

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – DD2250

Title: Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan publication

Executive Summary:

The Mayor has prepared a London Environment Strategy as required by the Greater London Authority Act 1999, as amended by ("GLA Act"). Whilst not a formal part of the strategy, the Mayor has developed a Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan (action plans) setting out his actions to meet environment objectives in these specific areas. These will be published at the same time as the final London Environment Strategy.

On 11 August 2017 the Mayor published the draft Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan alongside the draft London Environment Strategy and Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) for public consultation. The consultation ran for 14 weeks, closing on 17 November 2017. The preparation of the final action plans (Appendices A & B) has taken into account the comments received from stakeholders and the public through the consultation. The director is asked to approve these final versions of the action plans, having considered the consultation response report which includes feedback on solar and fuel poverty aspects of the strategy.

Decision:

That the Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment approves the final versions of the Solar Action Plan (Appendix A) and the Fuel Poverty Action Plan (Appendix B) for publication.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Fiona Fletcher-Smith

Position: Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment

Signature:



Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor has prepared a London Environment Strategy as required by the Greater London Authority Act 1999, as amended by (“GLA Act”). The Strategy is being approved separately via MD2292. Whilst not a formal part of the strategy, the Mayor committed to and has subsequently developed a Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan (action plans) setting out his actions to meet environment objectives in these specific areas. As these documents closely align with the content of the London Environment Strategy and contain the actions that the Mayor will take to deliver key aspects of the strategy, it is recommended that they are published alongside the strategy.
- 1.2 The London Environment Strategy and related action plans have been drafted to reflect the priorities and direction set out by the Mayor in ‘A City for All Londoners’, which the Mayor published for consultation in October 2016. These priorities included accommodating growth, providing more housing, supporting the economy, improving the environment, transport and public spaces, and ensuring social integration. Both of the action plans are Mayoral commitments and provide more detail than the strategy on how the Mayor will take forward work on increasing solar energy in London and tackling fuel poverty.
- 1.3 The Mayor’s draft Solar Action Plan and draft Fuel Poverty Action Plan were published for public consultation in August 2017 alongside the draft Environment Strategy¹, with the strategy including the objectives of these draft action plans. The consultation ran for 14 weeks, closing on 17 November 2017.
- 1.4 The consultation process for the draft Environment Strategy was conducted in accordance with the statutory requirements, and the action plans followed this same process. A comprehensive consultation, and public and stakeholder engagement programme was devised and implemented to ensure that stakeholders and the public were provided sufficient information to facilitate meaningful and constructive feedback.
- 1.5 The draft action plans were made publicly available on the London.gov.uk website. There was also a dedicated page on the Talk London webpages. Respondents were able to submit their response to questions through a number of channels, including:
 1. by completing a webform on London.gov.uk
 2. by completing surveys on TalkLondon
 3. by email, letter or telephone
- 1.6 An extensive technical stakeholder (including community groups) engagement programme was undertaken to ensure stakeholders were briefed, and to provide opportunities to hear and understand their views on the draft London Environment Strategy and the action plans. 370 technical stakeholders responded on the draft London Environment Strategy and action plans. 2,900 Talk London members completed 5,400 surveys and there were over 5,500 downloads of the strategy document.

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/WHAT-WE-DO/environment/environment-publications/draft-london-environment-strategy>

