

**THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA  
ENVIRONMENT SELECT COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2020  
LEAD MEMBER THE ENVIRONMENT - PRIORITIES**

This paper provides background for scrutiny by the Committee of the Lead Member's key priorities and the way he intends to achieve them.

**FOR DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

**1. Cleaner air in Kensington and Chelsea**

**1.1. set and implement new carbon reduction plans for the Council and for the Borough**

Site	Annual average level ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )		
	2017	2018	2019
North Kensington	33	29	27
Cromwell Road	51	48	44
Knightsbridge	66	66	55
Chelsea Old Town Hall	63	60	53
Earls Court	78	79	59

*Average level of Nitrogen Dioxide (National Air Quality Objective is  $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) – January to December 2019 (2019 data is provisional). To date, it can be seen that most sites except for KC1 (background site) exceed the statutory objective for the annual average level of  $\text{NO}_2$ . However, early indications are that there is a gradual reduction in the amount it is exceeded by.*

We declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and a formal declaration was adopted at the full Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. We committed to a carbon neutral Council (buildings and operations) by 2030 and a carbon neutral borough by 2040. To reach these Council and borough-wide targets – our Vision Carbon zero - we are drafting an action plan. The action plan and the Vision Carbon Zero will be included in the updated Air Quality and Climate Change Action Plan (AQCCAP).

We need a thorough understanding of the key sources of GHG emissions in our local area to define emissions reduction measures. Different zero carbon scenarios will be explored – core, radical and systemic change and we will be looking at all scopes of emissions (direct and indirect) and embodied carbon.

The next steps are: to commission independent research and zero carbon modelling for an evidence-based approach; and to consult with residents, community groups and businesses. The Council has already created an internal Air Quality and Climate Change Strategic Board to work across all departments.

We are committed to working collaboratively with residents, universities, community groups, landowners and housing providers. According to the latest data published by BEIS for 2017, 50% of

carbon emissions come from industry and commercial (businesses), 32% from domestic, 18% from transport. The Council will be using the carbon emission data published by BEIS and will be exploring the different zero pathways and actions suggested by the GLA, ARUP, Friends of the Earth and Ashden, Tyndall Centre etc. We will also renew our air quality sensors across the borough.

We have already started implementing additional greening measures such as installing an additional 20 linear meters of 2.2m high ivy screening in the rear playground of St Cuthbert’s School, Warwick Road.

**1.2.increase renewable energy and support community-owned energy projects.**

We will continue to support community owned energy projects, such as the award-winning North Kensington Community Energy (NKCE). A phase 2 of NKCE is being progressed which will hopefully include Westway Sports Centre and Phase 3 is exploring an additional three buildings.

We are promoting the “Solar Together” project which encourages residents to install solar panels and offers a preferential rate. In the current campaign 55 residents have registered for the scheme.

There were 26 planning applications for installing solar panels in 2019, to date 16 have been approved, 2 have been withdrawn.

A target for installing solar panels will be explored as part of the Vision Carbon Zero road map.

Since September, we have been working on new initiatives such as including a provision on sustainability in our housing strategy. We are also working with partners on their sustainability projects such as Lancaster West and Cadogan.

**2. Support Electric vehicles**

**2.1. Continue to roll out electric vehicle chargers throughout the borough aiming for one charger within 200m of each resident by the end of 2020**

We are continuing to roll out EV chargers across the borough. At present, 87% of all residential properties in the borough are within 200 metres of a charging point and we expect to achieve 100% by the end of 2020.

**Table 1.** EV chargers and permits in RBKC

	<b>Aug-19</b>	<b>Sep-19</b>	<b>Oct-19</b>	<b>Nov-19</b>	<b>Dec-19</b>	<b>Jan-20</b>
<b>Number of EV residents' permits</b>	597	623	632	645	657	687
<b>Number of lamp column chargers operational*</b>	103	114	175	221	225	226
<b>Lamp column charger usage</b>	149	403	557	929	796	1081
<b>... totalling number of hours</b>	835	3098	3882	5823	6538	8933
<b>Source London usage</b>	1211	1728	2211	2459	2075	2433

<b>... totalling number of hours</b>	3222	4866	5562	6585	5553	6325
<b>Number of distinct Source London users</b>	447	568	631	664	667	717

Currently, 45 new Source London EV bays are being advertised. We are also upgrading 64 lamp column chargers, and site surveys for ten new lamp column chargers are being carried out. We have received confirmation of GULCS funding of £155,100 which should be released in April and provide us with another 100 lamp column charge points.

## 2.2. update parking charges

The number of electric vehicles in RBKC has been increasing, from 597 permits in August to 687 in January. To further incentives, we have created a diesel surcharge for visitor parking, and we are also reviewing parking charges for residents.

