



London CLOA meeting

27 January 2021

Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ishbel Murray, chair of London CLOA, introduced everyone to the meeting.

2. London Councils' climate change programme – Kate Hand, Head of Climate Change, London Councils

Almost all London boroughs have now declared climate emergencies. 21 boroughs have Climate Action Plans and many have developed a range of emissions targets. The level of ambition has increased substantially over the last couple of years. A Joint Statement on Climate Change was agreed by London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee and LEDNet in November 2019, which includes seven shared ambitions. Each programme is being led by a different borough. They are: 1. Retrofit London: retrofit everything to average EPC B; 2. Low carbon development: buildings and infrastructure; 3. Low carbon transport: halve petrol and diesel road journeys; 4. Renewable power for London: 100% renewable energy for London's public sector now and in the future; 5. Reduce consumption emissions: two thirds reduction, focusing on food, clothing, electronics and aviation; 6. Build the green economy; and 7. Create a resilient and green London.

An Executive Paper setting out a 2021/22 climate change strategy has been agreed by the London Councils Executive. This sets out priorities around data collection, supporting the seven climate programmes and advocacy and comms. COP26 is taking place in Glasgow this year, and we should use this as an advocacy opportunity, particularly around the role of local government in tackling climate change.

London Councils is doing an internal review of boroughs' Climate Action Plans, trying to determine what constitutes best practice and to explore opportunities for collaboration. A group of local authority directors from various directorates who will come together to assess how the plans are going.

The 'Resilient and Green' programme may be the most important for CLOA members. There are six main adaptation risks, to which London must become resilient, including heat street, drought, flooding and loss of natural capital. Less attention has been given to culture and climate change, but this will have a key role in bringing people with us and engaging communities around climate change. All

parts of the council have a role to play. We need to bring our communities with us when it comes to issues such as parking and access to green space.

Three of the London recovery missions are central to the climate change agenda – Helping Londoners into Good Work, High Streets for All and Green New Deal. On top of this one of the central aims of the recovery work is to ‘accelerate delivery of a cleaner, greener London’.

3. Culture and sustainability – Andrew Ellerby, Senior Manager Combined Arts and Environmental Sustainability, Arts Council England

The environmental responsibility role is a relatively new one at ACE. ACE delivers its environmental work in partnership with Julie’s Bicycle, a charity that supports the creative community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability. In 2012 the Arts Council became the first cultural body to make environmental reporting and planning part of its funding agreements for National Portfolio Organisations. Collectively, these organisations have reduced energy consumption by 23% and avoided costs of £16.5 million.

All organisations funded by ACE get access to Julie’s Bicycle’s Creative Green Tools, 1 on 1 support, webinars and briefings, and a number of events. The Spotlight programme focuses on the 30 largest funded organisations, working with them to help them meet their environmental targets.

A survey on the benefits of environmental action within cultural organisations found that 81% saw improved team morale and 77% reported that having an environmental policy is useful in supporting funding applications. 64% are taking steps to eliminate single-use plastics, 54% have installed energy efficient lighting and controls and 49% have produced, programmed or curated work exploring environmental themes.

ACE launched their 10 year strategy at the start of 2020 (although this has been put on hold). They changed their language from environmental sustainability to environmental responsibility. This is outlined in the environmental responsibility investment principle, which states that funded organisations and individuals are expected to ‘evidence and action their commitment to environmental sustainability’.

The cultural sector contributes 1% of emissions in the UK. This may not sound like much, but the cultural sector has always been at the forefront of change and has a key role to play in addressing climate change. The potential for people who work across the cultural sector and creative industries to contribute to this agenda is considerable. ACE’s programme is world-leading, and Julie’s Bicycle has been consulted by cultural organisations from around the world on their work.

1. How libraries can contribute to sustainability - Diana Edmonds, National Libraries Director, GLL

GLL mainly runs leisure centres, but runs libraries in Bromley, Greenwich and Wandsworth, as well as some outside London. Two years ago, GLL's Libraries Division began to consider how libraries could make a positive response to the environmental crisis.

Most libraries are in old buildings, so they have worked with the concept of 'Restore, Repair, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle'. This approach was used in the restoration of Bromley Central Library. They focused on things such as lighting to reduce energy consumption; reducing toxicity levels by using water-based painted which emit minimal VOCs; reusing shelving; and installing a new carpet containing recycled material. Items that were no longer used were recycled to other libraries in Bromley or donated to charity. They have looked to use these principles in other libraries in the borough.

In other buildings, GLL have moved on to look at use of plastics and renewables. They have banned laminated notices and are using screens instead. They are working with their cleaning contractor to use cleaning products which contain fewer chemicals and have changed the hand soap to a "green" variety. They have worked with suppliers to minimise the use of plastic covers on books, to use labels made of recycled paper which are applied with an environmentally friendly adhesive.

Libraries buy books, newspapers and magazines, and historically little of this has been recycled. GLL now make sure they always buy recycled paper for printing and photocopying and recycle the paper they use where possible. The books themselves are either sold to customers or via a partnership with World Books to be reused.

In order to engage front-line staff on the green agenda, they have integrated this into their training programmes. They try to have a 'green champion' for each library, and their responsibility is to look for small adjustments that will make a difference.