



AGENDA FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Members of the Executive are summoned to attend a meeting to be held in Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **24 November 2016 at 7.00 pm.**

Stephen Gerrard
Director Legal and Governance

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Despatched : 16 November 2016

Membership

Councillor Richard Watts
Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Joe Caluori
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Councillor Andy Hull

Councillor Asima Shaikh
Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Councillor Claudia Webbe

Portfolio

Leader of the Council
Executive Member Health and Social Care
Executive Member Children, Young People and Families
Executive Member for Community Development
Executive Member Finance, Performance and Community Safety
Executive Member for Economic Development
Executive Member for Housing and Development
Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Quorum is 4 Councillors

Please note

It is likely that part of this meeting may need to be held in private as some agenda items may involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members of the press and public may need to be excluded for that part of the meeting if necessary.

Details of any representations received about why the meeting should be open to the public - none



Declarations of interest:

If a member of the Executive has a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business and it is not yet on the council's register, the Councillor **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent. Councillors may also **choose** to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency. In both the above cases, the Councillor **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If a member of the Executive has a **personal** interest in an item of business they **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but may remain in the room, participate in the discussion and/or vote on the item if they have a dispensation from the Chief Executive.

- ***(a) Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of election; including from a trade union.
- (c) Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between the Councillors or their partner (or a body in which one has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) Licences**- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which the Councillor or their partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

NOTE: Public questions may be asked on condition that the Chair agrees and that the questions relate to items on the agenda. No prior notice is required. Questions will be taken with the relevant item.

Requests for deputations must be made in writing at least two clear days before the meeting and are subject to the Leader's agreement. The matter on which the deputation wants to address the Executive must be on the agenda for that meeting.

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E. Urgent non-exempt matters

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

F. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether to exclude the press and public during discussion of the remaining items on the agenda, in view of their confidential nature, in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

G. Urgent Exempt Matters

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

The next meeting of the Executive will be on 8 December 2016

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Agenda Item 3

London Borough of Islington

Executive - 20 October 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 October 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Watts, Burgess, Comer-Schwartz, Hull, Shaikh,
Ward and Webbe

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

316 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts expressed his sadness at the recent death of Tracy Williams from Children's Services and spoke of the important contribution Tracey made to the council's work. Councillor Watts sent condolences to her family and friends on behalf of the Executive.

317 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Caluori.

318 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

319 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the Minutes of the meeting on 29 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

320 FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the overall forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund (Table 1 and Appendix 1 of the report) of a gross overspend of £3.9m, including corporate items, and a net overspend of £0.9m after a £3.0m drawdown from the contingency reserve (Section 3 of the report) be noted.
- 1.2 That the actions needed to reduce the underlying forecast net General Fund overspend (Paragraph 3.2 of the report) be noted.
- 1.3 That the HRA is forecast to break-even (Section 5, Table 1 and Appendix 1 of the report) be noted.
- 1.4 That the latest capital position with forecast capital expenditure of £116.5m in 2016-17 (Section 6, Table 2 and Appendix 2 of the report) be noted.

Reasons for decision – to allow Members to monitor the budget.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.
Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none.

321 CAPITAL PROGRAMMING SCRUTINY - EXECUTIVE MEMBER'S RESPONSE

Councillor Watts thanked the Housing Scrutiny Committee for all their work on this scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

That the response to the Housing Scrutiny Committee's recommendations for capital programming as detailed in paragraph 4 of this report, be agreed.

Reasons for decision – to allow work to deliver the agreed scrutiny committee recommendations to proceed.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report.
Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none.

322 ARTICLE 4 DIRECTIONS TO WITHDRAW PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHT FOR CHANGE OF USE FROM SHOPS TO FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

RESOLVED:

That three Article 4 Directions that will withdraw the permitted development right which allows A1 shops to change to A2 financial and professional services without planning permission, be agreed. The three Directions will come into force on 26 May 2017 and cover the following areas:

- (i) Town Centres;
- (ii) Local Shopping Areas; and
- (iii) The rest of the borough, i.e. any area not designated as a Town Centre or Local Shopping Area.

Reasons for decision – To ensure proposals for A1 to A2 PD change of use in these areas are fully considered against adopted policies and therefore that local amenity and wellbeing considerations are properly taken into account.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report
Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none.

323 LIP (LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN) TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN 2017-19

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the proposed programmes and bid for the interim Local Implementation Plan Delivery Plan 2017/18, including the schemes detailed in point 3.7 of the report, the Bus Reliability Programme 2016/17 - 17/18 and the Clerkenwell Green Major Schemes bid submission to TfL be agreed.

1.2 That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and

Executive - 20 October 2016

Transport, to make any necessary changes to these programmes be agreed.

Reasons for decision – to ensure that investment in Islington continues whilst the Mayor of London develops a new transport strategy for London.

Other options considered – none other than as specified in the report

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.05 pm

CHAIR

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Report of: **Director Law and Governance**

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	24 November 2016	n/a

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE EXECUTIVE

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report seeks approval of the appointment a substitute member to the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee.

2. Recommendation

To appoint Councillor Asima Shaikh as a substitute member of the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/2017, or until a successor is appointed.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2016, a Shared ICT and Digital Service was created between Islington, Camden and Haringey and it was agreed that the service would be governed by a joint committee, made up of representatives from each local authority. At the first meeting on 8 November 2016, the joint committee agreed to meet three times a year.
- 3.2 The purpose of the joint committee is to provide democratic oversight for the shared service. The committee is made up of six members, two appointed by each of Camden Council, Islington Council and Haringey Council representatives. Every member appointed to the joint committee is required to be a member of the Executive/Cabinet of their council.
- 3.3 Each council may nominate substitute members who must be a member of the respective Executive/Cabinet. Substitutes may attend meetings of the joint committee, should an appointed member be unavailable or unable to attend a meeting. Substitute members attending in the absence of an appointed member will have full voting rights.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications

The Joint Committee approves the strategic service and financial plan for the shared service and agrees the procurement strategies and contract awards for contracts relating to the joint service where the estimated value exceeds £2m revenue or £5m capital.

4.2 Legal Implications

These are contained in the body of the report.

4.3 **Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment**

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The initial screening for a Resident Impact Assessment was completed on 11 November 2016 and this did not identify any negative equality impacts for any protected characteristic or any human rights or safeguarding risks.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 The Executive is responsible for appointments which discharge Executive functions and is therefore appointing Councillor Shaikh as substitute on the Shared ICT and Digital Service Joint Committee to ensure that Islington Council can be fully involved in joint committee meetings.

Background papers: None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



14 November 2016

Director Law and Governance

Date

Report of: Chair of Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	24 November 2016	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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Subject: Health Implications of Damp Properties Scrutiny Review

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, following completion of the above scrutiny review. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 In the July 2015 the Committee commenced a review of the Health Implications of Damp Properties.
- 3.2 The report and recommendations are attached for consideration and approval.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the review need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Committee's recommendations are submitted for consideration and approval.

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ISLINGTON

REPORT OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF DAMP PROPERTIES



London Borough of Islington
September 2016

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

Introduction:

The problem of damp in properties is not a new one:



Islington Gazette headline from 60 years ago

The purpose of this scrutiny has been to try and establish a better understanding of the health impacts on the lives of people living in damp properties, and also, by implication a more meaningful connection between those health issues and instances of damp within the property in which they live. The scrutiny exercise as a whole has proved more problematic than might have been expected.

It is considered common knowledge that damp properties cause health issues such as breathing difficulties and allergic reactions, but it has proved difficult to establish a clear causal relationship between specific health issues and the damp conditions that people are living in. Combined with this difficulty is the difficulty of establishing whether damp conditions in individual properties are due to building fabric defects or the 'lifestyle', as it is termed, of the occupants of the property. A further defining factor, especially for older people, can also be fuel poverty.

What seems unavoidable however, is that people who are suffering health issues as a result of damp are genuinely suffering, and that this suffering can often be compounded by depression and anxiety if damp issues are not resolved.

In scrutinising this issue, the committee has found what it believes to be a lack of rigour and method in the way that complaints about damp are dealt with, and a regular complaint from councillors' casework is that officers investigating complaints about damp in LBI properties are too quick to resort to 'lifestyle' as an explanation for the problem, rather than investigate building fabric-related issues properly.

The Committee's recommendations are intended to address the variety of issues that have become evident as a result of the scrutiny, both health-related and housing-related, as well as the social issue of fuel poverty.

Cllr Martin Klute
Chair of Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Health Implications of Damp Properties Scrutiny Review

Evidence

The review ran from June 2015 until September 2016 and evidence was received from a variety of sources:

1. Presentations from witnesses – Katie White, Andover Estate TRA, Jan Manderson, Girdlestone Estate TRA, Ken Kanu – Help on Your Doorstep, Residents of Alderwick Court, Steve Phillips – Private Landlord, James Stone and Hayley Rowbottom – Hyde Housing Association
2. Presentations from council officers – Baljinder Heer-Matiana , Public Health, Damian Dempsey, Housing and Adult Social Services, Ellis Turner – Residential Environmental Health
3. Documentary evidence – Office of Deputy Prime Minister 2006 Housing, Health and Safety Rating system

Aim of the Review

To understand the scale and nature of the negative health and wellbeing impacts of damp housing conditions in Islington, and the effectiveness of current arrangements and measures for tackling damp and its adverse conditions on health

Objectives of the Review

- **To understand the relationship between damp housing conditions and health and wellbeing in general, and specifically the impact of damp housing on Islington residents health and wellbeing**
- **To understand the extent of damp housing across all tenure types in Islington, and the current arrangements and mechanisms that exist for preventing, identifying, addressing and mitigating its impacts**
- **To assess the effectiveness of current approaches to tackling both the structural and behavioural causes of damp, with a particular focus on health-related outcomes, and to make recommendations for increasing the impact of local measures, as appropriate**
- **To particularly assess the impact of dampness on children and how it affects absence from school**

The detailed Scrutiny Initiation Document (SID) is set out at Appendix A to the report

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Care Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Executive that the following measures be implemented to help deal with health issues related to damp properties:

- 1. Rehousing of tenants:** Where there are damp issues in a property, and tenants can evidence related health issues, the Council is to presume that the damp is the cause of the health problems, and where tenants wish to be rehoused, the Council and Partners for improvement (PFI) are to progress rehousing. RSL's and private landlords are also to be encouraged to adopt the same policy
- 2. Building/Fabric issues:** That the repairs department, when investigating complaints about damp, should consistently eliminate roof leaks, rising damp, plumbing issues, ventilation issues, cold bridging, lack of insulation on and any building fabric issues as causes of damp, before raising 'lifestyle' issues with residents. Many residents report a presumption on the part of Council surveyors that all damp issues are due to 'lifestyle', where in fact the issues are often building related
- 3. Experienced Damp Surveyor :** An experienced damp surveyor to be employed by the Council and PFI to investigate and resolve damp problems. (The Committee heard that the response of officers to complaints of damp is prone to inconsistency, and also repeat visits, for no apparent reason. Surveyor's knowledge of damp-related issues is found to be variable.)
- 4. Hyde Damp and Condensation Survey proforma:** That following the Council's Condensation Protocol discussion document, this proforma be adopted by the Council's housing department and other RSL's, as a basic structure for investigating damp (Proforma attached as Appendix to the report)
- 5. Systematic response by Council officers:** Council, PFI, and RSL surveyors, as well as adopting the standardised pro-forma under recommendation 4 above, should be consistent in their reporting their findings to residents. Residents report inefficiencies, with surveyors adopting different responses and strategies, and recommending different courses of action for similar types of damp problems
- 6. Database of damp properties:** The Council and PFI are to set up and maintain a database of properties across the borough that have known damp issues
- 7. Help On Your Doorstep database:** Help on Your Doorstep have offered to share with the Council information on residents they have contacted with damp issues. Repairs department to take up this offer to help establish more accurately the extent of damp problems. (Any personal information to be shared only with residents consent.)
- 8. Legal issues accessing leasehold properties:** That the Council and PFI take robust legal steps to access all leasehold properties, where the damp issues appear to emanate from leasehold properties adjoining council tenancies. Also, that legal advice be taken on the scope and options to access leaseholder properties, and the advice be circulated to all officers involved in damp investigations
- 9. External or Internal Wall insulation:** The Council, PFI and RSL'S should carry out external or internal wall insulation, wherever feasible and cost effective on all Council and RSL estates within the borough. There should be a presumption that insulation works form a part of any major works undertaken. The success of the recent external wall insulation work at Holly Park Estate in saving energy costs and reducing dampness problems for residents, is evidence of the effectiveness of this strategy
- 10. Improvement grants:** Publicity be made available to private sector landlords on grants available for improvements to insulation for properties
- 11. Clear information leaflets:** Leaflets should be issued to residents on how to report and to deal with damp issues. This should also include advice on how to operate heating systems to maximum effectiveness and to deal with any condensation issues. Leaflets should also be made available to GP surgeries across the borough, and with GP's being made aware of the existence of the leaflets, and asked to distribute them to tenants that present with damp related health problems

12. GP information programme: Public Health and Environmental Health are to work with the CCG to disseminate information to the Borough's GP's on the extent and issues with damp properties and their perceived interaction with health issues, and to request GP's to return data to the CCG when they are seen by patients with health issues that appear to be related to living in a damp property.

MAIN FINDINGS

Tackling cold and damp housing conditions is important because of its association with a range of health conditions, from common colds to asthma through to respiratory and heart conditions. Cold and damp homes are also associated with poor mental health and poor social and economic outcomes, as well as fuel poverty.

Dampness and mould growth in Islington's own housing stock has been addressed through improved heating, insulation and ventilation and the Council has begun an education and awareness campaign on condensation and its behavioural causes.

Damp is the presence of unwanted moisture diffused through the air, condensed on a surface or within the solid substance of a building, and through water ingress, typically with detrimental or unpleasant effects. Excess moisture often leads to mould growth on building surfaces.

Moisture in buildings is most commonly caused by leaking pipes, wastes or overflow rain seeping in through the roof, spilling from a blocked gutter or penetrating around window frames or rising damp, due to a defective damp proof course or because there is no damp proof course. Cold bridging that creates cold surfaces inside homes is also a cause of condensation and damp. Where the source of moisture is not related to structural faults, leaks or rising damp or the newness of the property if plaster is still drying, it is probably due to condensation.

Three factors contribute to the condensation of water on building surfaces –

Humidity of indoor air – condensation appears when the indoor air in a room cannot hold the level of moisture. Warm air can hold more moisture than cold air. For example, running a bath causes steam. As the air in the bathroom fills up with water vapour, it can no longer hold all the moisture that it contains. As a result tiny drops of water appear and develop first on cold surfaces, such as mirrors and window sills.

Low temperature – condensation can be worse when it is cold. The humid air comes into contact with cold surfaces, transforms into surface mist and then into water, which then runs down the walls/window etc., causing wooden frames to rot and wallpaper and painted walls to blister.

Poor ventilation – Humidity of indoor air can be reduced by ventilation. If air exchange is inadequate, then humidity accumulates indoors and leads to increased condensation. In addition, walls remain cool when a lack of free movement of indoor air prevents warm air from reaching them. Mould may form where there is little movement of air, for example in a windowless basement or behind wardrobes.

Normal everyday living results in significant amount of moisture production. Cooking, laundry, washing and human and animal respiration are the most significant sources of moisture in typical homes. The average family produces 10 litres of moisture every day. Managing this moisture is a necessary and important element of day to day home management. Households with children will tend to produce more moisture and children tend to experience the greatest health impacts from mould growth.

Even when adequate heating and ventilation are installed, dampness and mould growth may still occur where window management and changes in approaches to drying clothes are put into place. Concerns about heating costs, misconceptions about heating patterns and concerns over extractor fan noise may mean households can sometimes, contribute to dampness levels. Supporting residents to change behaviour with regard to moisture management can be effective in making improvements to levels of condensation and damp.

Exposure to damp and mouldy environments may cause a variety of health effects, or in some people have minimal or no effect. Some people are sensitive to moulds and for these people can cause nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing or wheezing, eye or in some cases skin irritation. People with mould allergies may have more severe reactions, and immune compromised people and people with chronic lung illnesses, such as obstructive lung disease, may get serious infections in their lungs when they are exposed to mould. There is limited evidence also to show that indoor mould exposure can lead to respiratory illnesses in otherwise healthy children.

Other recent studies have suggested that there could be a potential link of early mould exposure to development of asthma in some children, particularly among children who may be genetically susceptible to asthma development, and that selected interventions that improve housing conditions can reduce morbidity from asthma and respiratory conditions, but more research is needed on this.

Other research has indicated an association between dampness, moisture and mould and the prevalence of respiratory symptoms amongst children of all ages. For instance, in one study children in homes with damp/and or mould were two and a half times more likely to have coughs or wheezing than children in 'dry homes'. A UK study also showed that visible mould is significantly associated with an increased risk of wheezing amongst 9-11 year olds. This is supported by other studies from Europe.

Damp and condensation leads to cold homes, which can exacerbate fuel poverty, where a family cannot afford to heat its home to an adequate standard of warmth. The lower your income the more likely you are to be at risk of fuel poverty, putting you at further risk of social and health inequalities. There is strong evidence on the mental health and wellbeing impacts of fuel poverty and cold homes and the significant benefits to mental wellbeing from tackling fuel poverty.

In addition, cold indoor temperatures affect and worsen other conditions, such as the common cold, flu, pneumonia, arthritis, rheumatism, and chronic and/or long term conditions and can also delay recovery from illness. Individuals in cold homes, particularly the elderly, may also be vulnerable to injuries from falls as a result of individual strength and dexterity.

Research shows that people living in well insulated and adequately ventilated accommodation are less likely to visit their doctor or to be admitted to hospital due to respiratory conditions than those living in damp homes.

Islington has the fourth highest prevalence of asthma and COPD in London in 2014 and the fifth highest number of emergency admissions for respiratory tract conditions among young children in 2012/13, although the numbers of admissions have reduced from a peak in 2007/8.

The Health Needs and Social Housing Profile 2012 for Islington found that in the areas of highest density of social housing, COPD prevalence is 24% higher than expected, as is the prevalence of asthma, 15%, depression 42%, dementia 42%, chronic liver disease 57%, stroke 14%, and psychotic disorders, 65%, even when age has been taken into account.

