has met four times since September 2008 and has added valuable direction to the project discussing issues such as Alliance services for its members and a joint CO₂ reduction target. The Board is proactive, providing the Alliance team with meeting space, event speakers, and taking part in activities.
- 2.3 The Advisory Board has developed a vision for the Alliance and its members. A key part of this vision is to develop an Alliance that achieves *'a measurable and continued reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide from the non-domestic sector'*.
- 2.4 The Advisory Board has agreed the following joint reduction target for the Alliance: By working together, members of the Camden Climate Change Alliance will aim to reduce their baseline emissions of CO₂ by 10% by April 2012.

Alliance Model

- 2.5 Organisations of all sizes and sectors can join the Alliance by signing a 'Climate Commitment'. Once they have achieved the part of the Climate Commitment that requires them to calculate their carbon footprint, set a target, and produce an action plan they receive the Better Climate for Camden 'Going Green' mark of achievement. Once they can demonstrate a measurable CO₂ reduction they are upgraded to the 'Cutting Carbon' membership level. Once the full Climate Commitment is being met and the organisation is interacting with the Alliance they obtain the 'Carbon Champion' mark of achievement. A method is currently being investigated to enable organisations to disclose their CO₂ emissions and annual savings on the Alliance website. All Alliance services are designed to help Alliance Members to keep their Climate Commitments, or to provide non-members with access to the Alliance and an opportunity for the Alliance team to encourage them to join.
- 2.6 The Alliance operates on the following key principles;
 - By working together, sharing knowledge and experience, organisations can achieve greater emissions reductions than they could otherwise do alone.
 - The Alliance is shaped by the members to meet their carbon challenges. Their interaction and engagement with the project is the key to its success.

2.7 The Alliance currently has 38 members with their greatest carbon challenge listed as energy consumption followed by measuring their carbon footprints. Members are from organisations of all sizes and sectors. A full list of members of the Alliance is included in appendix 2.

Service Delivery

2.8 The Alliance was officially launched on 6th November 2008 at a well attended breakfast event resulting in the Alliance’s first fifteen members. A period of service development followed the launch.

2.9 The Alliance team has developed a flag-ship Carbon Confident Programme for SMEs. This is a four step programme taking an organisation through the process of calculating a carbon footprint to implementing high priority emissions reduction actions. Organisations must join the Alliance to take part in the programme.

2.10 The Alliance held its first major event, a debate on the issues surrounding continued investment in environmental improvement in times of recession, on 19th March. The event was well received by those who attended and supported by excellent speakers from Alliance members Atkins, CAMCO, Argent, and Olswang.

2.11 To recognise the achievements of organisations in Camden to improve their environmental impact, Camden Council is holding its first EECO Awards – Environmental Excellence in Camden Organisations – which builds on the Better Climate for Camden Awards 2008. Applications are scheduled to be judged in April with the awards ceremony to announce the winners arranged for 21st April in the Mayor’s parlour.

2.12 The Alliance launched its website, www.betterclimateforcamden.org on 3rd March. The website is the main communication and collaboration tool for the project.

Future Development

2.13 The table below sets out the next six-months of major Alliance activity:

Action	May	June	July	August	September	October
Start Carbon Confident round 2						
Complete Carbon confident round 1						
Online CO ₂ disclosure system development						
Carbon footprint training (bi-monthly)						
Collate Alliance CO ₂ baseline						

Major event (i.e. meet the supplier)						
Complete Carbon Confident round 2						

3 Part 2: Adapting to Climate Change

Introduction

- 3.1 Climate change adaptation refers to planned responses aimed at minimising the threats and maximising the opportunities of a changing climate. Adaptation can also be thought of as the ongoing process of managing changing climate risks.
- 3.2 By working in partnership the key sectors in Camden can develop a joint vision and consistent strategies and action plans to create a community that adapts well to the changing climate and weather. The Council, Local Strategic Partnership, organisations of all sizes and sectors, borough residents, and schools can monitor the changing climate, assess their risks and opportunities, and implement actions to adapt.
- 3.3 At a national level, the Climate Change Act 2008 grants the government powers to require the development of climate change risk assessments and adaptation responses. At the regional level, the Mayor of London's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy states the Mayor's aims to ensure action from Local Authorities and the North London Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2008) makes recommendations to ensure that the Council and its partners (across the emergency services and local community) play a coordinated role in the event of future flooding.

