

# AGENDA

London Borough of Croydon

## Climate Action Forum (CAF)

**Date:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
**Time:** 18:00 – 19:00  
**Venue:** Online – Microsoft Teams  
**Chair:** Daniel Shepherd

Item	Item/Details	Who	Timing
1	<b>Welcome</b>	Carbon Neutral Team	18:00 – 18:05
2	<b>Apologies / Disclosure of interests / Purpose of Meeting (Terms of Reference)</b>	Carbon Neutral Team	18:05 – 18:10
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Update on Climate Action Plan</b></li><li>• <b>Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) Update</b></li><li>• <b>Adaptation</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Climate Risk Maps</li><li>Adaptation Measures in Croydon</li></ul></li></ul>	Carbon Neutral Team	18:10 – 18:25
4	<b>Agenda Items Raised:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Climate Scorecards</b></li></ul>	All	18:25 – 18:35
5	<b>Questions</b>	All	18:35 – 18:55
6	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Date of Next Meeting: TBC</b></li></ul>	To note	18:55 – 19:00

# Meeting Minutes

Attendees	Apologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daniel Shepherd – Head of Independent Travel (Chair)</li> <li>• Vivina Vincent – Carbon Neutral Programme Manager</li> <li>• Anita Haylock-Roeleveld – Carbon Neutral Project Officer</li> <li>• Richard Barnes – Wild London</li> <li>• Ben Cook – Friends of South Norwood Lake</li> <li>• Tim Coombe – Croydon Community Energy</li> <li>• Chris Connor – Croydon Climate Action</li> <li>• Sophie Dawson - Friends of South Norwood Lake</li> <li>• Catherine Drake Wilkes – Sustainable Thornton Heath</li> <li>• Connie Duxbury - Croydon Community Energy</li> <li>• Dawn Gibbons – Croydon Union</li> <li>• Tracey Hague - Sustainable Thornton Heath</li> <li>• Angus Hewlett – Croydon Cyclists</li> <li>• Lucy James - MHA</li> <li>• Ajay Jobanputra - Faiths Together in Croydon</li> <li>• Kay Michael – Stanley Arts</li> <li>• John Woodhouse – Faiths Together in Croydon</li> </ul> <p>Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ria Patel – Green Party Councillor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croydon Accessible Transport</li> <li>• Resident Involvement at Croydon Council</li> <li>• Rajan Amin – Connecting Croydon</li> <li>• Jacqui Daukes – Quakers</li> <li>• Matthew Goldschmied – RVI</li> <li>• Amanda McGrath - Good Food Matters</li> <li>• Pamela Mascal – Croydon Conservation Societies</li> <li>• Penny Orr-Smith – Faith Together in Croydon</li> <li>• Silvia Sanchez – Downsview Primary School</li> <li>• Russell Smith – Cotality</li> <li>• Kirsty Woodcock – Croydon College</li> </ul>

<b>Minutes and Actions Arising</b>	
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p>	<p>The Chair, Daniel Shepherd, opened the Climate Action Forum (CAF) and welcomed attendees.</p> <p>Daniel asked everyone to introduce themselves before speaking due to the large group size. Anita Haylock-Roeleveld posted all expected attendees in the chat.</p> <p>Daniel introduced himself as the Head of Independent Travel, and</p>

	<p>that Climate Change sits within his remit.</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies / Disclosure of interests / Purpose of Meeting (Terms of Reference)</b></p>	<p>Daniel advised that the purpose of the new bi-monthly online CAF meetings was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain engagement and reduce the long six-month gap between formal meetings</li> <li>• To share progress updates more regularly and offer an open avenue for questions and community-raised issues</li> </ul> <p>Daniel advised that the approach is intended to be collaborative and draws on best practice from other London boroughs' climate forums.</p> <p>Vivina Vincent introduced herself and confirmed that the Terms of Reference had been formally agreed at the previous meeting and will be re-circulated with the minutes. She then presented the 'Climate Action External Forum – Latest Update,' outlining key developments since the last forum.</p>
<p><b>3. Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Update on Climate Action Plan</b></li> <li>• <b>Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) Update</b></li> <li>• <b>Adaptation Climate Risk Maps</b></li> <li>• <b>Adaptation Measures in Croydon</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Update on The Climate Action Plan (CAP)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was approved in June 2025 and maintains the core themes from the previous Carbon Neutral Action Plan</li> <li>• The CAP has been revised and now includes a stronger baseline, annual monitoring through an annual report and plans for a revision cycle</li> </ul> <p><b>Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) – Phase 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 of the LAEP is complete and Phase 2 is underway. Fair Heat and City Science will deliver detailed scenario modelling and a decarbonisation pathway for Croydon.</li> <li>• Stakeholder engagement will involve key partners across transport, energy and retrofit sectors.</li> <li>• The LEAP will conclude in October 2026, producing 10 shortlisted project opportunities, including three district heat network projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Climate Risk Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed assessment published on the Croydon</li> </ul>