Census data from 2011 shows that people living in rented accommodation in Islington are almost twice as likely to report that they have a limiting long term illness, than those who own their own home, more than 3 times as likely for social renters. Unfortunately, there is no way of looking at which health conditions these people have.

In 2013 about a million English home, around 4%, had problems with damp, compared with 2.6 million, 13% homes in 1996, Some 8% of private rented dwellings had some type of damp problem, compared with 5% of social rented dwellings and 3% of owner occupied dwellings, although private rented dwellings tended to be older and more prone to damp. The extent of damp housing in Islington is difficult to measure as estimates are largely dependent upon residents reporting incidence of damp and mould growth.

6,771 damp inspections were carried out between 2007 and 2015. Whilst between 2010 and 2014 the Council's Residential Environmental Health service inspected 665 properties, where damp and mould were found, 133 of which were at such a level as to present a significant risk to the health of the occupiers. The 2008 Islington Private Sector Stock Condition Survey estimated that 869 owner occupied and privately rented homes had a Category 1 Damp and Mould hazard, indicating that the extent of dampness and mould growth was likely to be harmful to health. This is an estimate of those where the Council would be required to take action under the Housing Act 2004 and there are likely to be a further number of lower level category 2 hazards.

The Committee heard evidence from the Andover and Girdlestone Estate TRA's concerning their estates, which were two main hotspots for dampness problems in the borough. Housing Property services have completed the pilot works on parts of the Andover Estate and the works covered are cyclical improvements, Decent Homes work and Dampness works, which include a combination of improved building standards, insulation and ventilation of properties.

Incorporating lessons learnt from this pilot, the main contract, which will roll out the work to the remainder of the Andover Estate, will start in Autumn 2015 and is scheduled to be completed by 2017/18. The pilot for the Girdlestone Estate is due to commence in January 2016, with completed 'roll out' of the contract, due to be completed by 2018/19. The works on both estates covered are Cyclical Improvement works, Decent Homes work and Dampness work, which includes roof renewal, private balcony asphalt removal and works to the internal duct system.

Tackling cold and damp housing is important because of its association with a range of health conditions. Addressing damp and condensation can be challenging, as the source of the problem is not always easily identified, and can be caused by a mixture of factors, including structural defects, a lack of or faulty damp coursing or condensation dampness caused by both human and building factors. Islington Council has a number of schemes to reduce the impact of damp housing, which go beyond the national provision.

In relation to social housing, Islington has invested significantly in improving the energy efficiency of its own housing stock. It has also fitted external wall insulation to 269 solid walled properties at the Holly Park Estate and 36 properties at Neptune House. The Holly Park external wall insulation work is being evaluated over three stages, measuring the impact on residents self-reported thermal comfort, energy use and bills, damp and mould, and health and wellbeing. The final results have shown that the External Wall Insulation (EWI) has had a positive effect on improving thermal comfort. The number of people, who said their property was warm enough with the heating on, rose from 69% to 95% following EWI. Survey respondents on the estate, also indicated that they had a considerable reduction in the amount of time that they used their heating, and the proportion of people who used their heating for more than six hours per day decreased from 31% to 10% after the EWI was fitted.

The survey findings record a £10 monthly saving in the median bill amount over winter, from Autumn 2013 to Spring 2015. This is likely to be an underestimate, as those paying by Direct Debit would accrue these savings every month of the year, rather than just the winter months.

For some residents there was also an improvement in problems with damp and mould, however this was not reported across the board.

Understanding the full impact of the EWI on health and wellbeing has proved more difficult and while research indicates that there may have been some improvements in wider wellbeing, such as a reduction in the level of concern over heating bills, the impact on physical health conditions has been harder to track. The number of residents that self-report conditions, which can be associated with living in cold and damp homes was too small to identify, whether or not there had been any changes in the severity of these long term conditions.

The findings of the Holly Park evaluation should be viewed in the context of wider evidence considering the efficiency of external wall insulation. It was not possible within this evaluation to undertake a cost-benefit analysis and wider evidence in this area is limited. The relatively expensive installation costs of external wall insulation when compared to other energy efficacy interventions, means that it can be a long period of time before cost savings offset installation costs. Significant progress has been made on insulating lofts and cavity walls in Council stock, however Islington has a large number of older or challenging properties and further progress needs to be made on these, particularly where occupied by vulnerable residents.

Since social housing makes up around 45% of the borough's housing stock, social landlords can have a huge impact on fuel poverty. Joint funding applications, with other social housing providers, could systematically address particular areas, be attractive to energy companies and produce economies of scale. Requiring new developments to offset CO2 emissions associated with building, could enable a fund to be available to improve energy efficiency in Islington homes, including social housing.

Insulating solid wall properties presents the biggest challenge, but would also potentially have the biggest impact on fuel poverty. Within the Council's own stock there are 14,600 uninsulated solid wall homes. Energy Company Obligation funding is available for this work, but has not been available at 100% funding.

In early 2015 Islington also secured funding from UK Power networks, in order to run an education and awareness campaign on the Harvist Estate. This estate has the largest concentration of electric storage heated properties in Islington. Working with residents to reduce running costs for a potentially costly heating method, is likely to support more efficient heating, and thus reduce the risk of fuel poverty.

Islington is also working to deliver a number of Combined Heat and Power scheme networks across the borough. The first development opened in November 2012 in Bunhill ward, providing cheaper, greener heat to over 800 homes. Large Council estates present some of the best opportunities for such developments and will deliver heat and power more efficiently and at lower cost to residents.

Islington Housing Services also developed a condensation protocol in 2014, with colleagues in Environment and Regeneration. This supports an agreed, consistent approach to tackling the problem of condensation and damp in Council homes. The protocol commits the Council to identifying the source of damp and taking action to address it, both through improvements and repairs to its properties and by educating residents about lifestyle changes they can make, to reduce condensation in their home.

The Council invests £2m per year in addressing dampness in its properties and £10m in improving energy efficiency to help relieve these problems.

As part of Islington's Warm and Healthy Homes programme, residents receiving certain benefits can apply for an energy efficient replacement boiler. The main private sector grant scheme, Safe and Warm, has been running since 2001, providing fully funded energy efficiency and security measures to vulnerable owner occupiers and leaseholders. This grant is provided by Residential Environmental Health, who are active in trying to identify and action the least energy efficient homes in the private rented sector. They are also committed to tackling poor private rented housing, through the Housing Health and Safety rating system.

For residents of all housing tenures, Islington has invested in Energy Doctor in the Home. This programme, operated by Groundwork since 2009, is aimed at vulnerable residents and provides a home visit, where advice is given on how to save energy in their home, how to use their heating system more efficiently. The Energy Doctor also fits smaller energy saving measures, such as

draught proofing and reflective radiator panels. Over 4,900 households have been assisted by this programme.

Islington's affordable warmth services have provided local energy advice services to residents for around 30 years and they also provide a 'drop in' facility for residents. There is a freephone service and also an outreach service. The SHINE (seasonal health intervention network) referral programme processes referrals from a range of partners in front line service provision. In 2015 an escalated referral route was established, whereby residents with chronic respiratory conditions were prioritised for diagnostic survey, and this has helped develop relationships with partners in respiratory medicine.

In the Council's Asset Management Strategy 2013/2043 consultation, residents in Islington social housing indicated that preventing and resolving dampness in Council properties is one of their top priorities. The Council plans to allocate a total of £73m to carry out works to resolve damp problems and tackle problem condensation to ensure all homes are free of damp.

In terms of what more the Council could do, the Committee considered evidence that the Islington Private Sector Stock conditions survey 2008 had indicated that fuel poverty was particularly high amongst private tenants and single pensioners. These groups require particular attention.

Islington Council receives a ring-fenced Public Health grant from the Department of Health to fund the cost of its Public Health service. The total funding for 2015/16 is £25.4m, however an in-year cut is expected, whilst a future reduction in grant is also expected.

The Committee considered evidence from TRA representatives on the Andover Estate and Girdlestone Walk TRA and in addition, Ken Kanu of Help on Your Doorstep, as to experiences of residents who suffered from dampness problems.

The Committee noted that the Girdlestone Estate, which had been built in 1975/76 had 95% of properties, which had, or were suffering from dampness. There were a number of causes of dampness on the estate, including central heating pipes, roofing, lack of damp proof coursing, leaks from balconies etc.

There had been constant problems with the Council in resolving these problems and tenants often gave up with trying to get remedial works carried out, and even if they were carried out, it only appeared to be a superficial repair that was carried out and it was not dealing with the main problem.

The problems of dampness on the estates has led to instances of residents suffering from depression, respiratory problems, allergies, coughs and colds and the issues affected all floors on the estate, not just the ground floors.

The Committee noted that a programme of works is being drawn up on the Girdlestone Estate and a pilot scheme would shortly be started with a rolling programme of major works, commencing in 2016/17 for the rest of the estate. However, there could be difficulties in gaining access to leaseholder properties, where there are central heating pipe problems. A similar pilot is at present taking place on the Andover Estate, to assess where the problems were, with major works taking place in 2015/16.

The Committee also noted that both of the TRA's who gave evidence, complained about a lack of communication from the Council to tenants, who had reported dampness problems, and even when tenants had requested feedback on action to be taken, they were not kept informed of the action proposed, or what the problems were, and this often led to tenants giving up. It also exacerbated the problems and had led to depression for some tenants. In addition, tenants often gave up pursuing the complaint, which led to them continuing to live in damp conditions.

The Committee also heard evidence from Help on Your Doorstep, which is a door knocking and outreach service that visits residents in the borough to assist with problems.

Help on Your Doorstep stated that a number of residents had complained about dampness problems to their properties and that a number of these were elderly or vulnerable residents. In addition, there are families with young children that are affected, and recurring medical themes identified are respiratory problems, allergies, infections, skin complaints and mental illness.

Many residents also complained about the smell of damp in their properties and that it lingered on their clothes. Help on Your Doorstep echoed the views of the TRA witnesses that a common complaint was that Council officers never responded to them on dampness issues. To date, Help on Your Doorstep had identified 261 cases associated with dampness in the last 5 years, and clients complained of the number of multiple visits they had from surveyors and also the fact that they did not inform them what was going on. Even if works were carried out, they were often superficial, and did not seem to address the underlying problem.

The Committee were concerned that all the witnesses had complained about the poor communication of Housing officers with residents and that even when requested, copies of surveyor's reports did not seem to be made available to residents. We feel that this is an area that needs to be addressed, and also there is a need to address the issue of where English is not the first language.

The Committee noted that there were consultation meetings taking place with residents on the major works planned, in order to keep them informed of the proposals, and the Committee welcomed this.

The TRA representative from the Andover Estate stated that the Andover Estate also suffered from dampness problems and that there were not only problems in the newer blocks, but also in the older blocks as well. The tenants on the Andover Estate also suffered from similar medical conditions to those on the Girdlestone Estate and the elderly and children, in particular, suffered from coughs/colds, allergies and respiratory problems.

The Committee are of the view that whilst the new blocks on the Andover Estate would be benefitting from major works, because of the dampness problems on the older blocks, there needed to be a systematic look at these as well, in order to address causes of the problems there. This should include why dampness problems in the kitchen and bathrooms had become worse, following the decent homes work, and residents should be consulted and informed of the findings of these investigations.

The Committee heard evidence concerning the pilot works, which are taking place on the Andover Estate, and were concentrated on some of the worst affected flats, which were within the ground floor units to the four storey blocks, which have individual garages. The pilot works were completed in December 2014.

The pilot phase was carried out to attempt to resolve the known condensation and dampness problems and to highlight other areas, improve upon and subsequently resolve them.

Proposed remedial works will include external communal cyclical repair works, picking up the decent homes bathrooms, WC's, and kitchens from last time, and work with the new build team. In addition, external and internal surveys have been undertaken to the whole building envelope to address weaknesses/faults and thoroughly reviewed the design of the proposed condensation/dampness works to take into account all possible potential areas of cold bridging for the various types of properties. There will also be thermal insulation works, both internally and externally taking place, heating, ventilation and to the water storage systems.

There are also electrical/carpentry works that will take place and resident profiling and consultation will take place in order to inform residents of works and to minimise disruption to residents, as far as possible. Education on how to avoid condensation should be provided to residents, as lifestyle will also be a major consideration and factor in the success of the scheme.

The Committee considered evidence from residents at Alderwick Court, in relation to health problems of residents, and their children that lived in the block and the fact that many residents suffered from dampness problems.

The Committee heard that residents, particularly children, suffered from chest problems, such as bronchitis and asthma, and that this often necessitated visits to Accident and Emergency and them missing time from school.

The Committee heard evidence that there were problems of black mould spores in the block, cold bridging, lack of insulation, lack of ventilation and rising and other types of dampness.

The Committee also considered evidence from Residential Environmental Health that they did have powers to enforce on Housing Associations and private landlords remedial works and that they were now working in a more multi-disciplinary way, with Health and Social Care, and with the Energy team, to prepare for the introduction of new energy efficiency regulations in 2018.

The Committee were keen to consider whether there is evidence showing a health linkage between dampness and health conditions. The Committee considered guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which had been issued in relation to Housing and Health and Safety in 2006.

This indicated that the most vulnerable group in health terms, of the adverse effects of damp and mould growth are persons aged 14 years old or younger and these estimates are based on the mortality figures for England and Wales of respiratory disease and GP consultation rates for coughs and wheezes. The elderly are also adversely affected.

Research has shown that low levels of background ventilation, even without visible mould or dampness, can result in high humidity levels and in greatly increased house dust mite populations. These and mould spores are potent airborne allergens, and exposure to a high concentration of these over a prolonged period of time will cause sensitisation of certain individuals, and can cause allergic symptoms, such as rhinitis, conjunctivitis, eczema, cough and wheeze and asthma.

Although less significant statistically in health terms, spores of many moulds and fungi, can be allergenic. Fungal infection is usually associated with those vulnerable to infection.

The mental and social health effects of dampness and mould should also not be under-estimated. Damage to decoration from mould or damp staining and smells, associated with damp and mould, can cause depression and anxiety.

The indications are that house dust mite and indoor mould growth have increased over the last century. This is probably due to reduced ventilation levels, increased humidity and warmer indoor temperatures in winter months, caused by changes in dwelling design and adaptations when houses are renovated.

In terms of cold conditions in properties, the most vulnerable age group is the over 65 year olds and statistical evidence shows that there is a continuous relationship between indoor temperature and vulnerability related to cold related death. It was noted that the colder the dwelling, the greater the risk to health.

Cold related illness is, in part, determined by the characteristics of the dwelling and in part by occupation factors. The energy efficiency of a building depends on the thermal insulation of its structure, on the fuel type, and the size and design of the means of heating and ventilation. Any disrepair or dampness to the dwelling, and any disrepair to the heating system, may affect their efficiency. The exposure and orientation of the dwelling are also relevant.

Some forms of insulating material, will become less effective over time, and as water readily conducts heat, excess moisture content i.e. dampness will reduce the thermal insulation provided. The effectiveness of some forms of insulating material can be compromised by moisture. Dampness will affect the thermal insulation of bedding, increasing the risk.

The Committee were keen to hear evidence of the work that is being carried out, in order to deal with dampness and condensation problems in Partners and other public/private sector properties.

Partners housing stock is mainly Victorian and Georgian street properties and Partners had responsibility for 2900 properties and 4500 tenants. In addition, there are 1800 leaseholders. The properties were mainly solid brick walls and had sash windows and therefore there were inherent problems with carrying out cost effective insulation work.

Partners recognised that that dampness is detrimental to health, and this issue has been addressed in a number of ways, and in particular by a refurbishment programme from 2002-2012. Advice is also given to tenants and vulnerable residents. The refurbishment programme included ventilation work, damp proof works in basements and some external wall works. Ongoing repairs are carried out by Rydon's, Partners sub-contractor, who deal with 23,000 repair requests per year, and only 3% of these properties had damp related issues. Of the 778 initial complaints relating to dampness only 205 had resulted in an independent damp survey being carried out. There had been no major issues of dampness identified in the previous few months.

The Committee were informed that ad hoc work is carried out in relation to condensation problems and Partners provided advice to residents by distributing leaflets on this, and also on energy saving measures. Assistance is also given to vulnerable residents and there is liaison with SHINE.

Secondary glazing works had recently taken place to some properties and boilers had been replaced to be more energy efficient and there is a programme of loft insulation. There is a desire to carry out more insulation work to walls, and install secondary/double glazing, but this work is expensive to carry out.

Partners stated that the main causes of dampness were rising damp, water ingress, plumbing, drainage, and roofing problems. There were condensation issues, but the important thing is for there to be specialist knowledge, in order to identify and rectify any problems.

Partners have an obligation to tenants to resolve issues and to work with tenants, and whilst there had been roofing problems some years previously, these had now been largely resolved.

Partners informed the Committee that they recognised the health implications of dampness on residents and they had an important role in reducing dampness in their properties.

The Committee also received evidence from a private landlord who managed over 300 properties.

The Committee were informed that dampness is a major issue in private sector properties, and 1 in 3 houses suffer from some kind of dampness problem. There are different causes of dampness in properties and this could range from a damp proof course failure, condensation, construction/design issues or ventilation problems

It is important to identify the reasons for a dampness problem at an early stage, in order that it does not affect health, and we noted that private landlords often felt that there is a lack of communication between the landlord and tenant, often until the situation has become serious, and that it was sensible to resolve such problems before that stage is reached.

The Committee noted the view that it is felt that in private sector housing tenants on low incomes, who could not afford to put their heating on, often contributed to some dampness problems, such as condensation and mould or by not using extractor fans, and drying washing on radiators etc. Most tenants tended to report problems, only when health concerns become evident, and that it has now been proven that there is a link between dampness problems and health issues, in particular, for some young children and the elderly.

It was important to ensure that tenanted properties had adequate heating, which is economic to operate, and that adequate advice is given to ensure that tenants knew how to operate such heating and also that advice is given on drying clothes, adequate ventilation etc.

The Committee expressed the view that for many years, Council housing surveyors had tended to blame dampness problems on tenants lifestyle issues, however in many cases it has now been ascertained that these were due to underlying construction/design of housing. The Committee felt that in future, it is only when these factors have been ruled out, that lifestyle issues should be considered.

It was noted that whilst external insulation is a good way of reducing dampness problems, this could be expensive to install on older properties.