Predicted Climate Change Effects

- 3.4 The UK Climate Impacts Programme predicts that London will experience hotter wetter winters and warmer, drier, summers. Flash flooding will increase in winter as will the likelihood of summer drought and heat waves. More extreme and uncertain weather is predicted.
- 3.5 There are clear links between the risks posed by climate change and the Council's Local Development Framework core strategy, presented in a report to the LSP in October 2008. For example, the greater challenge in a warmer, wetter London of providing affordable housing that is also fit for purpose, and encouraging walking and cycling when confronted with annual summer heat waves.
- 3.6 Climate change poses significant challenges for public health. The 2003 heat wave is linked to 53,000 additional deaths in Europe, mainly amongst the elderly and vulnerable living in buildings not equipped with adequate ventilation. The London School of Hygiene and Tropical

Medicine warn about the migration of diseases such as malaria into new areas and the risks posed by an increase in the conditions ideal for pests to multiply.

- 3.7 Climate change will have a disproportionate affect as some buildings, people, and organisations are more vulnerable, especially small businesses. Recent research by the South East regional climate change partnership found 54 percent of business respondents had experienced at least one weather event in past two years that had affected their business, and over 58 percent expect climate change to have some kind of impact on their business, both positive or negative. A key driver for businesses to take action on climate and the environment was found to come from the insurance industry that is continually increasing premiums for organisations more exposed to climate change.

Risk Assessment

- 3.8 Camden Council is currently assessing Camden's risk from climate change and establishing the positive and negative impacts. Camden has produced an early Local Climate Impacts Profile and will be collaborating with the Government Office for London on a London wide Climate Impacts Profile throughout 2009.
- 3.9 Camden is also drawing on other sources of information to produce its risk assessment, such as flooding information from the environment agency, information from the UK Climate Impacts Programme, and local geographical information systems studies. The risk assessment will be an ongoing process.

Taking Action

- 3.10 The Local Government Performance Framework includes National Indicator 188: Planning to Adapt to Climate Change. This indicator recommends mobilisation of the borough through leadership and engagement as a route to transforming Camden into a community able to adapt well to the changing climate.
- 3.11 Camden Council would like to begin working with its Local Strategic Partnership on this issue and asks LSP members to nominate a contact for climate change adaptation. LSP members may wish to nominate a contact already engaged with the Camden Climate Change Alliance if this is appropriate and Camden Council will use existing working relationships and communications channels wherever possible to reduce any additional work.
- 3.12 The Council is already taking early action to adapt the Borough to climate change. The Camden Climate Change Alliance team make adaptation recommendations when undertaking carbon assessments for members of the Alliance, for example, recommending solar film to

reduce the heat gain from south facing windows. The Housing and Adult Social Care department are actively promoting the installation of green roofs in the borough which help to protect wildlife and absorb heat from the local environment helping to counter-act the urban heat island effect. Camden has recently re-signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and publicised this to demonstrate its continued and increased focus on climate change.

- 3.13 Members of the Local Strategic Partnership could take the following action to begin the process of adapting to climate change:
1. Contact Camden's Corporate Sustainability team to find out how we can work together to make the borough more resilient to the effects of climate change.
 2. Build an understanding of the risk that climate change poses to the delivery of their services and their customers by using the information and tools available for this purpose on the [UK Climate Impacts Programme](#) website.
 3. Designate responsibility to a member of staff for the climate change adaptation agenda.
 4. Take some early practical adaptation actions such as installing rainwater collection, blinds or solar film on south facing windows, and drought resistant planting.
 5. Sign up for a [Projections in Practice](#) event being run by the UK Climate Impacts Programme to help organisations to understand the risks of climate change uncovered in the new 2009 climate change projections.

Ends

Appendix 1: Alliance Advisory Board

Name	Organisation
Oliver Myers	LB Camden
Claire Smith	LB Camden
William Routh	LB Camden
Elle Todd	Olswang
Tass Mavrogordato	Inholborn
Simon Pitkeathley	Camden Town Unlimited
Kevin Nunan	Voluntary Action Camden
Joanne Wilson	Camden PCT
Rachel Starling	High Speed 1
Alan Lewis	Met Police
Michael Quay	London Fire
Martin Gummer	Birkbeck
Roger Madelin	Argent

Appendix 2: Alliance Members

1. Addison Lee Plc
2. Alara
3. Argent Group Plc
4. Arthritis Care
5. Atkins
6. Azographics
7. Birkbeck
8. Boma Garden Centre
9. The British Library
10. Cake
11. Camco
12. Camden Arts Centre
13. Camden Town Unlimited
14. Clean Break
15. Consolidated PR Ltd
16. Envigo
17. Friends House
18. Geyer Estates Ltd
19. High Speed 1
20. Holiday Inn Camden
21. In Holborn
22. Kings Cross Central Limited Partnership
23. Leverton & Sons Ltd
24. London Borough of Camden
25. London Fire Brigade
26. Metropolitan Police (Camden)
27. Monster Worldwide Ltd
28. Mouchel Group Plc
29. NHS Camden
30. Olswang
31. Park Inn London
32. Redhouse Lane
33. Royal College of Physicians
34. Sheppard Robson
35. Voluntary Action Camden
36. VMA Group
37. Westhill
38. Wizzgo