

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are in the middle of a global climate crisis. We are witnessing the breakdown of climate and ecological systems resulting in increasing numbers of extreme weather events, growing conflict over scarce resources, and rapidly declining biodiversity. The winter of 2021 saw dramatic rises in the cost of gas used to heat our homes, which has exacerbated fuel poverty amongst our most vulnerable.

Our streets are congested with cars creating noise, taking up space, affecting safety and air quality. As the 5th most densely populated borough in the UK, Lambeth faces increased risks of exposure to hotter temperatures, as well as risk of flooding during increasingly frequent heavy rainfall events. We can overcome this, but it will take action now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from all sources and build our resilience to the impacts of climate change that we have already locked in. We need to support each other through this transition, so we can protect and positively influence the future of our borough, our own livelihoods and those of our children.

Key message 1: This Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been developed by a wide range of community groups and businesses across the borough for everyone who lives in, works in and visits Lambeth. Lambeth council has coordinated the process but the ownership of the goals and actions are shared across a number of important, named stakeholders.

In January 2019, Lambeth Council was the first London borough to declare a climate and ecological emergency and committed to ensuring the council's operations are net zero by 2030. Since then, as well as developing and implementing its own plan to reduce emissions, the council has reached out to residents and organisations in Lambeth; residents through the **Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Crisis** and online public consultation; specific groups such as faith communities and young people; and key organisations including healthcare and educational institutions and businesses.

Out of this collaboration, we have developed Lambeth's first climate partnership, bringing together the borough's large public, private and third sector organisations to work together to oversee the development and implementation of this Climate Action Plan. The climate partnership will work with climate experts and community groups to ensure Lambeth achieves its goal of a more sustainable and just future.





This plan has been developed for everyone in the borough, but it also recognises that climate change does not affect everyone equally. Women, younger and older people, multi-ethnic groups and disabled people are more likely to be exposed to the impacts of climate change and climate policy, such as rising energy prices, air pollution, or changes in the labour market. As we implement this plan, we need to make sure we understand and consider the impacts on different population groups. It highlights the importance of hearing all voices, such that everyone in Lambeth can understand and play their role in creating a borough that is **prosperous, fair, low carbon** and **climate resilient**.

Key message 2: This CAP sets measurable goals to cover the depth and breadth of collaborative climate action needed.

This CAP also sets out Lambeth's goal to become **net zero** compatible by 2030. This means the borough (residents, businesses and the council) will be as close as possible to zero overall emissions, by prioritising emissions reductions, and compensating for any remaining emissions through offsetting activities, such as planting trees. Achieving this goal to become a prosperous, fair and climate resilient Lambeth requires action to be broken down into sub-goals that sit under clearly defined priority areas:

1. **Adaptation**
2. **Buildings and energy**
3. **Transport**
4. **Waste, consumption and food**
5. **Biodiversity and environmental quality**

No single organisation can achieve these goals alone; it will require close collaboration between organisations within Lambeth, and regional and central government. Each organisation will need significant increases in resources to play their part – people, funding and finances. Achieving these goals will require a commitment to collaboration; developing effective financial mechanisms; engagement of national government and others outside of the borough; and monitoring and reporting systems.

Key message 3: Securing the future of our borough will be a journey. We must all learn from and support each other.

We have a huge challenge and much learning ahead of us. The work needs to begin now and happen fast. Supporting and learning from each other means we will need strong channels of communication, governance structures that encourage **learning and collaboration**, and the confidence to hold each other to account. We will also need leadership throughout our community. Lambeth Council has an important role providing civic leadership and helping to bring together different organisations and communities, but we also need leadership from our businesses, big institutions such as our hospitals and universities, voluntary and community sector and residents themselves. This CAP is designed to set us off in the right direction, but it will continue to be developed to keep pace with shifts across society, technology and wider policy, including the changing needs of communities, groups and organisations in Lambeth.

This is an opportunity for everyone to play their part, no matter how large or small, in securing a more just and sustainable future.