Hyde Housing Association also gave evidence to the Committee, in relation to dampness problems in their properties. Hyde outlined to the Committee the methods by which they dealt with such problems. The Committee were informed that in the event of an emergency the matter is referred to the emergency services team and, if there is a social services referral or a care issue, the tenant is 'sign posted' to the appropriate agency/ies. Hyde also now had a full complement of surveying staff, which had not previously been the case.

The Committee learnt that Hyde would make initially make attempts to resolve a serious dampness issue that has been reported, however if this is not possible then temporary rehousing will be considered. Hyde staff did not have medical expertise. Therefore, Hyde is not able to assess health problems caused by dampness, but would advise tenants that if they thought that there was a health problem, then they should contact their GP for advice.

Hyde also issued advice to tenants on lifestyle issues and if this was identified, and there being no other underlying cause, monitoring would take place to ensure the advice is being followed, and if it had been effective. Hyde stated that they experienced most dampness problems in their more elderly Victorian and Edwardian properties.

CONCLUSION

The Committee have considered, in detail, the measures that are being taken to reduce the effects that damp properties has on the health of residents. Whilst, the Council and its partners have put in place extensive work in recent years, and in particular the extensive works that are planned on the two worst Council estates affected by dampness over the next few years, (which will no doubt alleviate many of these problems), there are still areas where the Committee think improvements can be made and these are outlined in our recommendations.

The design of many elderly properties means that it is often expensive and difficult to treat dampness effectively, which further exacerbates problems for residents.

It is hoped that the Executive will adopt the recommendations of the Committee.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2015/16 and 2016/17

MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

Martin Klute – Chair
Jilani Chowdhury – Vice Chair
Nurullah Turan
Raphael Andrews
Una O’Halloran – Replaced Osh Gantly October 2015
Rakhia Ismail- Replaced Mouna Hamitouche October 2015
Gary Heather
Tim Nicholls

Co-opted Member:
Bob Dowd – Islington Healthwatch

Substitutes:
Alice Donovan
Alex Diner
Jean Roger-Kaseki
Jenny Kay
Una O’Halloran until October 2015
Alice Perry
Dave Poyser
Clare Jeapes
Olav Ernten/Philip Watson – Islington Healthwatch

MEMBERSHIP 2016/17

Councillors:
Martin Klute – Chair
Rakhia Ismail – Vice Chair
Nurullah Turan
Una O’Halloran
Gary Heather
Tim Nicholls
Michelline Safi Ngogo
Jilani Chowdhury

Co-opted Member:
Bob Dowd – Islington Healthwatch

Substitutes:
Alice Perry
Dave Poyser
Clare Jeapes
Satnam Gill
Angela Picknell
Marian Spall
Olav Ernten/Philip Watson – Islington Healthwatch

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Officer Support:

Peter Moore – Democratic Services

Lead officer/s- Simon Kwong, Damian Dempsey - Housing and Adult Social Services and Julie Billett, Baljinda Heer Matiana -Public Health

APPENDIX A – SCRUTINY INTITATION DOCUMENT

SCRUTINY REVIEW INTITATION DOCUMENT
Review: The health impacts of damp housing conditions
Scrutiny Committee: Health Scrutiny Committee
Lead Officers: Julie Billett, Joint Director of Public Health and Simon Kwong, Director of Housing Property Services
Overall aim: To understand the scale and nature of the negative health and wellbeing impacts of damp housing conditions in Islington, and the effectiveness of current arrangements and measures for tackling damp and its adverse impacts on health.
<p>Objectives of the review:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the relationship between damp housing conditions and health and wellbeing in general, and specifically the impact of damp housing on Islington residents' health and wellbeing. • To understand the extent of damp housing across all tenure types in Islington, and the current arrangements and mechanisms that exist for preventing, identifying, addressing and mitigating its impacts? • To assess the effectiveness of current approaches to tackling both the structural and behavioural causes of damp, with a particular focus on health-related outcomes, and to make recommendations for increasing the impact of local measures, as appropriate. • To particularly assess the impact of dampness on children and how it affects absence from school.
Duration: Approx. 6 months
<p>How the review will be conducted</p> <p>Scope: The review will look at the issue of damp and its impact on health across all tenure types in Islington, and at the measures taken by the council, RSLs, Housing Associations and private landlords to address damp housing and its health-related impacts.</p> <p>Types of evidence to be assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and local data on <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Health and wellbeing impacts of damp housing (particularly on older people and children), including understanding evidence of causation and association. b. Scale and location of damp properties in Islington, including information on the type/cause, severity etc, as well as the limitations of what is known regarding damp housing conditions. c. Overview of local programmes and interventions to prevent, identify, diagnose and address damp, and information on their impact and effectiveness. d. Islington's housing transfer policy, its operation in practice and how it takes into account the interaction between residents' health and housing conditions. • Witness evidence from a range of relevant individuals and organisations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. LBI <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Housing ii. Public Health

- iii. Residential Environmental Health
- b. External partners
 - i. Partners for Improvement
 - ii. Registered providers eg Family Mosaic, Circle, etc
 - iii. Islington Registered Landlords Forum
 - iv. Islington CCG - impact on health/addressing damp housing in care pathways; impact on primary care
 - v. Help on Your Doorstep
- c. Residents
 - i. Residents – identified via members' casework?
 - ii. Tenants/residents associations
 - iii. Islington HealthWatch
- Site visits to see:-
 - a. housing / housing estates with known damp conditions
 - b. housing where remedial action is or has been taken to address damp
 - c. Any out of borough schemes/programmes offering learning for Islington

Additional information:

May want to also consider hearing from national organisations regarding innovative practice such as Shelter, National Housing Federation, etc.

Actions to take

APPENDIX B

Damp and Condensation Survey Pro Forma

revision	
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date	
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address (incl post code)	
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Surveyor	
-----------------	--

Brief description of property (age, construction type, materials used, property's location (if in a block))

Weather condition	
--------------------------	--

Reported problem

Reason for Survey	
routine survey request	
linked to a complaint	
Disrepair or Environmental Health enquiry	

External checks

Roof

Is it in good order? Missed or slipped tiles, lifted or damaged flashings and to falls? Water draining away?

Chimney stacks; well pointed and with flaunching and capping in good order

Rain water goods; Blocked? to good falls, in good repair, joints good and adequately sized for the run offs

Walls

condition of pointing and rendering

condition of materials/ **building fabric**

Doors and windows

material

condition

condition of weathering to heads, reveals and cills?

Damp proof course

age?

type

Is It visible

is it breached

Internal checks

Heating

is it working, list any defects (cold rads or cool rooms, **position and number of radiators and size of pipework**)

does it have a **working** programmer (**digital or analogue**)

how is it being used

is a heating audit needed? If so order it via GCS. And cc in compliance team

Ventilation

are trickle vents present **and functioning?**

air bricks /other ventilation

do windows open ?

describe air extraction systems fitted **and their efficiency**

are they working?

are they humidity controlled?

Insulation

are walls solid?

is there wall insulation

is their roof/floor insulation

Is there cold bridging

Sources of humidity

Occupancy (number of occupants)

high volume Cooking (**presence or absence of door to kitchen and whether it is closable**)

extensive Drying clothes **within property?**

evidence of unvented tumble dryer

Summary of what you think is wrong

Advice given to tenant (was leaflet on condensation provided?**)**



Report of: Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	24 th November 2016	All

FINANCIAL MONITORING 2016-17 MONTH 6

1. SYNOPSIS

- 1.1 This report presents the forecast outturn position for 2016-17 as at 30th September 2016. Overall, there is a gross General Fund overspend of £3.8m, and a net overspend of £0.8m after a £3.0m drawdown from the contingency reserve. The report proposes actions to reduce the forecast net General Fund overspend.
- 1.2 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecast to break-even over the year.
- 1.3 It is forecast that £116.0m of capital expenditure will be delivered in 2016-17.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. To note the overall forecast revenue outturn for the General Fund (**Table 1** and **Appendix 1**) of a gross overspend of £3.8m, including corporate items, and a net overspend of £0.8m after a £3.0m drawdown from the contingency reserve. (**Section 3**)
- 2.2. To note the actions needed to reduce the underlying forecast net General Fund overspend. (**Paragraph 3.2**)
- 2.3. To note that the net HRA forecast is a break-even position. (**Section 5, Table 1** and **Appendix 1**)
- 2.4. To note the latest capital position with forecast capital expenditure of £116.0m in 2016-17. (**Section 6, Table 2** and **Appendix 2**)

3. REVENUE POSITION: SUMMARY

- 3.1. A summary position of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account is shown in **Table 1** with a more detailed breakdown contained in **Appendix 1** (by service area).

Table 1: 2016-17 General Fund and HRA Month 6 Forecast

	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend (£000)
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	
Finance and Resources	713
Chief Executive's Department	1,000
Core Children's Services (Excluding Schools)	3,340
Environment and Regeneration	3,202
Housing and Adult Social Services	(17)
Public Health	0
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	8,238
Corporate Items	(4,423)
GROSS OVER/(UNDER) SPEND	3,815
Less: Drawdown from Contingency Reserve	(3,010)
NET OVER/(UNDER) SPEND	805
<u>HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</u>	
NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	0

- 3.2. There are many risks that could materialise into further overspends over the course of the financial year. To reduce the underlying, forecast net General Fund overspend, the following actions are being undertaken to bring the 2016-17 budget into balance:

3.2.1. Corporate Directors are identifying further management actions to bring down their departmental overspends; and

3.2.2. There will be clawback, at a level to be agreed, on new carry-forwards at the end of this financial year.

4. GENERAL FUND

Finance and Resources Department (+£0.7m)

- 4.1. The Finance and Resources Department is forecasting an overspend of (+£0.7m). This is due to the following variances:

4.1.1. (+£1.2m) shortfall against the commercial property income target due to savings materialising over a longer time frame.

- 4.1.2. Re-phasing of the ICT shared service saving (+£0.5m) to allow the new service to get up and running.
- 4.1.3. Compensating in-year management actions of (-£0.65m) through the more efficient use of staff for processing Housing Benefit claims, and (-£0.35m) managed underspend in accommodation and facilities using the building repairs fund.

Chief Executive's Department (+£1.0m)

- 4.2. The Chief Executive's Department is forecasting a (+£1.4m) provisional outturn overspend. Significant New Homes Bonus (NHB) grant funding was received over the 2015-17 period and it was planned that this would replace council funding and other reducing funding streams within the Strategy and Community Partnerships division. However, this funding has already been committed against other expenditure in the division, meaning that the budgeted savings are no longer deliverable. The overall shortfall is around £1.4m; however, management actions are being put in place to reduce this pressure.

Children's Services

General Fund (+£3.3m)

- 4.3. A (+£3.3m) provisional outturn overspend is forecast for the General Fund (non-schools) Children's Services budget as a number of pressures against demand led specialist services have continued from 2015-16 into 2016-17; especially in relation to increasing numbers of personal budget packages, care proceedings, care leavers, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and looked after children. Further overspends are occurring against secure accommodation costs and from the late notice of a further cut in grant funding from the Youth Justice Board. An overspend is also forecast against the universal free school meals budget as pupil numbers continue to increase and eligibility for statutory free school meals reduces. The key variances are as follows:
 - 4.3.1. Increased demand for high level personal budgets to deliver community based packages. (+£0.2m)
 - 4.3.2. Increase in care proceedings including family assessment. Reflects a national trend where there has been an increase of 17% in care proceedings across the country. (+£0.10m)
 - 4.3.3. Leaving Care costs for 18+ year olds - significant increase in the number of care leavers that we are obliged to offer a service to. Includes rising 18's (Southwark judgement). (+£0.60m)
 - 4.3.4. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC) - the numbers of UASC have increased by 36 over the duration of the last financial year. The authority is allocated grant to cover the costs of an individual; however, this is not sufficient to meet the sums expended. The first 25 cases are not funded by the Home Office. (+£0.15m)
 - 4.3.5. Children Looked After (CLA) staffing including Independent Futures and the associated increase on client (non-placement) costs (e.g. travel, interpreters, and rents). (+£0.15m)

- 4.3.6. Increase in support packages for young people placed for Adoption because of severe disability and the need for 1 to 1 support to carers. (+£0.1m)
- 4.3.7. CLA Placements – increase in the number and complexity of cases for the under-18 cohort of CLA. These are mainly regulated residential placements. (+£0.50m)
- 4.3.8. Increase in support for 16-17 years olds living in supported accommodation. (+£0.55m)
- 4.3.9. Youth Justice – late notification of £40k reduction of Youth Justice Board grant for 2016-17. (+£0.04m)
- 4.3.10. Disabled Children’s Services – re-phasing of savings from the service review and rationalisation. (+£0.15m)
- 4.3.11. Universal Free School Meals - increased pupil numbers and reduced eligibility for statutory free school meals. The forecast will be updated after the October 2016 schools’ census. (+£0.5m)
- 4.3.12. Holloway Pool Subsidy – savings from the removal of subsidy will not be realised in full. (+£0.03m)
- 4.3.13. Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport (+£0.35m) - Increasing numbers of pupils and complexity of need.
- 4.3.14. Central staffing underspend of (-£0.08m).
- 4.4. Management action to reduce the overspend is currently underway which includes holding vacancies and reviewing high-cost social care packages, but demand in some areas is outstripping supply.

Schools (-£0.96m)

- 4.5. A Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) underspend of (-£0.96m), or 0.6% of DSG, is forecast. All of the provisional DSG underspend consists of balances from previous years’ underspends that are being managed to support specific areas of activity as previously agreed by Schools Forum.

Environment and Regeneration (+£3.2m)

- 4.6. The Environment and Regeneration Department is forecasting a (+£3.2m) overspend. This is after corporate savings of (-£1.0m) being applied to the Environment and Regeneration pressure on the cross-cutting data circuits saving due to a lack of suitable General Fund sites (this is a net-nil impact overall as the corporate underspend is reduced, in respect of this applied funding, by the same amount).
- 4.7. The main reasons for the Environment and Regeneration Department overspend are a combination of longstanding structural issues previously contained by managerial action across the department, loss of income due to market conditions or decisions made by third parties impacting on earlier assumptions and delays in implementing earlier savings decisions. The main variances are detailed below.
- 4.8. The Public Realm division is forecast to be (+£2m) overspent. This is as a result of:

- 4.8.1. Delays in implementing complex service changes to deliver in year savings in the Refuse, Recycling and Commercial Waste Operations service. (+£2.0m)
- 4.8.2. The delay referred to above has also had an impact on the procurement of new refuse collection vehicles as decisions around vehicle numbers and design specification cannot be made until the target operating model is finalised. Continued reliance on an ageing fleet has increased the cost of fleet hire significantly with much higher levels of vehicle downtime. This has led to ongoing lease costs that were not budgeted for of (+£0.6m).
- 4.8.3. Additional staffing costs (+£0.45m) within the Refuse and Recycling service due to cover arrangements and additional overtime as a result of higher levels of vehicle downtime, additional staffing costs due to Health and Safety requirement for extra loaders for the first six months of the year and additional costs due to the garden waste pilot.
- 4.8.4. Delays in realising the growth in the trade waste services have resulted in a (+0.35m) shortfall in trade waste income within this financial year.
- 4.8.5. Advertising Concession contract saving; a (+£0.5m) pressure as a result of existing contracts delaying implementation, and difficulty in identification of suitable sites that would generate sufficient revenues.
- 4.8.6. Delays in realising savings from income generating opportunities through the Islington Council trading company, iCo, of (+£0.1m) with a risk that income will not be achieved over and above existing service income targets.
- 4.8.7. This is offset by improvements in the income streams within the parking account of (-£2.0m). All income streams within the parking account are currently performing above the levels expected in the financial model. If this trend continues, this will result in a significant underspend against budget which can be utilised against highways and transport related spend that would otherwise need to be funded from council revenue and/or capital resources. Improvements to the accuracy of Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) issues and debt recovery have increased the average value of a PCN, and parking bay suspension income remains high as a consequence of the high levels of economic activity in the borough. Pay and display levels are on target and permit sales have increased. Improvements to the monitoring of moving traffic offences are planned to be operational within the financial year, which will also improve compliance levels in this area.
- 4.9. The Public Protection division is forecast to be (+£0.6m) overspent. The pressures are a mixture of unfunded staff costs through loss of grant income, unachievable income targets that relied on outdated business models (e.g. DVD / CD rentals in libraries), and other income pressures.
- 4.10. The Planning and Development division is forecast to be (+£0.6m) overspent, as follows:
 - 4.10.1. Development Control has cost pressures around the use of agency staff (used for vacancy and temporary cover) which is partly offset by an underspend on

salaries due to vacant posts and strong pre-application income performance.
(+£0.4m)

4.10.2. The Building Control service has a projected shortfall in income of (+£0.2m).

Housing and Adult Social Services (Break-even Position)

- **Adult Social Care (Break-even Position)**

4.11. Adult Social Care is forecasting a break-even position over the financial year.

- **Housing General Fund (Break-even Position)**

4.12. The Housing General Fund is forecast to break-even over the financial year.

Public Health (Break-even Position)

4.13. Public Health is funded via a ring-fenced grant of £27.3m for 2016-17. There is a forecast break-even position for the financial year.

Corporate Items (-£4.4m)

4.14. By integrating Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding with the capital medium term financial strategy (MTFS), it is forecast that there will be £3.5m of previously unbudgeted Strategic CIL funding available for funding infrastructure in the 2016-17 capital programme. This will deliver a saving of (-£3.5m) of the annual corporate revenue contribution to the capital programme in 2016-17 and over the medium term.

4.15. The Council has continued to follow a successful Treasury Management Strategy of shorter-term borrowing at low interest rates. This is forecast to save the General Fund (-£2.2m) in interest charges this financial year. The Treasury Management Strategy is kept under constant review to ensure that available resources are optimised and the longer-term interest rate position reviewed within an effective risk management framework and in line with the approved strategy.

4.16. Additional net unbudgeted grant income (-£0.6m) has been received to compensate for the impact of Government policy on our retained business rates income in 2016-17 (e.g. the continued doubling of small business rates relief).