For visitor parking, at the last full Council meeting we adopted a 25 per cent discount for electric vehicles and 15 per cent surcharge for diesel vehicles. This will be reviewed every year at the Council's annual review of fees and charges.

**Table 2.** Differential charging structures already employed by some central London Boroughs.

	<b>Electric or Hybrid</b>	<b>Petrol</b>	<b>Diesel</b>	<b>Vehicles where the emissions are unknown</b>
<b>City of London</b>	£4	£5.20 (post-2005) £6.80 (pre-2005)	£5.20 (post-2015) £6.80 (pre-2015)	£6.80 (same charge as paying at a pay-and-display machine)
<b>Westminster CC (zone F only) - Hyde Park, Marylebone and Fitzrovia)</b>	£4.90	£4.90	£4.90 (post-2015) £7.35 (pre-2015)	£4.90
<b>LB Islington</b>	£2.40 to £6	£2.40 to £6	£5.40 to £9	£2.40 to £6

The [resident parking permit structure](#) will also be changed from seven permit bands to one directly related to the CO2 emissions of each vehicle. We are also working on making permits - and the renewal process - digital.

The proposed timeline for these changes is as follows: implementation of the diesel surcharge for visitors next April, announcement of resident parking permit changes during the summer, and in September switch to digital operations and implementation of new resident parking permit charges.

### 2.3. switch to electric bin lorries borough wide 2030

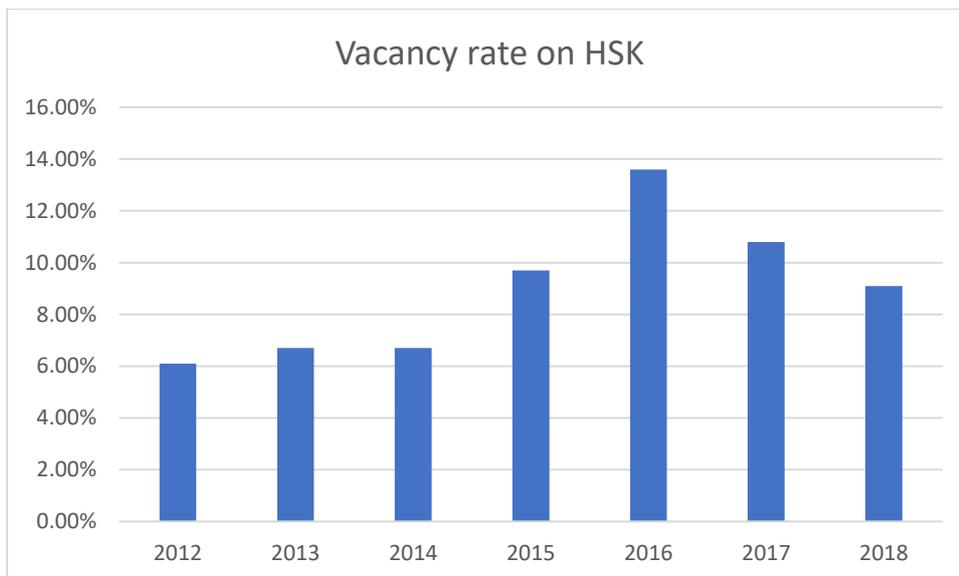
We will be replacing all of our lorries with electric lorries by 2030 and we are currently exploring different options. An electric refuse collection vehicle trial is planned for late February to test the technology on the urban roads of the borough. Electric charging infrastructure for a new electric waste fleet is being progressed and will be ready for when the new electric vehicles are purchased.

The current waste contract expires on 31 March 2021, a procurement exercise is currently live, with initial tenders to be returned this Spring and a new contract awarded in Autumn 2020. The new contract will be an 8 year + 8 year contract.

We are also working on pilot schemes with partners from the private sector and Imperial to continue greening our fleet.

### 3. Revitalise High streets

To revitalise our high streets, we need to identify the specific issues they are facing, work out what we can do to solve them and create a more business friendly borough. We have agreed to develop a pilot on High street Kensington.



*The proportion of empty shops reached 10.3% in July in the UK, its highest level since January 2015. Consumers in the UK now spend one in every five pounds online*

Since September, we have implemented initiatives such as the green parklets, creative crossings, events in the Council Plaza and Christmas lights. Other projects are under way, such as creating a market near the Council, or a café underneath the Council Chamber, and we are looking at installing green screens in front of vacant shops or development sites. We are also rolling out full-fibre installation on Kensington High Street.

We will create a risk plan to address community safety issues on high streets. We will also look at options to revitalise the high street including reviewing planning conditions, licensing (alcohol and tables and chairs) and change of use. Culture Services have appointed a consultant to undertake a Business Improvement District feasibility study for Kensington High Street.

BIDs are also being explored for King's Road and Brompton Road.