- 1.7 The preparation of the final Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan has taken into account the comments received from stakeholders and the public through the consultation process and includes updated evidence and analyses where available.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan will contribute to meeting the objectives of the London Environment Strategy, namely:
- Reduce emissions of London's homes and workplaces while protecting the most disadvantaged by tackling fuel poverty
 - Develop clean and smart, integrated energy systems utilising local and renewable energy resources
- 2.2 In the Solar Action Plan the Mayor has set an ambition for London to achieve 1 gigawatt (GW) of installed capacity by 2030 and 2 GW by 2050. This can't be done through the Mayor's leadership and programmes alone. It will need strong and supportive policy from national government and the support of local government, the private sector, charities and individuals. Overarching mayoral actions include:
- Lead by example by maximising solar energy technologies on GLA group buildings
 - Encourage solar energy installations through the planning system
 - Help Londoners to retrofit solar energy technologies on their homes and workplaces through the Mayor's programmes and funding
 - Help Londoners to make informed decisions about investing in solar energy technologies
 - Call on government to set a national policy framework to help London realise its solar energy potential
- 2.3 The Mayor's ambition is to reduce both the prevalence of fuel poverty in London and the 'depth' of fuel poverty that Londoners experience. Actions include:
- investing directly in energy efficiency programmes targeting carbon reduction and tackling fuel poverty
 - providing funding to support and create local advice and referral networks as a way of helping to improve the living conditions of fuel poor households signposting the fuel poor to more affordable energy tariffs and offering fairer energy through Energy for Londoners
 - implementing a programme to help Londoners get access to all of the income support they are entitled to
 - providing guidance and support to boroughs on how they can use data to identify households in fuel poverty
 - establishing a high-profile cross-sectoral Fuel Poverty Partnership to coordinate action in London
 - calling on government to develop fiscal incentives for solid wall insulation and review the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard to remove exemptions and increase the number of properties treated:
- 2.4 Progress against actions in the Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan will be reviewed as part of the London Environment Strategy Implementation Plan. The Implementation plan will be reported against annually and updated to show progress each year.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Equality Act'), as public authorities, the Mayor must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only). Further, s33(1) of the GLA Act requires the Mayor to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that in the formulation of the policies and proposals to be included in any of his statutory strategies, and in their implementation, there is "due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people".
- 3.2 The consultation materials in respect of the draft London Environment Strategy and action plans were made available in a format that was accessible to blind and visually impaired people who use screen readers, and the executive summary of the strategy was available in an EasyRead format for people with learning disabilities. Deaf and hearing impaired people were provided with a means of contacting the GLA if they required further information or were not able to access the internet or email. In addition, people were welcome to provide responses in writing. Requests for the documents to be made available in other formats and translated into other languages were to be considered on a case by case basis, although no such requests were made.
- 3.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment in respect of the draft London Environment Strategy is included in the Integrated Impact Assessment. This identified that proposals to introduce water meters should help address water poverty for low income households, with the exception of those who have higher essential use requirements, such as large families with children and disabled people with certain medical conditions.

4. Financial comments

- 4.1 Approval is sought for the Mayor to approve the final recommended versions of the Solar Action Plan (Appendix A) and the Fuel Poverty Action Plan (Appendix B) for publication. The GLA's business planning process is aligned with the London Environment Strategy and the Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan. However, the strategy and related plans look beyond the business planning period and funding this far ahead is necessarily attended by a degree of uncertainty. The Mayor is required to have regard to the resources available for implementation of the London Environment Strategy and related plans when setting future years' budgets.

5. Legal comments

- 5.1 The Action Plans further the environmental, social and economic improvement of Greater London and so are authorised under section 30(1) and (2) of the GLA Act. They do not form part of the London Environment Strategy which is published separately under section 354A. Therefore they are not subject to the Assembly rejection procedures under s 42B of the Act.

6. **Planned delivery approach and next steps**

The key dates for the publication of the Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan are as follows:

Activity	Timeline
Copies of action plans provided to the Chair of the London Assembly for information only alongside the final London Environment Strategy	10 th May 2018
London Assembly plenary to consider the final London Environment Strategy (and associated documents)	21 st May 2018
Final Solar Action Plan and Fuel Poverty Action Plan formally published alongside the final London Environment Strategy	June 2018

Appendices and supporting papers:

The following documents are attached to this form:

- Appendix A: Solar Action Plan
- Appendix B: Fuel Poverty Action Plan

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Matt Thomas has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Patrick Feehily has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Financial and Legal advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 14 May 2018.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

M. J. BlG

Date

18.5.18