4.17. These savings are partially offset by:

4.17.1. Corporate savings of (+£1.0m) being applied to the Environment and Regeneration pressure on the cross-cutting data circuits saving due to a lack of suitable General Fund sites (this is a net-nil impact overall as the Environment and Regeneration overspend is reduced, in respect of this applied funding, by the same amount).

4.17.2. (+£0.8m) uncontrollable pressure due to the Council's statutory duty to provide assistance to all destitute clients who are Non-European Union nationals and can demonstrate need under Section 21 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. This is commonly referred to as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF).

4.17.3. (+£0.1m) further legal costs relating to a settled claim against three privately owned mature London Plane trees that had been proven to cause subsidence. Due to strong public support, the Council argued for retaining the trees and won

the appeal for the trees to be retained. The claimants then proceeded with a claim against the Council for repair costs.

5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 5.1. The forecast outturn for the HRA is a gross surplus of (-£3m) to be transferred into the HRA risk equalisation reserve, leaving a break-even position overall.
- 5.2. The key reasons for the forecast gross (-£3m) surplus are:
- 5.2.1. An increase in rental income of (-£2m) due to the post budget setting confirmation that PFI properties were to be excluded from the 1% rent reduction.
 - 5.2.2. A review of annual leaseholder service charges leading to an underlying increase in charges of £1m, applied to both 2015-16 actuals and 2016-17 estimates, meaning a (-£2m) increase in income.
 - 5.2.3. Additional income in relation to charges for other services and facilities. (-£0.5m).
 - 5.2.4. Offsetting this is an estimated year-end charge in respect of new digital services projects/improvements to IT infrastructure of (+£1.6m).

6. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 6.1. It is forecast that £116.0m of capital investment will be delivered in 2016-17. This is set out by department in **Table 2** below and detailed at **Appendix 2**.

Table 2: 2016-17 Capital Programme Month 6 Forecast

Department	2016-17 Capital Budget	2016-17 Capital Forecast	Forecast Re-profiling (to)/from Future Years (£m)
	(£m)	(£m)	(£m)
Children's Services	18.9	18.9	0.0
Environment and Regeneration	26.4	26.4	0.0
Housing and Adult Social Services	61.2	70.7	9.5
Total	106.5	116.0	9.5

Forecast Re-profiling

- 6.2. Under the Council's financial regulations, the re-profiling of capital budgets between financial years over £1m on an individual capital scheme is a function of the Executive.

Housing and Adult Social Services

- 6.3. New Homes Programme – the new homes programme is fully funded over the medium term. The first quarterly review in 2016-17 indicates deliverable new homes capital expenditure in the region of £39m in 2016-17, around £9.5m more than originally

estimated when setting the 2016-17 budget. This is due to good progress being made on a number of schemes. This will be reviewed at the second quarterly review before determining the amount of resources required to bring forward from future years to 2016-17.

7. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 7.1. These are included in the main body of the report.

Legal Implications

- 7.2. The law requires that the Council must plan to balance its spending plans against resources to avoid a deficit occurring in any year. Members need to be reasonably satisfied that expenditure is being contained within budget and that the savings for the financial year will be achieved, to ensure that income and expenditure balance.

Environmental Implications

- 7.3. This report does not have any direct environmental implications.

Resident Impact Assessment

- 7.4. A resident impact assessment (RIA) was carried out for the 2016-17 Budget Report approved by Full Council. This report notes the financial performance to date but does not have direct policy implications, so a separate RIA is not required for this report.

Background papers: None

Responsible Officer:

Mike Curtis
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources

Report Authors:

Martin Houston
Strategic Financial Advisor
Tony Watts
Head of Financial Planning

Signed by



8 November 2016

Executive Member for Finance,
Performance and Community Safety

Date

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring 2016-17 Month 6 by Service Area

GENERAL FUND					
Department / Service Area	Original Budget	Current Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend Month 6	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend Month 5
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
FINANCE AND RESOURCES					
Corporate Director of Finance and Resources	915	1,892	1,892	0	0
Digital Services and Transformation	1,345	7,670	8,170	500	500
Financial Management	(3,072)	(3,117)	(1,898)	1,219	834
Financial Operations	2,359	7,207	6,201	(1,006)	(650)
Internal Audit	551	567	567	0	0
Total Finance and Resources	2,098	14,219	14,932	713	684
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT					
Chief Executive	4	0	0	0	0
Governance and Human Resources	340	448	448	0	0
Strategy and Community Partnerships	3,067	4,399	5,399	1,000	1,000
Total Chief Executive's Department	3,411	4,847	5,847	1,000	1,000
CHILDREN'S SERVICES					
Learning and Schools	21,927	22,750	22,670	(80)	(180)
Partnerships and Support Services	15,273	16,175	16,095	(80)	0
Targeted and Specialist Children and Families	38,482	41,002	43,542	2,540	2,240
Less Projected Ring-Fenced Schools Related Underspend	0	0	960	960	1,110
Total Children's Services	75,682	79,927	83,267	3,340	3,170
ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION					
Directorate	(2,458)	(1,213)	(1,213)	0	0
Planning and Development	1,796	1,894	2,530	636	545
Public Protection	10,609	11,324	11,939	615	605
Public Realm	24,694	23,368	25,319	1,951	3,052
Total Environment and Regeneration	34,641	35,373	38,575	3,202	4,202
HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES (HASS)					
Temporary Accommodation (Homelessness Direct)	2,176	2,471	2,932	461	461
Housing Needs (Homelessness Indirect)	1,819	1,501	1,426	(75)	(75)
Housing Benefit	880	880	880	0	0
Housing Strategy and Development	217	174	142	(32)	(32)
Housing Administration	1,850	2,404	2,052	(352)	(352)
Total Housing General Fund	6,942	7,430	7,432	2	2
Adult Social Care	31,030	31,738	31,728	(10)	(10)
Integrated Community Services	15,772	15,534	15,353	(181)	(181)
Strategy and Commissioning	31,774	31,904	32,076	172	172
Total Adult Social Services	78,576	79,176	79,157	(19)	(19)
Total Housing and Adult Social Services	85,518	86,606	86,589	(17)	(17)
PUBLIC HEALTH					
Children 0-5 Public Health	2,132	4,094	4,093	(1)	14
Children and Young People	1,906	1,726	1,665	(61)	22
NHS Health Checks	342	364	417	53	56
Obesity and Physical Activity	731	731	731	0	0
Other Public Health	(21,496)	(22,944)	(23,303)	(359)	0
Sexual Health	8,268	7,984	8,057	73	(35)
Smoking and Tobacco	673	601	521	(80)	(71)
Substance Misuse	7,444	7,444	7,439	(5)	21
Less Projected Ring-Fenced Public Health Grant Underspend	0	0	380	380	0
Total Public Health	0	0	0	0	7
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	201,350	220,972	229,210	8,238	9,046
CORPORATE ITEMS					
Corporate and Democratic Core / Non Distributed Costs	15,129	14,545	14,545	0	0
Other Corporate Items	290	(959)	(3,943)	(2,984)	(3,976)
Corporate Financing Account	(22,475)	(22,475)	(24,722)	(2,247)	(2,000)
Levies	22,005	22,005	22,005	0	0
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	12,555	(5,369)	(5,369)	0	0
Specific Grants	(17,960)	(17,960)	(17,960)	0	0
Core Government Funding / Council Tax	(211,162)	(211,162)	(211,162)	0	0
No Recourse to Public Funds	268	403	1,211	808	808
Total Corporate Items	(201,350)	(220,972)	(225,395)	(4,423)	(5,168)
GROSS TOTAL	0	0	3,815	3,815	3,878
Drawdown from Contingency Reserve	0	0	(3,010)	(3,010)	(3,010)
NET TOTAL	0	0	805	805	868

Appendix 1 - Revenue Monitoring 2016-17 Month 6

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT(HRA)						
Department / Service Area	Original Budget	Current Budget	Latest Actual	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend Month 6	Forecast Over/(Under) Spend Month 5
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Dwelling Rents	(160,331)	(160,331)	(81,166)	(162,331)	(2,000)	(1,700)
Non Dwelling Rents	(1,750)	(1,350)	(675)	(1,350)	0	0
Heating Charges	(2,000)	(2,000)	(1,000)	(2,000)	0	0
Leaseholders Charges	(9,748)	(9,748)	(6,024)	(12,048)	(2,300)	0
Other Charges for Services and Facilities	(4,377)	(4,377)	(2,439)	(4,877)	(500)	(200)
PFI Credits	(22,854)	(22,854)	(11,427)	(22,854)	0	0
Interest Receivable	(500)	(500)	0	(350)	150	0
Contribution from General Fund	(816)	(816)	0	(816)	0	0
Gross Income	(202,376)	(201,976)	(102,731)	(206,626)	(4,650)	(1,900)
Repairs and Maintenance	31,930	31,930	15,965	31,930	0	0
General Management	49,155	48,955	25,088	50,175	1,220	(425)
PFI Payments	39,714	39,614	19,932	39,864	250	250
Special Services	16,817	16,817	8,409	16,817	0	0
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	739	539	345	689	150	140
Capital Financing Costs	46,387	46,387	0	46,387	0	0
Bad Debt Provisions	750	750	0	750	0	0
HRA Contingency	2,500	2,500	0	2,500	0	0
Transfer to HRA Reserves	14,384	14,484	0	17,514	3,030	1,935
Gross Expenditure	202,376	201,976	69,739	206,626	4,650	1,900
Net (Surplus)/Deficit	0	0	(32,992)	0	0	0

Appendix 2: Capital Monitoring 2016-17 Month 6

	2016-17 Budget Monitoring						
	Original Budget	Budget Changes During the Year	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast Re-profiling (to)/from Future Years	Expenditure to Date	% Budget Spent to Date
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
CHILDREN'S SERVICES							
Moreland Primary School	8.4	0.0	8.4	8.4	0.0	5.7	68%
Dowery Street Pupil Referral Unit	4.3	(1.9)	2.4	2.4	0.0	1.9	79%
The Bridge Free School	4.7	0.0	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0	0%
Primary School Expansions	6.4	(6.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Primary Capital Scheme	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0%
Windows Scheme	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	97%
Primary Bulge Classes	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	86%
Primary Electrical Schemes	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.6	67%
Mechanical Schemes	0.4	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.2	41%
Early Years Two Year Old Places	0.9	(0.4)	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	8%
Other	3.0	(2.5)	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	8%
Total Children's Services	29.8	(10.9)	18.9	18.9	0.0	9.1	48%
ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION							
Other Environment and Regeneration	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0%
Planning and Development	2.0	(1.8)	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	32%
Cemetaries	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	0%
Disabled Facilities	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.3	35%
Libraries	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0%
Private Sector Housing	1.6	(0.4)	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	4%
Combined Heat and Power	4.0	0.4	4.4	4.4	(0.0)	1.4	32%
Energy Saving Council Buildings	0.2	0.7	0.9	0.9	(0.0)	0.2	19%
Vehicles	3.7	(1.6)	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.7	34%
Greenspace	0.4	1.3	1.7	1.4	(0.3)	0.4	25%
Highways	4.4	(0.1)	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.9	20%
Ironmonger Row Bath	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0%
Leisure	4.5	0.1	4.6	4.6	0.0	1.6	35%
Other Energy Efficiency	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0%
Recycling Improvements	0.9	(0.6)	0.3	0.3	(0.0)	0.0	1%
Special Projects	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.1	26%
Traffic and Engineering	3.3	0.2	3.5	3.6	0.1	0.7	20%
Total Environment and Regeneration	26.9	(0.5)	26.4	26.4	0.0	6.5	25%
HOUSING AND ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES							
HOUSING							
Major Works and Improvements	31.1	0.0	31.1	31.1	0.0	11.9	38%
New Build	29.4	0.0	29.4	38.9	9.5	11.1	38%
Total Housing	60.5	0.0	60.5	70.0	9.5	23.0	38%
ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES							
Care Services	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	(0.0)	0.0	1%
Total Adult Social Services	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	(0.0)	0.0	1%
Total Housing and Adult Social Services	60.5	0.7	61.2	70.7	9.5	23.1	38%
FINANCE AND RESOURCES							
Finance	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	(0.1)	0.0	0%
Digital Services	1.5	(1.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
Total Finance and Resources	1.5	(1.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME	118.7	(12.1)	106.6	116.0	9.5	38.6	36%

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Report of: Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Executive	24 November 2016	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Cemetery Fees and Charges 2017

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report proposes the schedule of fees and charges for Islington and Camden Cemetery Service (ICCS) for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017. The levels set continue to provide best value for Islington residents whilst maintaining a range of options for all and delivering service improvements.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the fees and charges details in Appendix 1 for introduction on the 1st January 2017.
- 2.2 To agree to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to agree any in-year changes to Cemeteries fees and charges.

3. Background

- 3.1 ICCS is a joint service managed by Islington on behalf of both Islington and Camden as a trading operation. It has three sites – East Finchley, Trent Park and Hampstead. The fees and charges need to generate sufficient funds to meet the running costs of the service and reinvest in the infrastructure. Any surplus generated is used to finance service improvements and maintenance on the sites.
- 3.2 The joint service has been in operation for 12 years. There is continuous evaluation of the service to ensure that it meets the needs of our residents and is competitive against private sector providers. A series of service improvements and enhancements have been achieved and more are planned over the next few years, including the introduction of new burial spaces at both the East Finchley and Trent Park sites. The service has increased its share of the market whilst receiving good customer feedback.
- 3.3 ICCS continue to provide an affordable range of options for Islington and Camden residents and are ensuring that the provision will be available for future years. A higher fee is charged for non-residents who wish to use these services.

- 3.4 The fees proposed have been reviewed against actual costs, meaning that several have been able to be retained at existing levels, including our most popular burial option. Where fees are recommended for increase, it is to offset higher supplier costs or to contribute to improvement works at the sites. The proposed fees and charges have been approved by the ICCS Board.
- 3.5 The proposed fees and charges will continue to place ICCS as a mid to low-cost facility when benchmarked with other London cemeteries.
- 3.6 It is important that ICCS continues to be self-financing, whilst remaining affordable and competitive. There may be occasions during the year when costs that the service incurs change, and fees need to be amended to reflect this. In order to accommodate any such minor changes, it is recommended that the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, be delegated the authority to approve such in-year amendments.

4. Implications

Financial implications:

- 4.1 The proposed fees and charges have been set at a level that will meet expected expenditure levels and ensure that the trading account is balanced at year end.

Legal Implications:

- 4.2 The Council is able to set fees and charges for burials, cremations and cemetery services under the provisions of the Local authorities Cemeteries Act 1977 and the Cremation Act 1902.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3 ICCS is accredited to ISO1401 and sites are managed within this framework to lessen their impact on the environment and enhance biodiversity.

Resident Impact Assessment:

- 4.4 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An RIA has been undertaken and no adverse impacts arising from these proposals were identified.

5. Reasons for the recommendations / decision:

- 5.1 It is essential that residents are able to receive a compassionate and cost effective service when they use our cemeteries. The proposed fees and charges have been set at a level where ICCS can ensure that that they continue to maintain offer an excellent service at an affordable price.

Appendix - Proposed Cemeteries fees and charges 2017

Signed by:



Executive Member for Environment and
Transport

4.11.16

Date

Report Author: Jan Hart, 020 7527 2614, jan.hart@islington.gov.uk

Fees and Charges 2017 - Islington and Camden Cemetery Services

	Existing Charges		Proposed Charges	
	Resident	Non Resident	Resident	Non Resident
	£	£	£	£
Private Graves				
<i>Exclusive right of burial-purchase and licence fee</i>				
Classic Grave Space	1,300	1,905	1,300	2,000
7'x3' Grave Space	1,995	3,345	2,095	3,515
9'X4' Grave Space	2,265	3,835	2,375	4,025
Woodland Burial	2,050	3,430	2,150	3,600
Front lawn areas - 7x3 Grave Space	3,470	6,210	3,645	6,520
Front lawn areas - 9x4 Grave Space	5,365	9,690	5,635	10,170
Trent Park- 8x5 Grave Space	1,365	2,100	1,435	2,205
Children's Memorial Garden	420	825	420	825
Purchase of Right of Burial in an Ash Plot	990	1,175	1,040	1,235
Interment fees				
Individual 16 yrs and over- all cemeteries	1,070	1,905	1,125	2,000
Individual under 16 yrs	500	885	500	885
Front lawn areas - Adult	1,945	3,585	2,045	3,765
Front lawn areas - under 16 yrs	910	1,615	910	1,615
Saturday Burial extra charge	650	650	700	700
Sunday Burial extra charge	750	750	900	900
Saturday burial of ashes extra charge	140	140	140	140
Sunday burial of ashes extra charge	200	200	200	200
Hand Digging Fee	495	495	500	500
Public Graves				
Adult	295	460	295	460
Child 3-16 yrs	105	140	105	140
Baby to 3 yrs	65	110	65	110
Burial of Cremated Remains - Hampstead Cemetery				
<i>New Burial in Cremation Vault</i>				
2nd- 4th Interment	90	140	90	140
Grave Units				
<i>New Burial in Double Vault</i>				
Purchase of Double vault including 1st Interment & 60 year lease	6,725	9,915	6,725	9,915
New Burial in Front Lawn Vaults				
Purchase of Double front lawn vault inc 1st Interment & 60 yr. lease	8,460	12,875	9,145	13,970

Mausolea				
Purchase of single unit and Interment (inc burial rights)-1st and 3rd row	6,080	8,970	6,080	8,970
Purchase of single unit and Interment (inc burial rights)-2nd row	6,820	9,970	6,820	9,970
Miscellaneous Charges				
Burial of ashes - 16 yrs old and over	90	140	90	140
Burial of ashes - under 16 years	Free	Free	Free	Free
Scattering ashes from elsewhere (large casket)	75	75	75	75
Transfer Fee	50	50	50	50
Purchase In Reserve 50% Supplement				
Certificate of Burial	30	30	30	30
Burial Record Search for up to 3	45	45	45	45
Database Record Search	15	15	15	15
Extending standard grave to allow for extra large coffin	70	135	70	135
Renewal of Grave Lease charged proportionally to the grave price				
Weekday extended service time in chapel(extra half hour)	65	65	65	65
Admin fee for 2 interment in niche at coumbarium	25	25	25	25
Exhumation Fee				
First coffin - admin fee	450	450	475	475
Second coffin - admin fee	200	200	200	200
Remove & Replace Memorial				
Lawn style memorial up to 7"x3"	215	215	215	215
Traditional style memorial up to 7'x3'	325	325	325	325
Memorial Plaques	130	130	130	130
Memorial on Ash Memorial Container (AMC)	140	140	140	140
Ash Plot Memorial	60	60	60	60
Memorial base	110	220	130	260
Memorial Licence Fees				
Old section Grave Spaces (Traditional)	315	315	315	315
Private Earthen Graves Lawn sections	220	220	220	220
Common Graves	70	70	70	70
Additional Memorial Work	70	70	70	70
Remove & Replace Memorial				
Lawn style memorial up to 7"x3"	215	215	215	215
Traditional style memorial up to 7'x3'	325	325	325	325
Memorial Plaques	130	130	130	130
Memorial on Ash Memorial Container (AMC)	140	140	140	140
Ash Plot Memorial	60	60	60	60
Memorial base	110	220	130	260
Memorial Licence Fees				
Old section Grave Spaces (Traditional)	315	315	315	315
Private Earthen Graves Lawn sections	220	220	220	220