Observatory and identifies the 10 most vulnerable LSOAs.

- Working with internal teams to explore feasible adaptation measures (retrofit, green infrastructure, community engagement), with further feasibility analysis needed before implementation.

#### **Community Engagement**

- Bi-monthly CAF online forums now established with two in-person CAF events expected each year

#### **Question on LAEP**

How can we be part of the stakeholder engagement? And a few questions on scope of LAEP

- Community organisations (e.g. Croydon Community Energy and CCA) have been listed as stakeholders. Engagement will involve one or two interviews in March/April. The engagement will be about sharing outcomes before the plan is drafted.
- Anyone interested in participating as a stakeholder for the LAEP, then please send an email to: [climateaction@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:climateaction@croydon.gov.uk)
- Clarification was provided on the scope of the LAEP which will include: a plan of the energy system in the borough and will include renewables, EV charging, heat networks, commercial/domestic retrofit and an element of flexibility services (advantages of demand on the grid).

#### **How were Fair Heat and City Science selected and reasons why they were selected?**

- The team ran a procurement exercise through the Energy Framework of the GLA
- Fair Heat and City Science were chosen for strong technical outputs, commitment to sufficiency, social value and experience delivering LAEPs nationally. They have promised 10 pathways of how the borough can move toward a low energy system.

#### **Links to Other Strategies**

- EV Charging Strategy is being developed separately

	<p>through The Energy Saving Trust. This has been reviewed by the Carbon Neutral Team and they have provided comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retrofit work will cover the whole borough and will cover private, social and commercial buildings, not only council housing stock</li> </ul> <p>Vivina confirmed that the slides of the CAF will be available on the Sustainability Page on the Council website and will be included as part of the minutes. The link can be found here - <a href="#">Sustainability in Croydon</a></p>
<p><b>4. Agenda Items Raised: Climate Scorecards</b></p>	<p><b>Climate Scorecards</b></p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Emergency UK assessed the Council's climate action, and Croydon's first coordinated submission improved its overall score.</li> <li>• The team has identified several quick-win opportunities to boost future scores.</li> <li>• Croydon's Carbon Report is now online, though it was released after the scoring took place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scorecard Identified Improvement Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public communication (e.g. peat-free compost use was not publicly stated)</li> <li>• Publication and approval of the annual report - 'Croydon's Carbon Report'</li> <li>• Encouraging Climate Action Plans in schools, Climate Ambassadors and Let's Go Zero, however currently there is no mandatory requirement for schools to complete plans</li> <li>• More systematic resident engagement and support for community renewable energy initiatives</li> <li>• Reporting on scope 1 &amp; 2 and slowly expanding to scope 3</li> <li>• Increasing climate literacy among staff and Councillors (no current plans for this to be mandatory)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Questions / Other Items Discussed</b></p>	<p><b>Community Renewable Energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Croydon Community Energy gave an update that they</li> </ul>

have received a list of council-owned assets. There are 18 schools identified for potential solar sites and they are awaiting Council coordination with the school's team before next steps.

#### **Climate Literacy**

**Question:** What percentage of Councillors and staff have attended a Climate Fresk session?

**Council response:** We currently do not have a percentage, but we have a record of staff and Councillors who have attended the training which will be updated on the Annual Report. We have had the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and a few Cabinet members attend the Fresk.

