

Community Involvement Working Group

Carbon Commission Summary

In the current economic climate, with large cuts to local government budgets, many authorities are reducing their focus on the green agenda, believing this is now a luxury they cannot afford. In Haringey, we have made a real commitment to tackle climate change – and to tackle it locally – by becoming the first major authority to sign up to a pledge to reduce carbon emissions in our borough by 40% by 2020.

Haringey's Carbon Commission, in partnership with The New Economics Foundation (NEF), brings together experts drawn from across the business, government and research communities to explore how this ambitious target of a 40% reduction in carbon emissions can be practically achieved in the timeframe while taking an approach that puts reducing inequality at the heart of our low carbon transition. A range of evidence to support this work has been developed with the support of funding from the Department of Energy & Climate Change, Local Carbon Framework Pilot. The resulting recommendations developed by the Carbon Commission will be considered by the Council and Haringey 40:20 Steering Group in Spring 2012.

Scope and Timescale

Five working groups will support the work of the Carbon Commission. These will explore:

- Low Carbon Investment
- Community Involvement
- Sustainable Transport
- Green Enterprise
- Integrated delivery – sustainable regeneration of Tottenham

Each working group will meet twice, review materials and feed in recommendations to the Commission. Each group will include a Carbon Commission member, and be supported by a Council officer.

A summary of discussions from the working group as well as evidence received from learning partners from other areas in the UK and Europe and local stakeholders will be provided to the Carbon Commission in December. The Carbon Commission will make its final recommendations to the Council and Haringey 40:20 steering group (comprising of local stakeholders) in Spring 2012.

Community Involvement Working Group

This working group will assess how the Council can use existing networks and partnerships, or support the creation of new ones, in order to bring about borough-wide involvement in achieving 40:20.

Sustainability programmes are more likely to be successful if they are designed and delivered around the needs and aspirations of local communities, give people a stake and a share of benefits. Working at a neighbourhood level can help in identifying local priorities and opportunities, integrating planning and delivery of upgrades and utilising peer to peer activity to influence behaviour change.

Community involvement could take broadly one of two forms:

- **Setting up** a local partnership to develop an integrated 40:20 plan at a local level, using existing mapping of CO2 reduction potential and potentially encompassing a range of priorities such as green space, biodiversity, adaptation measures and energy efficiency.
- **Building upon** existing networks and partnerships to introduce a wider sustainability measures to their current activities, and/or focusing attention on specific measures such as reducing levels of consumption, increasing local sourcing, and greening transport choices.

A flexible approach will be needed to take into account the diversity of the borough, ranging from places with major regeneration plans, relatively stable neighbourhoods, and areas with historical and recreational assets such as Alexandra Palace and Bruce Castle. The implications of a differentiated approach across the borough will need to be explicitly considered.

The issues and opportunities to be considered include:

1. In what instances are approaches geared towards different **sectors** (e.g. schools, businesses, households) more appropriate versus working on an **area basis**?
2. How can we build on existing structures and partnerships to develop **integrated neighbourhood plans**?
 - What elements would an integrated neighbourhood plan need to encompass?
 - How could this process be linked to greater devolvement of local **spatial planning** – potentially encouraging neighbourhood planning and other local approaches?
 - What can be learnt from the Mayor of London **Low Carbon Zones** initiative?
3. What should the Council's approach be in those areas with, and those without, existing **advocates for environmental sustainability**?
4. What are the key **motivating factors** and **incentives** for increasing and sustaining involvement that should be considered for those ranging from the “keen greens” to “the disengaged”?
5. How could community involvement be **sustainably resourced**, within an awareness of the limits of public finance, and what potential is there to work with the corporate and voluntary sectors?
6. How can **resources and funding be devolved** to local groups or partnerships to deliver low carbon schemes in a way that ensures both local control and responsible governance and accountability mechanisms?
7. Given an appreciation of the time that genuine involvement can take to establish, what should our approach be to neighbourhood involvement over the **short, medium and long term**?
8. To what extent are different mechanisms for community involvement relevant to the **range of neighbourhoods** in Haringey?
9. How do we ensure mechanisms for community involvement deliver **wider community benefits**?

Session 1 (Mid November)

Working group members will meet with a range of representatives from the community to discuss approaches needed to bring about borough wide involvement of businesses, organisations and residents in achieving 40:20. A summary of evidence from previous schemes run in Haringey and elsewhere will be made available to participants.

Before the second session working group members will be asked to carry out further research to test ideas and options discussed and prepare proposals for evaluation by the working group.

Session 2 (Early December)

Evaluation of approaches for community involvement required for the short/med/long term against key social, economic and environmental objectives for the Borough, and review of cross cutting issues.

A summary of the discussion and evaluation from the working group will be provided to the Carbon Commission in December.

Contact Details

If you would like more information about the working group and commission please contact:

Email – haringey4020@haringey.gov.uk

Telephone - 020 4849 3525

Range of Evidence Available

See the Document Library at www.Haringey4020.org.uk/useful-information to download full reports

Community Involvement – Key Documents		
Report title and description	Category	Commissioning organisation/author, date
<i>A write up of discussions from the 2011 Haringey 40:20 Conference</i>	Community	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>Haringey Sustainable Communities Strategy Summary</i>	Council policy	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>Haringey's Green Deal Pilot Report</i>	Local pilot project	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>En10ergy Industrial & Provident Society (part of the DECC Low Carbon Communities Challenge)</i>	Local pilot project	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>Low Carbon Zone Mid-Project Report</i>	Local pilot project	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>Community Based Social Marketing – Fostering behaviour change</i>	Policy report	Haringey Council, 2011
<i>Working Together - A Report by London Sustainability Exchange</i>	Policy report	London Sustainability Exchange, 2011
<i>Working with Local Communities to Tackle Climate Change</i>	Policy report	NESTA, 2010

A number of key stakeholders are identified and their views will be represented at the working group through submission of a summary of consultation responses received and/or direct representation at the working group.

Key stakeholders	Category
Sustainable Haringey, network of local residents and organisations	Local – Third sector
Finsbury Park and Crouch End Transition Town Movements	Local – Third sector
En10ergy – local Industrial and Provident Society (Community investment into renewable energy)	Local – Third sector
Muswell Hill Low Carbon Zone	Local – Third sector
Area Committees Team, Haringey Council	Local – Public sector
Head of Local Democracy, Haringey Council	Local - Public sector
Residents Associations network	Local – Third sector
London Sustainability Exchange	Regional – Third sector
Groundwork UK	National – Third sector
Haringey Trade Associations	Local – private sector
Social housing resident associations and engagement officers	Local – Public sector/Third Sector/Private
Haringey Sixth Form Centre	Local - Public sector
Sustainable Schools network	Local - Public sector
CONEL – higher education college	Local - Public sector