Common Graves	70	70	70	70
Additional Memorial Work	70	70	70	70
Annual clean	25	25	25	25
Ash Plot	150	150	150	150
Additional Memorial	50	50	50	50
Cremation Services				
Individual 16 years and over	575	575	600	600
Individual under 16 years	35	35	35	35
Early Morning Cremation	325	325	325	325
Evenings and Saturday Cremation	650	650	760	760
Sunday Cremation	750	750	930	930
Weekday extended service time in chapel(extra half hour)	110	110	110	110
Contract Cremation	130	130	130	130
Use of Organist	70	70	70	70
Audio-Visual System				
1st CD Recording - audio	35	35	38	38
Additional CD Recording - audio	20	20	20	20
1st DVD Recording of chapel service	40	40	40	40
Additional DVD Recording of chapel service	20	20	20	20
Webcast	45	45	45	45
Visual Tribute				
Admin fee	15	15	15	15
Per 10 photos/images	40	40	40	40
Per 20 photos/images	50	50	50	50
Per 30 photos/images	60	60	60	60
Per 40 photos/images	70	70	70	70
Per minute of video	5	5	5	5
DVD of service containing tribute	50	50	50	50
Removing Ashes from Crematorium				
Holding ashes on temporary deposit	20	20	20	20
Pet Cemetery Fees				
Large grave	545	545	545	545
Medium grave	440	440	440	440
Small grave	380	380	380	380
Scattering of ashes	Free	Free	Free	Free
Burial of ashes with marker	100	100	100	100

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Report of: **Executive Member for Community Development**

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	24 November 2016	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: 'Inspiring Islington' Arts Strategy 2017-2020

1 Synopsis

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's new Arts Strategy 'Inspiring Islington' (2017-2020) which has been developed following a programme of research and consultation with the borough's Arts Sector, Corporate Departments, other public sector bodies and potential future investment partners.
- 1.2 The strategy recognises the considerable contribution that the Arts and engagement in high quality arts provision can make to the council's wider priorities including employment and skills, quality of life and well-being and sustainable economic development.
- 1.3 The strategy sets out the Council's vision and approach to working in partnership with and supporting the sustainable development of the borough's arts sector, in order to maximise the social and economic impact of the arts over the next three years.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the Arts Strategy 'Inspiring Islington' attached as Appendix 1.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Arts are at the heart of Islington's identity and sense of place. The borough is a centre of, and for, cultural excellence and although the second smallest borough in London has one of the richest arts infrastructures in the country. The borough is home to more than 15 theatres and dance venues, the country's only dedicated literature and freedom of expression house, 19 live music venues and 75 community and other arts organisations.
- 3.2 Islington is home to 26 Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisations (NPO's), the third highest in England. Between 2015 and 2018 ACE will invest £41.8 Million in Islington's enviable arts infrastructure. Since 1999, the borough's creative sector has grown by 47% and represents approximately 25% of the business in Islington employing more than 20% of the local labour force. In 2016 it was estimated that the borough's theatres and dance venues alone employed more than 380 people, provided training opportunities for a further 24 local residents

and generated more than £81 Million into the local economy. Of this approximately £44 Million of additional leisure spend was generated supporting a range of additional service industries in the borough.

4 The Council's Arts Service

- 4.1 The Council's Arts Service is a small and responsive unit consisting at present of 2.5 full time members of staff. Additional capacity is provided by the current Special Projects officer. As part of the proposed re-organisation of the Chief Executives division, the Special Projects Officer post will be integrated fully into the service as Cultural Development Officer with a particular focus on supporting the on-going development of the arts infrastructure, including creative workspace and management of the film location service.
- 4.2 The Council is clearly not the main provider or indeed investor in Arts and Cultural programmes in the borough it does however have a critical role in supporting the sector to respond to the needs of local residents and visitors to the borough in order to unlock social and economic benefits. The focus of the Art Services' work is to enable, connect and support the sector by brokering relationships, negotiating partnership working, researching and sharing intelligence, developing strategy to align limited resources and generating increased inward investment by leveraging-in additional funding into the borough.
- 4.3 A good example of this approach to partnership working can be seen in the services Creative Apprenticeships Programme. Between 2013-16 Islington Arts Service created 39 opportunities for 16-24 year old NEETs to undertake Apprenticeships and Internships across 18 of Islington's arts organisations. £50K of S106 funding levered £92K grant funding from Creative & Cultural Skills and £221K contribution from the arts businesses to support pathways into employment for young unemployed Islington residents.

5 Research and Consultation

- 5.1 In developing this strategy the Arts Service has consulted with a broad range of corporate, community partners and potential investment partners in order to better understand and respond to the needs of the sector and other council services work in achieving the Council's wider corporate objectives.
- 5.2 In order to ensure that the Council and the wider arts sector can continue to successfully secure support and investments from a range of potential partners, it is also imperative that the strategy is aligned to wider regional and national arts policy frameworks. The most significant and relevant are the recent Department for Culture Media and Sports' The Culture White paper, Arts Council England's Great Arts for Everyone and the new Mayor of London's emerging Cultural Strategy. Inspiring Islington identifies key shared agendas with these regional and national policy frameworks and the Arts Service will continue to work closely and in partnership with these agencies in order to secure benefits for local residents and the borough's arts infrastructure.

6 Vision and Key Priorities

- 6.1 The vision articulated in the Arts strategy is to '*Inspire Islington through the arts*', to celebrate the intrinsic value of the arts to illuminate and enrich residents lives whilst simultaneously championing their instrumental value in promoting individual and community capacity building, providing employment and training, contributing to place-shaping and a sense of belonging, building community cohesion, improving the well-being of Islington's residents and driving the local economy.
- 6.2 Many of Islington's residents are able to avail themselves of the borough's arts infrastructure and the programmes of events and activities they provide. The strategy however recognises that there are many residents who do not currently engage or experience more barriers to engaging with the arts and therefore are less able or likely to benefit from the social and economic benefits that they offer.

- 6.3 As a result the strategy places emphasis on working with the sector and other corporate and community partners to actively engage those residents experiencing disadvantage, facing complex social issues or indeed subject to structural inequalities. The strategy actively prioritises work targeting children and young people, BAMER residents, disabled residents and elders
- 6.4 The Strategy identifies four key priorities and associated objectives for the Council's arts development function between 2017 and 2020:
- 6.5 **Engagement:**
Increasing opportunities for engagement in the arts – Inspiring Islington through extraordinary arts experiences.
Objectives:
- To provide high quality opportunities for local residents, in particular children, young people, those with disabilities, elders and those from BAMER communities, to actively engage with, and take part in, the arts as audiences, participants and producers.
 - To ensure that all Islington children and young people receive high quality music education linked to progression routes outside of formal education settings.
 - To support the provision of inspirational and best practice arts education within Islington schools and youth settings.
- 6.6 **Place-making:**
Promoting community cohesion and sense of place through place-making and animation of the public realm – Inspiring Islington through direct engagement in shaping local distinctiveness.
Objectives:
- To maximise the role the arts can play in place-making and engage local residents in actively influencing the changing face of the borough
 - To animate the public realm bringing the streets alive by taking work out of venues to places where people are.
- 6.7 **Skills Development & Creative Employment:**
Generating creative skills, employment and career development opportunities - Inspiring Islington through clear progression routes towards employment in the arts sector
Objectives:
- To promote the role of literacy and the arts in developing employability skills
 - To provide progression routes for Islington young people to secure employment in the arts and cultural sectors
 - To develop the workforce of the future through the provision of work experience, entry level jobs and skills development opportunities
- 6.8 **Cultural Infrastructure**
Providing a broad and resilient cultural infrastructure – Inspiring Islington through the delivery of exemplary arts programmes
Objectives:
- To support arts organisations to remain in or move into the borough
 - To build the resilience of the sector
 - To resource the sector through shared intelligence and information
- 6.9 The Action Plan that accompanies this strategy will be updated annually as part of the Council's service planning processes to ensure that longer term objectives can be met whilst maintaining a flexible and continuously improving service able to adapt to evolving challenges and opportunities.

7 Implications

7.1 Financial implications:

- 7.1.1 The Arts Service has a significant track record in securing external funding to support its work and that of other corporate and community partners. Over the last three years £853,198 of external funding has been secured for key strategic projects.

- 7.1.2 These range from £20K pilot projects such as the Islington Creative Schools Pilot with sector partners East London Cultural Education Partnership to evaluate the potential of the arts to support the delivery of school's development strategies to major high profile regeneration programmes and public art commissions such as Morag Myerscough's transformation of the Seven Sisters Road Railway Bridge abutments which has secured £242K funding through the GLA, New Homes Bonus, Transport for London, Arts Council England and S106 contributions. Between 2013 -16, £313K was levered from Creative & Cultural Skills and participating arts businesses to support the services Creative Employment Programme.
- 7.1.3 It is also estimated that income generated through the Islington Film Service contributes approximately £170K to the Council each year in addition to an annual £40K income to support the work of the arts service.
- 7.1.4 The cost to the council for providing this function relates to staffing and has been factored in to the council's budget setting arrangements for 2015-16 and is affordable.

8 Legal Implications:

- 8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

9 Environmental Implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this report

10 Resident Impact Assessment:

- 10.1 Inspiring Islington prioritises working with the arts sector and corporate, community and investment partners to maximise the social and economic benefits that the arts can bring to Islington residents. The strategy recognises that whilst many residents are able to access the borough's exemplary arts offer, many residents experience greater barriers to accessing the arts and the benefits that they may bring. As a result, the strategy and associated action plan prioritises interventions that actively target our more vulnerable residents, those that face greater barriers to engagement and are subject to structural inequalities.

11 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 11.1 The council has undertaken a programme of research and consultation with the arts sector and corporate, public sector and investment partners in order to develop the Arts Strategy 'Inspiring Islington 2017-2020.
- 11.2 The strategy sets out the Council's vision and approach to working in partnership with and supporting the sustainable development of the borough's arts sector, in order to maximise the social and economic impact of the arts over the next three years. The accompanying action plan prioritises areas of intervention and support, key milestones and the outcomes the council seeks to achieve.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 'Inspiring Islington' Arts Strategy 2017 – 2020

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



11 November 2016

Executive Member for Community Development

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INSPIRING ISLINGTON

Arts Strategy 2017-2020

 ISLINGTON

A FAIRER ISLINGTON





My life wasn't ever full of flashy colours, it was colourless. Ironically, it has taken two periods of homelessness just to get the will for living - I stood on the Waterloo Bridge ready to jump and cut myself from this lack of fortune. Although, the same thing saved me in the end: the view from Waterloo Bridge.

In that moment I felt the spark, unable to be taken down by anything. It made me go and try, in a completely new environment, with completely new people, something completely new, which made me sick whenever I thought about it. And the greatest product of this was the Speakeasy performance.

Once again, I felt extremely sick just thinking of coping with completely new people unable to figure out who are they and what they are going to do. My trust issues, and all-time doubt, were stopping me from full participation in the workshops. I decided to accept all the "newness" of every happening and decided to push myself more and provide as much of my creativeness as I was able. It was draining me out of energy, but it was worth all the hassle. The end product - performance changed entirely my viewpoint and made me realise how important is to allow others to work with you and accept their thoughts.

Thanks to the Cardboard Citizens and Speakeasy my life flourishes with colours of the creativity.



Cardboard Citizens' Speakeasy? is a project for young people aged 16-25 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), homeless or at risk of homelessness. Commissioned as part of Islington's WORD Festival participants build confidence, communication and social skills through the creation and performance of a piece of theatre and spoken word based on personal observations and experiences.

Foreword

Inspiring Islington through the arts

Islington is characterised by its dynamic and varied arts offer. The borough is home to one of the highest densities of Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations in the country. This is coupled with exemplary grassroots arts organisations which deliver high quality work in the heart of our community. Our theatre offer in Islington is second only to the West End and we are committed to making sure that this extraordinary cultural offer is made as widely available and accessible as possible to our residents.

We have a number of well documented social challenges in Islington and the Council is committed to making Islington a fairer place to live and work. The arts have a key role to play in helping us to deliver on that promise. Culture adds value to the lives of our residents through its intrinsic value as a means of expression and enrichment. Culture is also a vital driver of social change with the power to transform lives and places.

We recognise the role of the arts in bringing together our diverse communities, combating social isolation and giving a voice to our disenfranchised communities. We understand the importance of the sector in shaping not only the physical fabric of the borough but also a shared sense of what it means to be a part of the Islington community.

We also value the significant contribution that the arts sector makes locally to increase residents' life chances by promoting educational attainment, developing economic prosperity, creating employment and improving individual health and wellbeing.

I am therefore delighted to see that in response to the difficult financial climate ahead the arts strategy places emphasis on building the resilience of our arts organisations - through developing a stronger and more collaborative approach underpinned by partnership working - for our cultural infrastructure is the bedrock through which we can deliver our broader agenda and inspire Islington through the arts.

Councillor Kaya Comer Schwartz
Executive Member



1.

Introduction



A giant hand crafted puppet in response to Emily Rising, Little Angel Theatre's new co-production with Goblin parades through the crowds at Whitecross Street Party. One of only three building-based puppet theatres in England, Little Angel runs a theatre in Dagmar Passage and Little Angel Studios at Sebbon Street Community Centre. Having transformed the space through Section 106 funding Little Angel Studios is now a multi-use venue for rehearsal, training and education – an exemplar project of community programming and audience development.

Credit: Karis Mackenzie Photography

1. Introduction

This strategy sets out Islington Council's vision and approach to arts delivery together with the Arts Services' priorities for the next three years, what we will do to achieve them and how we will measure our success. The document does not stand alone but within a portfolio of other integrated culture related strategies including our Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy, Town Centre Management Strategy, Affordable Workspace Guidance Note and developing Public Art Strategy. Together they embed our aim to maximise the social and economic value of arts and culture through increased community engagement and interaction as well as an improved sense of wellbeing for all our residents. The strategy aims to deliver on the Council's key priorities to help residents who are out of work to find the right job, to make Islington a place where our residents have a good quality of life and to provide residents with good services on a tight budget.

Islington's
theatres generate
£24,889,625
per year in box
office receipts

Islington's
theatres lever
£44.6 million
local leisure spend
each year

Islington's
theatres
1,058,454
annual
audience

2. Context



Supported by Arsenal in the Community, Almeida Participation worked with 40 local young people who hadn't previously been involved in theatre to develop their stories and experiences into new plays and monologues performed on the Almeida stage by professional actors prior to Leo Butler's sell out performances of 'Boy'.

Credit: Ellie Kurtz

2. Context

2.1 What defines Islington?

To be effective, the arts strategy must understand and reflect the very particular locality and community which it is to serve – identifying both the future aspirations and addressing the current needs of Islington’s residents and cultural infrastructure. It must build on the strengths of the borough as a cultural and arts destination¹ and deliver the Council’s commitments to our residents to make Islington fairer and to create a place where everyone, whatever their background, has the opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life².

Our arts strategy is underpinned by a desire to build on and celebrate the distinctiveness of Islington, both as a whole and the unique local areas that make up the borough – the Islington on a human scale, as experienced by those who live, work and study here, rather than simply as part of one of the largest and most populous cities in the world.

Islington stretches from the City of London in the south along Holloway Road to Archway and the borders of Haringey and Camden to the north and west and Hackney to the east. Peppered with fine examples of contemporary and intact Georgian architecture³ the borough has a number of clearly identifiable town centres and recognisable high street areas – Angel, Archway, Nags Head and Finsbury Park – and a vibrant evening and night-time economy, which includes internationally

renowned theatres as well as bars and restaurants.

The borough boasts 13 theatres and dance venues, ranging from pub theatres such as the Kings Head to the internationally acclaimed Sadler’s Wells and the Almeida Theatre. Arts Council England (ACE) is one of the borough’s largest investment partners. From 2015 to 2018 ACE will invest £41.6 million in the 26 National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) based in Islington – making Islington host to the third most NPOs in London and one of the highest densities of NPOs in the country. ACE also provides significant funding to local arts organisations based in the borough through its Grants for the Arts programme.

Islington’s diversity is also reflected in its people. Islington has the second highest population density in the country with a population of approximately 212,000 people in an area of under 15 square kilometres⁴. The population is relatively youthful with an unusually large proportion of 20–35 year olds, many of whom have moved into the borough having found – or in search of – employment in London. We have a broad multi-ethnic population – over a quarter of residents come from BME communities and a further fifth are white but non-British⁵ – from a variety of different faith communities, a significant proportion of disabled people, as well as one of the most concentrated lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) populations in the U.K.⁶.

1 Islington’s core strategy: Your neighbourhood your Islington, February 2011

2 Islington corporate plan 2015–18

3 There are 41 conservation areas in the borough and 1,067 listed buildings

4 Islington Local Economic Assessment, 2011

5 Islington local economic assessment, 2011

6 Islington’s Core Strategy: Your Neighbourhood Your Islington, February 2011

Since 2001 the population of the borough has grown by 11%, and is predicted to increase by a further 12% by 2026.

There are 10,300 businesses in Islington providing a total of 176,000 jobs⁷ and a vibrant creative sector which has grown by 47% since 1999⁸.

25% of Islington businesses are in the creative sector collectively providing 20% of local jobs and employing over 34,700 people in the borough.