**Question:** Could climate literacy be mandatory?

**Council response:** Attendance is not mandatory, monthly training sessions are provided and attendance figures will be reported in the next meeting/Annual Report.

**Question:** Is there a dedicated pot of funding to support climate action?

**Council response:** There was a small grants programme with the original carbon programme in February 2022. The Council needs to resolve the section 106 funding in relation to community funding.

#### **Biodiversity**

**Question:** How are you tying in biodiversity, parks and open spaces elements to this meeting and what is the consideration of longer grass and reduced mowing?

**Council response:** The current Parks and Green Spaces Strategy ran till last year but is being worked on currently which includes elements of biodiversity. The Carbon Neutral Team are feeding into their work.

#### **Questions about Section 106 and Carbon Offset Fund**

Multiple attendees asked about:

- The current fund balance, what has been spent and why the information is unclear
- How funding can support community projects (renewables, green groups, water butts, etc.)
- A Council question was raised regarding funding in the October Council meeting
- The GLA practice note was referred to as guidance on how the funds should be spent and has previously been sent to The Carbon Neutral Team

#### **Council Response**

- These funds sit with IFG which is primarily made up of Planning Officers
- Officers acknowledge the need for clearer governance and transparency in relation to the funds
- A formal response will be prepared after internal discussions with planning colleagues and a response will be sent to Dawn Gibbon's question dated the 19th January

#### **Corporate Plan & Net Zero Targets**

**Question:** The GLA has set a net zero target of 2030. Can Croydon adopt this as part of the Corporate Plan?

**Council Response:** This currently reflects the Mayors Business Plan and this depends on political priorities following May elections. The Carbon Neutral Team support this ambition but cannot commit at this stage.

#### **School Building Conditions**

**Question:** about responsibility for improving older school buildings leased to academies

**Council Response:** Council to consult Estates and Capital Delivery teams and provide formal clarification.

#### **Flood Risk**

**Question:** How do I report flooded intersections?

**Council Response:** Issues to be directed to Flood Risk Officers via the climate inbox [-climateaction@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:-climateaction@croydon.gov.uk). A link for reporting floods was circulated in the chat - [Report a flood](#)

#### **Waste, Recycling & Composting**

**Question:** Who was responsible for removing the recycling banks at Seldon Sainsbury's?

**Response:** Some banks were removed due to fly-tipping and health & safety. Council to investigate and report back who removed the recycling bins.

**Question:** Why is Croydon compost no longer available?

**Response:** The local anaerobic digestion facility closed; Veolia now processes garden waste in Kent.

**Question:** If there are any funds, could it be spent on water butts at a reduced rate?

**Council Response:** We need to respond regarding the fund and

	<p>then see what we can do going forward.</p> <p><b>Transport and Fleet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queries about former Zipcar arrangement for the Council fleet. New car club procurement being prepared; scope and needs are under review. The Council has no pool vehicles. The electrification of fleet explored but capital costs remain a barrier.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal Board to address Climate Scorecard actions and improve our rating</li> <li>• Progressing LEAP, adaptation measures, and community energy work</li> <li>• Expanding CAF representation (youth, public health) and strengthening collaboration with the Council</li> <li>• Governance proposal for the Climate Action Plan going to CMT on 11 February</li> <li>• Sending CAF invites to generic organisational emails to reduce admin</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests for Future Agenda Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity, rewilding, transport, fleet decarbonisation, biogas, composting, waste infrastructure, grant funding and opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Date of Next Meeting: TBC</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed date of next meeting: 15 April 2026, subject to pre-election period rules. Formal confirmation to follow.</li> <li>• The Chair thanked attendees for ongoing contributions and collaboration</li> </ul>

## Open Actions

Item No.	Action	Date Raised	Date Due	Owner	Status (Open/In Progress)
1	Response to be sent to Dawn Gibbons question dated 19th January	04/02/26	Ongoing	Vivina Vincent	Open
2	Council to consult Estates and Capital Delivery teams and provide formal clarification on school buildings leased to academies	04/02/26	Ongoing	Vivina Vincent	Open
3	Council to investigate and report back who removed the recycling bins in some Sainsbury car parks	04/02/26	Ongoing	Daniel Shepherd	Open