For every £1 of salary paid by the arts and culture industry, an additional £2.01 is generated in the wider economy through indirect and induced multiplier impacts⁹. In fact in 2014/15 it was estimated that Islington's theatres alone attracted £81 million into the local economy, including £44.6 million in additional visitor leisure spend. Spin-outs from the broader tourism sector also add significantly to local employment opportunities by boosting the local economy and attracting visitors. It is therefore increasingly recognised that the creative economy is a major driver for economic development¹⁰ and sustainable

regeneration in Islington both through community and individual capacity building and by creating a sense of place and improved quality of life for all.

‘There are two Islington – one successful, vibrant and prosperous, the other poor and disadvantaged’

Jack Morris OBE,
Chair of the Islington Giving Appeal Committee

Despite this thriving business community, where there are more jobs than people¹¹, unemployment and worklessness is high¹². Walk in any direction away from the buzz of Upper Street and you will find the ‘two Islington’ – a borough marked by some of the starkest contrasts in wealth and poverty in the country¹³ with extremes of rich and poor living side by side as neighbours but with very disparate experiences in relation to health, education, housing and poverty.

Islington is ranked as the 24th most deprived¹⁴ local authority area in England (out of 326) and the 4th most deprived borough in London with nearly half of our population (44%) living in an area defined as deprived. Almost half (44%) of Islington residents live in social housing – nearly

7 Two Islington: Understanding the problem, Paper 1: What is the picture for Islington? Understanding the Evidence base, 2010

8 Islington Local Economic Assessment, 2011

9 The Value of arts and culture to people and society, Arts Council England, 2014

10 ‘Business in the UK arts and culture industry generated an aggregate turnover of £15.1 billion in 2013’, Contribution of the arts and culture industry to the national economy, Centre for Economics and Business Research, 2015

11 ‘Islington has 1.36 jobs for every person of working age compared with 0.93 for London’, The English Indices of deprivation 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government

12 Islington Employment Commission

13 Two Islington: understanding the problem, Overview and strategy paper, The Islington Fairness Commission

14 The English Indices of deprivation 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government

twice the average for London boroughs.

In Islington 14% of working age adults are on out of work benefits with 12,920 residents in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – the highest proportion of claims in London (7.8% of the working age population).¹⁵ Since 2014 Islington has also had more young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)¹⁶ than comparable areas¹⁷ of which 95% of these live in families where nobody works¹⁸. The Council has succeeded in reducing the number of NEET in Islington and will continue to prioritise opportunities for this target group.

Around one in six households have an annual gross income of over £60,000 but a similar proportion has a gross income of under £15,000. 35% of children and young people in the borough live in poverty – the third highest level of child poverty¹⁹ in the country with pupils from these poorer families performing less well at school than their neighbours and playmates from wealthier families. Moreover children and young people in Islington are 36% more likely than counterparts in London/England to experience

mental health problems²⁰. As a population as a whole, Islington has the highest diagnosed percentage of patients with mental illness in the country (one in six adults in the borough). In addition there are significant numbers of people with depression (nearly 30,000 people) – the highest rate in London.²¹

In response to the inequality that exists across Islington the arts strategy seeks to maximise the social and economic value of the arts to ensure that Islington becomes a fairer place using the arts to drive social change, improve equality and access and prioritise those currently underserved.

2.2 Delivery of support for the arts

Islington Council has consistently used the arts and culture as a mechanism to deliver against core priorities and service objectives. In 2009, following the creation of a new arts service, the Council published 'Cultural Matters' a cultural strategy for the borough which created a framework document for the Council's cultural output.

The Arts Service is a small team of 3 staff (Arts Development Manager, Arts Development Officer and Arts & Partnerships

15 The English Indices of deprivation 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government

16 The largest single NEET group is White (53%) with young white men being disproportionately represented. A high proportion of disabled people have no qualifications and disabled people, particularly those with learning difficulties, are disproportionately NEET, Two Islington: Understanding the problem, Review of Delivery and Action, The Islington Fairness Commission

17 8.4% of 16–18 year olds in Islington are not in education, employment or training (NEET), significantly higher than London (4.5%), Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014/15

18 Islington Local Economic Assessment, 2011

19 The English indices of deprivation 2015, Department for Communities and Local Government

20 Two Islington: understanding the problem, Overview and strategy paper, The Islington Fairness Commission

21 Joint strategic needs assessment, 2015/16

Projects Officer) which has built a reputation for its 'people-centred service'²² providing a fast one-stop-shop service for local artists and arts organisations to access information and advice from across Council services negating the need to negotiate a way through often complex regulatory systems and processes. The focus of the Art Services' work is to enable, connect and support the sector by brokering relationships, negotiating partnership working, researching and sharing intelligence, developing strategy to align limited resources and generating increased inward investment by leveraging-in additional funding into the borough.

2.3 Our approach

To be effective the Arts Service needs to be aware of future issues and developments within the wider political, social, local and national contexts that may impact on our ability to deliver, and to develop a strategy that addresses these potential challenges whilst also building on our strengths.

Our primary focus is on improving outcomes for our residents by making Islington fairer and supporting our local cultural infrastructure to thrive by becoming more financially resilient and adaptable to change. In times of austerity we are faced with two options - to make further reductions or to generate increased income through a more entrepreneurial approach to secure resources for the arts. Through need has come the opportunity to seek new partnerships and

alliances beyond the traditional boundaries of the public and the private sector. We intend to think swiftly and innovatively to grasp openings as they arise and to be 'opportunity-ready' to forge future alignments. The establishment of the Islington Film Office through a tri-borough concession contract that maximises earned income through film location fees and associated services, while minimising disruption to residents and ensuring productions are safe, is an example of such agile thinking.

The Arts Service works in close partnership across three inter-related teams - the Voluntary Sector Community, Special Projects and Town Centres Teams - as well as the Libraries & Heritage Service to see beyond any one service's lens²³ to provide opportunities and support for the borough's tapestry of voluntary, arts and business organisations and their audiences, customers and communities of Islington residents.

Looking forwards, the Arts Service will ensure that it makes the best use of its resources to deliver on the things that have the biggest impact on the lives of Islington residents. We will seek to work in new ways forging fresh partnerships and alliances to maximise public sector resources and provide more joined up services. Over the next three years we will become more entrepreneurial in our approach to leveraging funding and develop relationships with a broader set of partners with a view to maximising on the cultural capital we hold in the

²² People-centred services and making every contact count are two of Islington's underpinning principles outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 which advocates for 'joint working both across Islington and within the Council' that also 'avoids people having to negotiate their way through complex systems'

²³ Strong partnerships is one of Islington's underpinning principles outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 'we all need to see beyond our own service lens'

borough. We will actively seek opportunities to work closely with other Local Authorities, corporate and community partners and consortia from both the public and private sector to share resources and secure the use of underused facilities for the arts.

We will, of course, continue to work closely with artists and arts organisations and support them to secure grants and lever in funding. We will do this through the provision of one-to-one surgeries and advice, improving the range and quality of fundraising information available to the local arts sector, investigating the potential for funding the arts through cultural commissioning and social investment financing and supporting the arts sector to capitalise on their own assets.

2.4 Current funding and support for the arts

Each and every year Islington's thriving arts sector draws £15 million investment into the borough.

During 2016/17 Islington will benefit from an investment of £13,872,602²⁴ from Arts Council England in the 26 national portfolio organisations based in the borough plus an additional contribution in excess of £1,700,000²⁵ each year to local arts

organisations and Islington based individual artists and practitioners through Grants for the Arts project funding.

Through our Community Festivals Fund last year the arts service supported six local groups to deliver community cohesion events and arts festivals across the borough – Whitecross Street Party, Cally Festival, Islington World Mental Health Day, Archway with Words, Angel Canal Festival and Oxjam Islington Takeover – enjoyed by over 84,000 residents over the year. Collaboration with other council services, for example the co-delivery of the WORD Festival with the Library Service and arts partners All Change and Free Word showcased a packed programme of twenty-nine events and new commissions to local audiences of over 30,000. Moving forward we will enhance the funding criteria to ensure that all events involve our harder to reach residents.



Arts Council England invests £13,872,602 in Islington each year

Plus a further annual contribution £1,700,000+ through project funding

²⁴ Arts Council England investment in its 26 Islington based National Portfolio Organisations is £41,617,806 over three years 2015-18

²⁵ Arts Council England investment in Islington based organisations and artists through Grants for the Arts is anticipated to be in excess of £5m over the same period 2015-18 based on previous years' awards: 2013/14 49 awards £1,373,338; 2014/15 95 awards £1,854,911; 2015/16 (part year to end March) 77 awards £1,467,524

During the last nine months alone the arts service estimates it has provided 322 one-to-one surgeries and specialist advice sessions to local artists and organisations.

Since 2013, we have also led a consortium of 18 leading arts organisations to provide 39 new paid creative apprenticeship and internship employment opportunities for young Islington residents.

We also support the sector through in-kind arrangements such as the provision of affordable workspace, advocating for cultural provision within S106 agreements, commissioning new research and steering the strategic alignment of arts provision – for example the development of a music education strategy for Islington and the Islington Cultural Education Partnership.

2.5 A harsher financial climate

Since 2010 the Government has cut its funding to Islington Council by half – a reduction of £150 million – putting Islington in the top ten worst hit areas in the country and leaving every household in the borough £1,000 worse off.²⁶ Over the next four years Islington Council will have to save a further £70 million, although the government’s published settlement for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will mean that the Arts Council England’s investment in our local arts infrastructure will continue at its current level providing local residents with continued opportunities to access to world class dance, theatre, literature, film, visual arts and music.

Despite this harsher financial climate we remain resolute to do more with fewer resources by thinking creatively and becoming more entrepreneurial in our activity to increase inward investment and maximise the return on our existing assets by putting under-used space to use for the arts, supporting co-location, promoting shared services and identifying economies of scale. We will embed culture across all departments, increase our range through sharing intelligence and resources, and use creativity as a means to empower our harder to reach residents.

²⁶ Towards a Fairer Islington: Our Commitment, Corporate Plan 2015-19, Islington Council

2013-2016
Arts Team raised over
£1.3 million
for strategic
projects

2013-2016
Islington Film
Service
£790,348
generated
income

3. Vision



Artangel, producers of extraordinary art in unexpected places, collaborated with WORD Festival to commission Lu Kemp's *Have your circumstances changed?* at the former FADS shop in Archway shopping mall. An intimate triptych of performances, the work confronted audiences with the routines of older men's everyday lives inspired by cookery classes run with local older male residents at St Luke's Community Centre in South Islington.

Credit Manuel Vason

3. Vision

Over the next four years our vision, as set out in the Corporate Plan 'Towards a Fairer Islington', is to make Islington fairer and create a place where everyone, whatever their background, has the same opportunity to reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life by building more Council housing and supporting private renters, helping residents who are out of work find the right job, helping residents cope with the rising cost of living, making Islington a place where our residents have a good quality of life and providing residents with good services on a tight budget.

In accord, the vision of our Arts Service is to 'Inspire Islington through the arts' by celebrating the intrinsic value of the arts to illuminate our inner lives and enrich our emotional world whilst simultaneously championing their instrumental value²⁷ in relation to promoting individual and community capacity building, providing employment and training, contributing to place-shaping and a sense of belonging, building community cohesion²⁸, improving the well-being of Islington's residents and driving the local economy.


“The instrumental value of the arts is in direct proportion to their intrinsic value and the greater the former the more significant the latter”

Glenn Lowry,
Director, Museum of Modern Art, New York

The public arts
are significant
employers and
indirectly a source
of support for jobs in
the commercial
creative industries

²⁷ John Knell and Matthew Taylor advocate for 'artistic instrumentalism' the argument that art is not just there for itself, nor is it there just to deliver other kinds of social good, Arts funding, austerity and the Big Society: Remaking the case for the arts, RSA, February 2011

²⁸ 'There is strong evidence that participation in the arts can contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation and/or make communities feel safer and stronger', Culture and Sport Evidence Programme CASE, Understanding the value of engagement in culture and sport, Department for Culture, Media and Sport

A young man with dark skin and short hair is captured in a dynamic pose, performing a parkour move on a wooden structure. He is wearing a grey t-shirt with a colorful, abstract pattern and dark shorts. The background is a blurred indoor setting with wooden beams and a green light source. The overall mood is energetic and creative.

4.

Arts Strategy Priorities & Objectives

Company Three is a company of 75 young people from Islington aged 11-19, all of whom are nominated by teachers, youth workers or social workers as someone who will benefit from their programme of training and guidance. They make theatre for adult audiences that speaks deeply of what it means to be a teenager, through long-term collaboration between company members and professional theatre-makers. Hot off the heels of *Brainstorm* which saw the company perform at the National Theatre their new production *The Future* also premiered to critical acclaim at the Yard Theatre. *'The young performers hold the room with stories and experiences excavated from their own lives and experiences; they let us peep inside their heads and see their hidden dreams and fears.'* The Guardian

Credit: Camilla Greenwell

4.

Arts Strategy Priorities & Objectives

4.1 Purpose of the arts strategy

The Arts Service will work in partnership with our rich arts infrastructure, voluntary and community sector, private sector and through collegiate working across Council departments to align resources, explore and leverage opportunities for everyone to realise their potential, as individuals and organisations, directly through cultural production and employment and aspirationally through participation, attainment and education.

Through the publication of an arts strategy we seek to articulate our long-standing commitment to the arts recognising the lasting social, economic, educational and health impacts the arts generate for Islington residents. The arts strategy provides an opportunity for us to engage strategically with the cultural community and regional agencies and will ensure a joined up approach across Council services, promoting quality in cultural provision, avoiding duplication, maximising opportunities and resources and aligning them to national agendas and initiatives.

The arts strategy provides a framework for arts development between 2016-2019. The action plan that accompanies this strategy will be updated annually in line with Council service planning ensuring that longer term objectives can be met within a continuously improving and flexible service that is able to adapt to change and address unexpected challenges.

4.2 Priorities

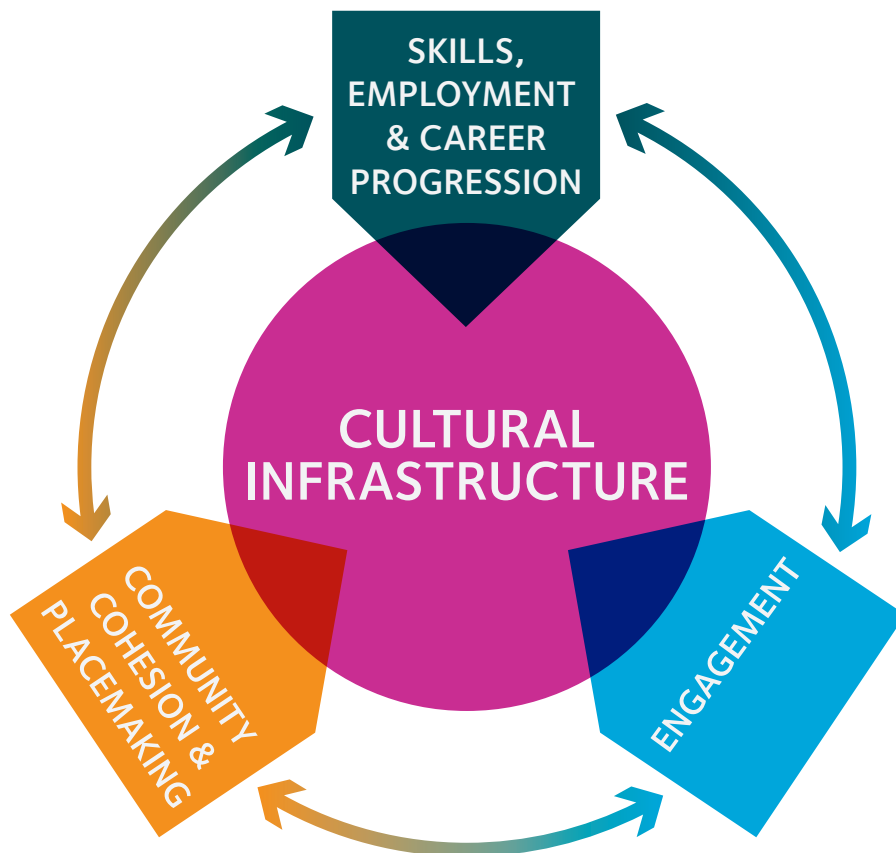
The four priority areas of work that will enable us to achieve our vision 'To inspire Islington through the arts' are:

- Increasing opportunities for engagement in the arts - Inspiring Islington through extraordinary arts experiences
- Providing a broad and resilient cultural infrastructure - Inspiring Islington through the delivery of exemplary arts programmes
- Promoting community cohesion and sense of place through placemaking and animation of the public realm - Inspiring Islington through direct engagement in shaping local distinctiveness
- Generating creative skills, employment and career development opportunities - Inspiring Islington through clear progression routes towards employment in the arts sector

These four priorities do not exist nor operate in isolation. The areas of focus are inextricably linked and interconnected. Tackling just one of the areas will not achieve the impact we seek, but together, delivered through a portfolio of strong external partnerships across the sector, they present an opportunity to illustrate the power of the arts to effect change.



7 community
arts festivals over
114,000
combined annual
audience



4.3 Engagement

Increasing opportunities for engagement in the arts – Inspiring Islington through extraordinary arts experiences

Objectives: Increasing opportunities for engagement in the arts

- To provide high quality opportunities for local residents, in particular children, young people, those with disabilities, elders and those from BAMER communities, to actively engage with, and take part in, the arts as audiences, participants and producers.
- To ensure that all Islington children and young people receive high quality music education²⁹ linked to progression routes outside of formal education settings.

- To support the provision of inspirational and best practice arts education within Islington schools and youth settings.

If the arts are to truly inspire creativity and raise aspirations we need to support artists to provide, and audiences to demand, high quality experiences, productions and processes. At the same time we need to encourage the arts sector to broaden and diversify its audience by, for example, valuing work that is rooted in local communities. We will focus our efforts on fully engaging our broad and diverse population in an equally diverse range of high quality cultural programmes. In particular, we will strive to ensure equality of access by targeting those residents within sections of our community who are hardest to reach, with a particular focus on ensuring programmes are delivered and devised with residents from low income families.

²⁹ 'Music education must not become the preserve of those children whose families can afford to pay for music tuition', The importance of music: A national plan for music education, Department of Education, November 2011

‘A great arts and cultural education gives children and young people the confidence and creative skills to thrive, as individuals, as members of our society, and as the next generation of creative talent.’

Darren Henley,
Chief Executive, Arts Council England

All children and young people, wherever and whatever their start in life, should have the opportunity to have an arts and cultural education that nurtures innovation and unlocks the vital skills that are helping to drive our world leading creative industries³⁰. We know that children born into low income families with low levels of educational qualifications are the least likely to be employed and succeed in the cultural and creative industries, to engage with and appreciate the arts, culture and heritage in the curriculum or to experience culture as part of their home education³¹.

To address the disenfranchisement of our culturally underserved children we seek to adopt a broad cultural education for all through arts skills acquisition, participation in arts and cultural events and enhanced appreciation

30 Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England

31 Enriching Britain: Culture, creativity and growth, Warwick Commission on the Future of cultural value, University of Warwick

- an education and a curriculum that is infused with multi-disciplinarity, creativity and enterprise and that identifies, nurtures and trains tomorrow's creative and cultural talent. Launched by Arts Council England in October 2015 the Cultural Education Challenge aims to make sure that all children and young people everywhere have access to great arts and culture and that every child can create, compose and perform; visit, experience and participate in extraordinary work; and be able to know more, understand more and review the experiences they have had.

We will capitalise on the existing arts education strategic work within Islington spearheaded by AESAG³² and the Music Education Steering Group³³ to develop an Islington Cultural Education Partnership to enable local arts organisations, Council services, schools and higher education institutions to share resources and create joined-up local arts education provision.

The benefits of arts engagement and participation are not limited to the young – research has evidenced that a higher frequency of engagement with arts and culture is generally associated with a higher level of subjective wellbeing with a number of studies reporting positive impact on specific health conditions.

32 The Arts Education Strategic Advisory Group was established in 2013 with representatives from Islington Schools Improvement Service, Arts Service, Heritage Service and local arts organisations to steer arts education strategy and provision in the borough through advocacy, research and project delivery

33 A Music Education Steering group was established in 2015 to commission a comprehensive music education strategy and implementation plan for Islington to ensure that all children receive a comprehensive music education

Applied arts and cultural interventions can have a positive impact on specific health conditions which include dementia, depression and Parkinson's disease³⁴.

In fact research amongst those who had attended a cultural place or event in the previous 12 months were almost 60 per cent more likely to report good health compared to those who had not, and theatre-goers were almost 25 per cent more likely to report good health³⁵.

Estimates of common mental health problems among adults in Islington suggest that 28,452 residents were expected to be experiencing depression and anxiety disorders during any week in 2009/10. In 2010/2011 GP registers showed that 5,315 adults were living with diagnosed chronic depression, 759 people had dementia and 3,019 people had psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia.³⁶ These figures are unusually high and in response we will actively seek to support projects and initiatives that promote arts engagement for residents suffering from mental health problems in particular local elders with dementia. In addition, we will work with colleagues within social care and health services to use

the arts as a tool to prevent local residents at risk of falling into ill health and social isolation by co-ordinating, facilitating and supporting local cultural responses to the borough's health inequalities and promoting wellbeing.

4.4 Placemaking

Promoting community cohesion and sense of place through placemaking and animation of the public realm – Inspiring Islington through direct engagement in shaping local distinctiveness.

Objectives: Promoting community cohesion and sense of place through placemaking and animation of the public realm

- To maximise the role the arts can play in placemaking and engage local residents in actively influencing the changing face of the borough
- To animate the public realm bringing the streets alive by taking work out of venues to places where people are

Cities and their communities are constantly in flux and Islington is no exception. The number of people moving in and out of the borough is high. In 2014, an estimated 20,650 people moved into the borough and 21,640 moved out – about 10% of the population. Movement is particularly high in those aged 16-24 years old³⁷.

Significant regeneration projects are underway

34 The value of arts and culture to people and society: An evidence review, Arts Council England, 2014

35 The value of arts and culture to people and society: An evidence review, Arts Council England, 2014

36 Health in Islington: The facts (update 2011)

37 Joint strategic needs assessment 2015/16

at Archway and Finsbury Park, with a potential new Business Improvement District earmarked for Farringdon and Clerkenwell to provide for the influx of workers and visitors to the area once the Crossrail development is complete in late 2017. Farringdon will be the only station from which passengers will be able to access all three networks (Thameslink, Crossrail and London Underground) and therefore is set to become one of Britain's busiest train stations bringing passengers from outer London to the business hubs in the City.

The ambitious plans for the development of the Upper Street Post Office and sorting depot will create a new town centre in Islington with a double-sided parade of shops enclosing a major public art commission by an internationally renowned artist and refurbishment of Milner Square Gardens. These schemes will have a significant impact on the local economies and sense of place creating new focal points for social gathering and bringing significant numbers of additional visitors to the borough.

Culture brings diverse communities together to enjoy our public spaces and it encourages local communities to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of the borough's rich physical, social and political heritage.

Culture has a key role in animating, enhancing and improving the local environment. Our focus on place making extends to a wider discussion of the role that culture plays in creating places that people want to live, work and visit³⁸ acknowledging the range of spaces that make up our public realm and the diversity of approaches to animate these spaces³⁹. Through the commissioning of high quality works in the public realm we will work with the Town Centre Management service to strengthen the identity of our key town centres (Archway, Nags Head, Angel, Finsbury Park) creating a sense of local distinctiveness and promoting Islington as a cultural destination.

We will commission artists to develop bespoke visual identities to demarcate and celebrate place, enhance the physical infrastructure to create a sense of place and renewed local pride and engage local residents through artist-led consultation to support those without a voice to articulate their views and have their voices heard⁴⁰ in relation to local developments and improvements. Working in partnership with developers the Arts Service will actively champion the allocation of S106 contributions for cultural infrastructure and development of creative skills and employment for young people in the borough. Similarly through

38 Placemaking is one of four key themes explored in The Culture White Paper - the first White Paper on the arts in 50 years which aims to set out a vision and agenda for the future of the arts, culture and heritage sector, published 2016

39 The Fairness Commission Recommendation 11 states 'We need to reclaim, protect and maintain communal spaces in Islington for community use'.

40 Co-production is one of Islington's underpinning principles outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 'we will work together with service users as equals to develop policy and services'

managing the contract for Islington Film Office – a one-stop-shop for film and TV production in the borough – the Strategic Projects Team and Arts Service will work in partnership to promote and enhance the profile of Islington as a cultural destination.

4.5 Skills Development & Creative Employment

Generating creative skills, employment and career development opportunities – Inspiring Islington through clear progression routes towards employment in the arts sector

Objectives: Generating creative skills, employment and career development opportunities

- To promote the role of literacy and the arts in developing employability skills
- To provide progression routes for Islington young people to secure employment in the arts and cultural sectors
- To develop the workforce of the future through the provision of work experience, entry level jobs and skills development opportunities

We have stated clearly in our Corporate Plan that over the next four years ‘supporting people into employment should be at the heart of everything we do’.⁴¹ Our ambition is to ensure that everyone is given the help that they need to get the job and career that they want, deserve, and that they will ultimately enjoy this includes supporting residents who

are out of work to find the right job, skills and training.

Young people are more likely to be unemployed than other age groups in the borough⁴². Many young people aged 16–18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) have complex lives and are more likely than their peers to have learning difficulties or disability, be supervised by the Youth Offending Service or be an ex-offender, be a teenage parent and/or have mental health problems. It is also more likely that NEET young people have grown up and live in a household where there is no one working. A large percentage are young white men, who have under-achieved at school and want to find employment, rather than undertake further education, but are lacking the qualifications and skills to find jobs. Similarly, although education attainment levels have risen significantly in BAMER communities, this success is not reflected in those able to secure employment locally.

A lack of basic skills including literacy, numeracy, time-keeping and self-confidence make it difficult for many young people to succeed in the workplace should they find a job. In England 14.9% of the population aged 16–65 lack functional literacy⁴³ creating obstacles to fairness across society. The arts have a key role to play in both formal and informal education and broader community settings to help young people to develop a wide range of soft, transferable skills that translate well into the working environment.

⁴¹ Towards a fairer Islington: Our commitment, Corporate Plan 2015–19, Islington Council

⁴² State of equalities in Islington, Annual Report 2015, Islington Council

⁴³ The 2011 Skills for life survey: A survey of literacy, numeracy and ICT Levels in England, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, 2011

The workforce in the cultural and creative sector is growing over four times faster than the UK's workforce as a whole⁴⁴.

The Arts Service will build upon its track record of establishing creative employment opportunities with local arts organisations⁴⁵ by working closely with the Youth Employment Team to develop bespoke opportunities for NEET young people providing them with an entry point and understanding of the potential of a career in the arts, offering them the opportunity to undertake a paid creative apprenticeship or internship and supporting them to develop the tools required to secure employment in the arts and enhance their life chances. We will broaden our portfolio of potential employers to include arts related services and industries and develop relationships with arts organisations beyond the borough's borders to increase the range of relevant opportunities we can offer Islington's young people. We will support borough-wide initiatives to ensure that all Islington young people have the key skills including literacy⁴⁶ required to improve employability and offer alternative career progression routes in contribution to tackling poverty in the borough.

⁴⁴ Creative industries economic estimates, January 2015, DCMS

⁴⁵ Since 2013 the arts service has brokered 39 paid creative apprentices and internships within local cultural partner organisations for Islington NEET residents aged 16-24 years

⁴⁶ 'The ability to read is essential for a fairer Islington,'
The Fairness Commission

In association with our colleagues in the Learning, Skills and Employment Service we will work closely with our creative employers to engage them in a portfolio of schemes to offer employment opportunities that match disenfranchised Islington residents with local employment opportunities, whether part-time roles for adults with learning disabilities, Saturday jobs for young adults or 'back to work' placements for long-term unemployed adults to learn new skills and become employment ready.

518,000 people are employed in the Creative Industries across London – 11.4% of all employment in London⁴⁷.

The creative industries are larger than the financial, manufacturing and construction sectors in London⁴⁸. Given that 30% of the UK's creative industry jobs are based in London⁴⁹ and that employment in the creative industries in London has continued to increase at a rate well beyond that of the overall economy since 2011⁵⁰ the sector will be an increasingly important source of jobs for local residents.

⁴⁷ Creative industries in London, Creative Skillset, 2014

⁴⁸ Creative industries in London, Creative Skillset, 2014

⁴⁹ Creative industries in London, Creative Skillset, 2014

⁵⁰ Creative industries in London, Creative Skillset, 2014

Currently 25% of Islington businesses (2,559) are in the creative sector accounting for 20% of the workforce (34,775 employees).⁵¹

In order to retain local young talent within Islington and nurture our growing creative industry we will work closely with colleagues across the Council to secure and retain existing creative workspace and artists' studios within the borough and seek to secure the development of additional affordable workspace through S106 negotiations or, for example, our flagship project at Dingley Place which will see a disused Council asset transformed into a thriving hub providing new approaches to affordable workspace, skills development and employability support for the creative sector and local residents.

4.6 Cultural Infrastructure

Providing a broad and resilient cultural infrastructure – Inspiring Islington through the delivery of exemplary arts programmes

Objectives: Providing a broad and resilient cultural infrastructure

- To support arts organisations to remain in or move into the borough
- To build the resilience of the sector
- To resource the sector through shared intelligence and information

The key to delivering the other priorities outlined in this strategy – skills, employment & careers; engagement; cohesion & placemaking – is maintaining Islington's strong and vibrant cultural infrastructure. An infrastructure which is reflective and representative of the communities it serves is the bedrock on which we can build a dynamic and transformative cultural offer that has the power to effect positive change in terms of the economic, social and emotional wellbeing of our residents. A resilient and well-resourced cultural infrastructure with a strong and diverse leadership will also ensure the quality of artistic experience to inspire Islington's residents to engage as participants, producers and audiences.

The UK is in a period of embedded austerity that has reduced levels of public spending and investment in the arts and culture⁵². This trajectory will continue for at least the next four years and at a local level we are beginning to see the effects with smaller arts organisations, particularly those with a narrow funding base or reliant primarily on project funding, shutting down. With austerity comes the stagnation of the jobs market and, often, decreasing innovation in artistic programming in a vicious circle that narrows the arts offer and opportunities for engagement. This situation will be exacerbated by a shift in focus of Arts Council England strategic and Grants for the Arts Programme funding to the regions and outer boroughs and has the potential to alter the ecology of the arts infrastructure in the borough towards the dominance of larger established organisations by removing the substratum of emerging talent. Over the

⁵¹ Islington Employment Commission: Labour market analysis: Islington & London, January 2014

⁵² There has been a 36% cut to the Arts Council England's government grant since 2010

next three years we intend to work closely with arts organisations to build the resilience of the Islington's cultural infrastructure through the development of business skills and enterprise.

Publicly funded organisations must be supported and incentivised to develop the business skills and enterprise needed to access additional funding streams and maximise their commercial potential.

The Warwick Commission

We recognise the value of retaining established organisations and cultural providers in the borough and are determined to also identify support for the next generation of emerging talent to ensure that Islington nurtures a seedbed of ideas and smaller scale activity that is supported to remain in borough. We will also work closely with our partners, in particular Arts Council England to encourage our resident arts organisations to diversify their workforce and leadership.

In collaboration with the Strategic Projects Team the Arts Service will negotiate workspace within new developments and pilot entrepreneurial solutions to make best use of Islington's empty properties and underused Council buildings⁵³. Our approach will provide affordable workspace opportunities⁵⁴ which promote employment and training, engage artists to animate and protect temporarily vacant premises through 'meanwhile use'⁵⁵, support artists to regenerate our town centres through Culture on the High street⁵⁶ and develop new integrated arts and community offer within our existing property portfolio.

As the austerity cuts deepen the voluntary, community and arts sectors grow ever closer. The Arts Service will work in tandem with the Voluntary Community Sector Team to build the sectors' resilience identifying organisations that are facing crisis to provide early intervention and support⁵⁷ - we will actively seek opportunities for the sectors to work together, to co-locate, to share services and will support the development of joint bids and funding applications.

The Arts Service prides itself on its ability to network and broker partnerships between artists and arts organisations but limited

53 'Ensuring our property and assets are used efficiently, raising income where practical' is an objective within the Corporate plan to meet the aim of 'generating new income'

54 Generally a workspace managed by a not-for-profit organisation, with a rental value below the market rate

55 MillCo's Art Guard is a new guardian service which trains artists to provide protection for vacant properties in exchange for the provision of temporary live/work space

56 Culture on the High Street, GLA, 2013

57 Early intervention and prevention is one of Islington's underpinning principles outlined in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 'moving services to address problems before they become too ingrained to manage'

staffing means that there can be an invisible barrier preventing access to this support. The pace of technology and innovation is leading to different expectation of services. We are therefore committed to improve the way we communicate about our service and partnership opportunities through an increased digital offer. Over the next three years we will strive to replicate our face-to-face service through our digital offer providing an immediate and up to date information service so that artists and arts organisations can access the Council in a way that suits their needs⁵⁸. We will redevelop our digital offer to make our website accessible on smart phones and tablets providing tailored user pathways to direct artists and arts organisations to specific information from across council services that can support their needs.

The Arts Service can only be as good as the value it adds to the local arts sector in terms of intelligence and horizon scanning.

With arts organisations focused on the urgency of day-to-day delivery the Arts Service's role in horizon scanning and information sharing will become increasingly important providing a much needed regional and national overview of policy, practice and emerging ideas to inform, shape and co-ordinate the work within the borough.

Please refer to Appendix I for a full summary of objectives and how they will be delivered. A detailed action plan has also been drawn up as an accompanying document to the arts strategy identifying service leads, partners and key milestones. A working document updated annually, the action plan will provide a flexible and responsive blueprint to guide service delivery.



Arts
Service provides
300+
advice sessions
each year

⁵⁸ Digital Islington – Digital Strategy 2014-17

5.

Relevance to regional and national arts policy



Islington's WORD Festival, a dynamic collaboration between the Arts Service, Libraries Service, Free Word and creative producers All Change, is an annual celebration of reading, writing and the freedom of expression. Held throughout June WORD draws audiences of over 30,000 to a series of 35+ events with a specific focus on engaging participants who are suffering from mental health issues, older residents, children and young people. In 2016 circus pioneers Upswing performed 'Between the Stacks' to mesmerised families and young children in Islington Central Library.

Credit: Mark Robson / Inept Gravity

5.

Relevance to regional and national arts policy

The most significant imminent impact on arts policy will undoubtedly be the Department for Culture, Media and Sports' The Culture White Paper which aims to set out a vision and agenda for the future of the arts, culture and heritage sector. Published in March 2016, this first White Paper on the arts for 50 years sets the agenda for future public spending on the arts. The paper focuses on four key themes: the role that culture plays in creating places that people want to live, work and visit; building financial resilience in cultural organisations through new funding models to enable them to survive and prosper in a tough economic and financial climate; ensuring that everyone can learn about and through culture, and get the right encouragement and opportunities to experience and participate in cultural activities throughout their lives; promoting Britain abroad. These themes resonate with the priority areas of work that underpin Islington's arts strategy and the accompanying action plan is well placed to deliver against this new national agenda including a number of specific objectives within the White Paper namely: increasing participation in culture especially among those who are currently excluded and in particular to ensure that children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are inspired by and have meaningful relationships with culture; encouraging cultural organisations to provide creative employment opportunities including more creative apprentices; supporting the development of a more diverse leadership and workforce across the cultural sector; promoting the contribution of the cultural sectors to regeneration and improving health and wellbeing; promoting the cultural use of meanwhile space; improving the resilience of the cultural sector by promoting new models of funding.

A new Mayor of London was elected in May 2016 and his cultural strategy for London is expected to be published in early 2017. To date the London Cultural Strategy Group has championed the intrinsic value of the arts with flagship projects such as the Fourth Plinth commissions. Sadiq Khan's cultural manifesto outlines his vision for 'London to continue to be the world's artistic and cultural capital'⁵⁹ by protecting the capital's workspaces and cultural venues. Several of the manifesto pledges are in train including the commissioning of a cultural infrastructure plan and vacant building register – an initiative which the Arts Service has been lobbying for regionally since 2015 – and establishing Creative Enterprise Zones to provide and retain artists' workspace. The Mayor also plans to launch the London Borough of Culture – to shine a spotlight on individual boroughs celebrating their unique character, stories and people. The aim is to deliver an ambitious cultural programme with the voice of local people at its centre highlighting the powerful role culture can play in generating community cohesion and increasing participation. The development of cultural tourism and animation of the public realm are also anticipated to remain high on the London agenda.

There looks to be considerable synergy between Islington's arts strategy and the developing Greater London Authority cultural strategy and we will continue to work strategically with key partners including the GLA, Arts Council England (ACE) and A New Direction to deliver shared agendas and collaborate on specific programmes of work including the GLA Artists' Workspace Taskforce and Cultural Infrastructure Plan and ACE's Cultural Education Challenge.

⁵⁹ Making the most of arts, culture and creativity, Sadiq Khan, 2016

6.

Next steps



Supported by Islington's Community Festival Fund Oxjam Islington brings live music and bands to over ten venues along Islington's Upper Street showcasing the borough's finest musical talent. Impromptu and pop-up events throughout the year, including their Piano Jam at the Business Design Centre featuring Islington pianists and pianos painted by local artists, supports the Arts Service's strategy to bring art out of venues to where local people gather and meet.

Credit: Barry Causton

6. Next steps

This is an ambitious strategy spearheaded by a small but energetic service designed to enthuse, engage and support our education, cultural, private and voluntary sector partners to collaborate and work in synergy to maximise the social and economic impact of the arts for all of our residents. We have outlined a robust framework for the arts which will help us to build a cohesive, resilient and diverse cultural infrastructure and related offer that will inspire and shape the lives of current and future generations of Islington residents.

30%
of the UK's
creative industry
jobs are based in
London

The creative
industries are
larger than
the financial,
manufacturing
and construction
sectors
in London

For every £1
of salary paid by
the arts and culture
industry an additional
£2.01
is generated in the
wider economy

7.

Appendix I



Two Pink Ladies perform at Whitecross Street Party and the Rise of the Non-conformists exhibition a one day extravaganza of carnival, music and street art. Underpinned by a three-month programme of community engagement the festival is produced by and for local residents by St Luke's Community Centre, an army of 200 volunteers and up to 3,000 participants drawing an audience of 65,000.

Credit Karis Mackenzie

Summary of arts strategy priorities, objectives and delivery mechanisms

Full details of associated targets, outputs, resources and partners are identified in the annually updated Arts Service Action Plan.

Engagement

Increasing opportunities for engagement in the arts – Inspiring Islington through extraordinary arts experiences	
<p>Objective To provide high quality opportunities for local residents, in particular children, young people, those with disabilities, elders and those from BAMER communities, to actively engage with, and take part in, the arts as audiences, participants and producers</p>	<p>Delivered through Islington Word Festival – a borough-wide celebration⁶⁰ of reading, writing and freedom of expression with a specific focus on projects for young families, young people and elders in the borough with mental health issues</p> <p>Community Festivals Fund supporting a year round programme of community festivals across the borough which develop community cohesion through arts engagement</p> <p>Subsidised and relaxed performances encouraging all Islington residents to experience the breadth of arts provision on their doorstep and remove the invisible barriers to access including for those with learning difficulties</p>
<p>To ensure that all Islington children and young people receive high quality music education linked to progression routes outside of formal education settings</p>	<p>Islington Music Education Strategy & Implementation Plan 2016-2020 addressing local need and ensures all Islington children and young people achieve their academic, social and economic potential</p>
<p>To support the provision of inspirational and best practice arts education with Islington schools and youth settings</p>	<p>Artsmark accreditation scheme celebrating schools that champion the arts and strive for excellence in arts provision by helping schools to strike a balance between EBACC and STEM priorities</p> <p>Islington Cultural Education Partnership a network of leaders from the arts, heritage and education sectors and Libraries within Islington who have committed to work in partnership and to align resources to ensure that children and young people who are currently underserved, including our harder to reach residents, have access to high quality opportunities for meaningful engagement with and learning through the borough’s extensive arts and heritage offer</p>

⁶⁰ Islington Word Festival is delivered in partnership with the Library Service, core arts partners All Change and Free Word Centre plus a wider network of arts delivery partners

Placemaking

<p>Promoting community cohesion and sense of place through placemaking and animation of the public realm – Inspiring Islington through direct engagement in shaping local distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Objective To maximise the role the arts can play in placemaking and engage local residents in actively influencing the changing face of the borough</p>	<p>Delivered through Public Art Strategy embedding the vision for arts in the public realm and its role in placemaking within Islington planning policy with clear mechanisms identified for the consultation, commissioning, maintenance and decommissioning of works</p>
	<p>Affordable Workspace Development increasing the volume of affordable workspace⁶¹ available in the borough for individuals and organisations across the cultural and creative sectors to retain local talent and grow Islington's creative economy</p>
	<p>Arts Friendly Borough lobbying locally for the removal of invisible barriers preventing artists and arts organisations from remaining in or moving to the borough</p>
	<p>Artists commissions for the public realm creating a sense of place, reflective of our diverse community, through the commissioning of bespoke works evolved through community consultation and engagement</p>
<p>To animate the public realm bringing the streets alive by taking work out of venues to places where people are</p>	<p>Busking and live performance at key transport interfaces and town centres to animate the streets and improve community safety</p>
	<p>Town centre development promoting local distinctiveness, a sense of ownership and community cohesion and a true reflection of our diverse communities</p>

⁶¹ Affordable workspace is a term covering work and studio space for the arts, creative and voluntary sectors

Skills Development & Creative Employment

<p>Generating creative skills, employment and career development opportunities – Inspiring Islington through clear progression routes towards employment in the arts sector</p>	
<p>Objective To promote the role of literacy and the arts in developing employability skills</p>	<p>Delivered through Islington Word Festival – a borough-wide celebration of reading, writing and freedom of expression with a specific focus on projects for young families, young people and elders in the borough with mental health issues</p>
	<p>Islington Reads steering group, working with libraries to increase literacy across our diverse communities</p>
<p>To provide progression routes for Islington young people to secure employment in the arts and cultural sector</p>	<p>Providing pathways to employment in arts & culture to those furthest from the jobs market working in partnership with Learning, Skills & Employment Team and Youth Services to create a range of creative apprenticeships and internships within local arts and related cultural services for Islington residents age 16–24 years to learn key skills and secure meaningful employment whilst encouraging employers to recruit locally</p>
<p>To develop the workforce of the future through the provision of work experience, entry level jobs and skills development opportunities</p>	<p>Dingley Place Creative Hub and Skills Development Programme provision of new affordable workspace and programme of networking, skills development and employability support for the creative sector and local residents</p>
	<p>Saturday Arts Jobs launch of a Saturday and after school work scheme for over 16s with host arts organisations</p>
	<p>Get set for work provision of temporary part-time 3 month placements within the arts service to support unemployed residents with the experience they require to secure employment</p>
	<p>Part-time roles for people with Learning Disabilities within the arts and cultural sector</p>
	<p>Arts Award to work with schools, arts organisations and youth settings to provide opportunities for young people to gain accreditation enabling them to progress into further education and employment</p>

Cultural Infrastructure

Providing a broad and resilient cultural infrastructure – Inspiring Islington through the delivery of exemplary arts programmes	
Objective To support arts organisations to remain in or move into the borough	Delivered through Co-location, shared services and creative enterprise promotion of strategies to make the best of limited resources and capitalise on arts assets
	Development of meanwhile use bringing back the Council’s and other empty and underused building assets into use
	Aspiring Islington providing a two year programme of mentoring to three Islington based arts organisations and their emerging leaders ensuring the next generation of arts producers is diverse, inclusive, connected to and able to remain in the borough ⁶²
To build the resilience of the sector	Building a broader funding base investigating the viability of alternative forms and sources of funding for the arts in Islington, facilitating relationships between the subsidised and commercial arts sectors
	Advice and guidance surgeries providing intelligence, horizon scanning, project development support and fundraising advice to practitioners and arts organisations
	Capital development supporting major arts related building projects in the borough to support arts organisations to expand their footprint or move in to the borough
	Environmental sustainability support local arts and cultural organisations to become more environmentally sustainable
Resourcing the sector through shared intelligence and information	Maintaining databases of arts and cultural infrastructure
	Networking and sectoral representation – including increased sharing of intelligence and communications across council departments and beyond in particular the Voluntary and Community Sector and Town Centre Management Team, increasing our reach to artists from diverse backgrounds, and ensuring they are integrated into the main stream cultural offer
	Improved dissemination of information rationalising and improving our digital offer to increase the range of information available to artists, schools and arts organisations

⁶² Islington’s arts sector is dominated by Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations. Whilst this brings significant benefits including world class productions and £41.6 million investment to the borough 2015-2018 it also creates an empty layer beneath these established organisations.



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Islington's Cultural Infrastructure



**INSPIRING
ISLINGTON**
Arts Strategy 2017-2020





Report of: Executive Member for Environment & Transport

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	24 November 2016	All

Non-exempt

SUBJECT: Angel Energy – Islington’s ‘white label’ energy supplier

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Subject to contract, this report proposes the setting up of a partnership between the Council and Robin Hood Energy to promote gas and electricity sales to residents through Islington-branded energy tariffs. The proposed brand – Angel Energy - will be developed to identify the service with the Council and be promoted and marketed through all available channels.

On 10th March 2016 the Executive agreed to enter into “a strategic partnership agreement with OVO Energy for the marketing of gas and electricity to local residents.” OVO Energy subsequently withdrew from negotiations and we therefore began negotiations with Robin Hood Energy. This report proposes to form a similar partnership with Robin Hood Energy with some minor changes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree, subject to contract, to enter into a strategic partnership and tariff agreement with Robin Hood Energy under the brand of Angel Energy, for the marketing of gas and electricity at agreed tariffs to local residents.

3. Background

- 3.1 The UK has experienced significant year-on-year price rises for domestic energy over the past decade. Between 2005 and 2015 household electricity and gas bills rose by 48% and 81% respectively in real terms.
- 3.2 In October 2014 the Council’s Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee commenced a Community Energy scrutiny which has now reported with recommendations that include:

- **That consideration be given to working with an intermediary to provide a scheme for Islington residents with energy tariffs set by the Council.**
- **That work take place to consider how the number of smart meters could be increased.**

- 3.3 In June 2015, the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM) produced a report titled 'Treatment of white label providers in the domestic retail market' (www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/treatment-white-label-providers-domestic-retail-market) which changed the regulations around branded energy companies. This opened up the market and made it easier to use brands such as 'Islington Council' to promote the sales of gas and electricity.
- 3.4 Nationally in 2015, around 3.4 million domestic energy customers changed supplier. On average, those that change energy supplier have their bills reduced by £200 per year with 20% saving over £300.
- 3.5 It is considered likely that Council branded tariffs would be particularly attractive to elderly and more vulnerable residents. It is also likely that some of the cost reduction will go to reduce under heating in vulnerable properties, but the remainder will be available to residents to improve their own economic wellbeing.
- 3.6 The Council has examined the market and approached several suppliers and based its conclusions on their responses. After consideration, the Council has decided, subject to contract, to work with Robin Hood Energy.
- 3.7 Robin Hood Energy (RHE) are unique amongst the non 'Big Six' branded energy providers in that;
- Are wholly-owned by another local authority, Nottingham City Council
 - Have experience of delivering this service with other local government organisations
 - Can start quickly and allow us to expand in the future
 - Have a priority service register for vulnerable residents
- 3.8 RHE match or exceed the big six and other branded energy providers in that;
- They have a good offer for Prepayment Meter (PPM) customers
 - Install smart meters for PPM customers for free
 - Have online and offline top-up methods for PPM users
 - UK based customer service team
 - Provide branded websites and bills etc.
 - Provide dedicated branded phone numbers

Partnership Details

- 3.9 To break even on the marketing budget, the proposed end of first year target for the scheme is 6,000 dual fuel customers

If the above target is met solely through recruiting Islington residents, the economic benefit to the borough (primarily to elderly and more vulnerable residents) would be in the region of £1.2m.

RHE also require that the total number of dual fuel customers (individual gas or electric accounts) remain above 6,000 as a contractual minimum from the end of the first whole year for the contract term.

- 3.10 As part of the partnership, the Council will:
- Appoint a day-to-day manager of the scheme, responsible for co-ordinating and delivering marketing activities and stakeholder engagement.
 - Designate a senior level staff member for overseeing the scheme who has the authority to approve marketing materials etc
 - Designate a high profile champion within the council (i.e. Chief Executive / Leader / portfolio holder) for activities such as adding quotes to press releases, signing 'direct mail' letters that are sent to residents, and being interviewed
 - Release a minimum of six press releases during each year of the scheme
 - Promote the brand prominently through existing Council assets, including the website, social media etc.

- 3.11 As part of the partnership, RHE will:
- Invest in and deliver ‘white labelled’ tariffs to an agreed launch date
 - Provide energy to the customers, including provision of all customer-facing services, to the same high standards provided to RHE’s direct customers
 - Invest in and deliver marketing of the tariffs to achieve the agreed targets
 - Report on sales and customer services levels to the Council
- 3.12 The Council will be ethical in its marketing and activity used to generate interest and promote switching which will include:
- Direct mail campaigns, with letters signed by the scheme’s high profile champion
 - Telesales
 - A resident engagement ‘face to face energy saving’ scheme
 - Promotion in Council publications (e.g. IslingtonLife, Your Home etc.)
 - Local press adverts and articles
 - Council web, social and email promotion (e.g. www.islington.gov.uk @IslingtonBC, Facebook, Residents E-bulletin)
 - Leisure Centre screen advertising and electronic estate noticeboards
 - Large format posters in the bus shelters and the Council’s Customer Centre
 - Comparison sites
 - Advertising on rent statements and communications from Councillors
 - Frontline staff briefings
 - Intranet advertising
- 3.13 The name and branding of the energy tariff will be critical to the success and any future expansion of the scheme. Therefore the name – Angel Energy - is closely linked to Islington, but also be able in principle to be used outside of the borough at a future date. This will be similar to the partnership between RHE and Leeds City Council – White Rose Energy (www.whiteroseenergy.co.uk).

Risks

- 3.14 Reputation is a key risk. Energy prices go up and go down, and it cannot be certain that the Islington branded offer will always remain one of the most competitive. There will also be residents who get into debt, and that debt will need to be recovered. The financial risks are identified in 4.1 below.
- 3.15 As with any company, RHE may at some point cease trading for any variety of reasons. In such circumstances, OFGEM has rules to make sure that households are transferred to a different supplier.

4 Implications

Financial implications:

- 4.1 The cost of the proposal is estimated to be around £100k. Meeting the target number of customers will take time and it is anticipated that the net cost of the service will be higher than £28k in the first three years, and could be as high as £100k in year 1. Every effort will be made to lower the costs of sales and marketing through the use of existing channels but revenue growth will be needed and will need to be considered in the Councils medium term financial strategy. The costs above do not include any costs for a manager mentioned in paragraph 3.10 and this will require additional growth if this cannot be resourced utilising existing staff.

Legal implications:

- 4.3 The proposed relationship between the Council and RHE is in the nature of a ‘sale of service arrangement’ with the Council being paid a fee by RHE for each household that switches to Angel Energy. This relationship will be established in a service contract between the Council and RHE.
- 4.4 It is hoped that the revenue derived by the Council under the service agreement on an ongoing basis will be no more than the costs incurred in providing the service to RHE, with the benefit being realised by residents taking advantage of the energy tariff. Therefore the Council may rely on the general power of competence to enter into partnership with RHE as proposed in the report (Localism Act 2011, s1(1) and (2)). The Council may charge for the services that it provides RHE under the provisions set out in

s1(4)(b) of the Localism Act 2011.

4.5 White label energy providers are regulated by OFGEM. Such regulations apply to RHE as the licence holder. They have no implications for the Council.

4.6 The Council's Financial Regulation 5.13 sets out the following requirements:
The Corporate Director or Assistant Chief Executive of any department or division that is entering into contractual arrangements to work for a third party or external body shall be responsible for ensuring that:

- appropriate insurance arrangements are made
- all potential risks are identified and actions to mitigate these risks put in place
- wherever possible, payment is received in advance of the delivery of the service
- such contracts do not impact adversely upon the services provided by the Council
- proper contractual documentation is maintained
- proper accounting and reporting arrangements exist.

4.7 Potential State aid

The agreement with RHE will not provide for any direct payment to RHE by the Council nor a profit guarantee, both of which would be likely to give rise to State aid.

However, under the terms of the proposed agreement, the Council will perform marketing and promotion which may incur a net cost to the council and a potential cost saving to RHE. These activities are expected to be of only nominal value and the Council should be able to rely on the €200,000 "de minimis" threshold below which a private enterprise can receive aid aggregated from all public bodies over a three-year period without triggering State aid.

The Council will require RHE to undertake to monitor the State aid received by it from all sources to ensure that the de minimis threshold is not met during the first three years of the partnership.

Public Contracts Regulations 2015

The proposed arrangements with RHE do not fall within the scope of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as the Council will not be receiving or purchasing services or supplies from RHE and therefore a competitive procurement exercise is not required to be undertaken.

Environmental implications

4.8 There are no foreseen major environmental implications for this service. Since RHE are a relatively new supplier they have not yet published their fuel mix disclosure but are due to report this to Ofgem in summer 2017. They state that they aim to gradually reduce carbon emissions whilst offering a good price to customers. The minor impacts are likely to be from producing marketing materials, office usage, and include energy and resource use, and waste generation. The Council has measures in place to ensure that energy usage is minimised and that waste is reduced and recycled as much as practically possible.

Residents Impact Assessment

4.9 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A RIA has been undertaken and concluded that outcomes will be positive for all residents, and especially so for more vulnerable groups. There are also no additional equalities or safeguarding implications that are not in place already given the current work that the Council's Energy Service undertake.

5. Reasons for the recommendations / decision:

- 5.1 The service outlined in this report is a Council priority insofar as lowering resident's energy bills will help them cope with the cost of living and allow for warmer homes helping to reduce the impacts of cold damp homes and improving health and quality of life.

Appendices – none

Signed by:



16 November 2016

Executive Member for Environment and Transport Date

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