

Annual Leader's Presentation 2024

Councillor Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council

Achievements and Successes

Successes: Child Friendly

- Considerable reduction in the number of Looked After Children due to children remaining supported at home or with family members.
- Improvement in Key Stage 2 combined outcomes in line with London and above National Averages
- At Key Stage 4, provisional results indicate a greater proportion of pupils achieved at least a 'standard pass' or a 'strong pass' – Grades 4 and 5 – in English and maths compared to both 2023 and 2019, before the Covid pandemic.
- At Key Stage 5, provisional A-Level results have seen an increase in the proportion of grades awarded (A*- A, A* - B, A* - C and A* - E) compared to both 2023 and 2019.
- First-time entrants into Youth Justice System has declined over time due to the early intervention and prevention offer that exists in the borough, and the numbers of young people under 18 who re-offend remain low and shows a decline year-on-year.
- Youth Justice Report published 20th August - service judged as Outstanding
- Increase in contacts at Youth Clubs and Centres in comparison to previous years.
- Take up of 2-year old places by low-income families, children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and children who are looked after continues to be well above the London and Inner London averages, despite Islington's high levels of deprivation
- Percentage of 16- & 17-year-old residents who are NEET continued to improve year on year and continue to be better than the national figures.
- School Organisation Plan delivered for Phase 2 and Phase 3 under development for implementation to bring the DSG into balance

Successes: Community Wealth Building

- 1,685 residents were supported into work through the Islington Working partnership, including 291 disabled people and 882 residents from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds,
- Secured Highly Commended at the prestigious LGC Awards for the ground-breaking LIFT Futures employment and business growth programme
- 91% of those supported into work by our iWork team were still in work after 13 weeks, and 76% were still in work after 26 weeks.
- 224 residents were supported into apprenticeships with external employers
- Approved new Islington Council House Programme to ensure Islington keeps building much needed genuinely affordable homes
- IMAX team has secured £6.2m in additional income for vulnerable households through supporting them to claim their full benefits entitlement, exceeding the target of £6m for 2023/24.
- Affordable Workspaces delivered £1.763m in social value and successfully engaged and supported groups that are under-represented in business: 500 women, 447 residents from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and 70 Disabled people
- We received a total of £16.4m in developer contributions through CIL and s106 and negotiated a further £10.4m.

Successes: Empowering People

- Launched two Access Islington Hubs to improve accessibility to services. The third Hub in the north of the borough is due to launch in September 2024. Over 9,350 residents have been supported through the two hubs since opening.
- Full £2.7m VCS Grant Programme allocated to 51 organisations – all grant agreements in place.
- Heritage Service continues to secure external funding for local conservation projects – Jewish Cemetery (£190k), Whittington Stone(£13k), Museum community co production project (£141k)
- 500 residents have received support from the Bright Lives Coaching Service measured across several areas relating to wellbeing and resilience. 97% did not escalate to further crisis situations
- Implemented new Let's Talk Islington digital engagement platform to improve opportunities for residents to have their say, generating 11,630 responses on council proposals
- Delivery of the first community panel for resident voice and engagement on climate change and a pilot on participatory budgeting

Successes: A Safe Place to Call Home

- Secured £1 out of every £5 allocated across England to purchase 400 Ex Right to Buy properties for homeless households - £100 million of capital grant funding the largest allocation in the country
- Secured the largest revenue funding in England to prevent single homelessness and rough sleeping (£15 million)
- Launching the restructure in September for our localised approach for our housing management services
- Islington is 100% compliant on the Tenancy Satisfaction Measures **building safety** measures for gas, fire, asbestos and water
- Top quartile performance for our tenant satisfaction across London and positive pilot inspection feedback from the Regulator of Social Housing

Successes: Greener

- Islington is the winner on the Healthy Streets Scorecard: lead inner London borough 4 years in a row and, this year, the overall winning London borough
- The Climate Action and community engagement teams have worked together to deliver the Islington Climate Panel to engage a representative group of 35 residents on how to create a resilient Islington
- Working in various parts of the borough with elected members and communities to help develop livable neighbourhoods
- Suitable estate properties with a food waste collection ended the year at 98.5%, up from 47% in September '22 when the project was launched, providing an additional 22,000 properties with the service.
- Net new council owned trees figure of 694 was achieved for 23/24
- Street cleanliness across litter and detritus were similar to last year's levels. Litter was 97.8% and Detritus 96.9%
- Nearly 5,000 fines were issued for littering offences during June '23 to March '24 by an Environmental Protection contractor, issuing on-the-spot Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders.
- On-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points ended the year at 496, 79 up in the year.

Successes: Healthier

- Secured £5million Health Determinants Research Collaboration investment to establish Evidence Islington. Boosting Islington's ability to conduct high-quality research to improve our services and reduce health inequalities.
- Developed the Wellbeing Index, a high-level, population assessment to support understanding of wellbeing and inequalities across the borough
- Adult Social Care services are supporting people to live healthy fulling and independent lives. The service has received strong and positive feedback from residents on this:
 - *80% of residents said they had as much control over their daily life as they wanted*
 - *This was the 2nd highest of all London boroughs and was significantly higher than the 'peer group' (71%), London (72%), and England (77%).*
- Leisure visits ended the year at 1.70m, 4% over target and 6% up on 22/23 total.
- Quarter-on-quarter increase in individuals accessing drug and alcohol treatment and average of 60% of smokers who set a quit date with the service quit smoking successfully

Challenges

Challenges

- Unprecedented demand for services particularly in Temporary Accommodation, Adult Social Care and Children Services
- Budgetary pressures such as uncertainty in income, high inflation leading to a budget gap of £23.098m for 2025/26 and gap of £107.181m over the forecast period to 2029/30
- Budget expected on 30 October 2024 from Government – some early changes e.g. HSF extended by a further 6 months, flexibility on Right to Buy Receipts
- Amidst these challenges, the need to get the basics right

Challenges

Child-friendly

- Pressure on Children services and demand, impacting on CLA, rising SEND and SEND transport.
- Ongoing decline in birth rates and a reducing school population
- School absence - 2022/23, 21.6% of primary students and 29.2% of secondary students were persistently absent

Community Wealth Building

- Building new council homes and investing in our community assets in a highly challenging capital delivery environment
- Tackling poverty. Despite having a significant positive impact through multiple programmes of work and partnership working, too many Islington residents face poverty and economic inequality

Challenges

Empowering People

- Continuing to build on community cohesion following recent events
- Joining up early intervention and prevention across the council and with partners to ensure system change

A Safe Place to Call Home

- Homelessness rising 27% in the last 12 months, and this is presenting a challenge to our communities and the council's finances
- The need for significant capital investment in the council's 36,000 properties

Challenges

Greener

- Responding to climate adaptation
- Low rates of recycling – for 2023/24, only 29.4% of household waste is recycled and composted in the borough

Healthier

- Uncertainty around central government funding for certain key Public Health activity areas.
- Adult Social Care services are seeing increased complexity of needs in residents. It is expected that this trend will continue, in line with national predictions.

Islington Delivery Plan 2024-26

PURPOSE INTO ACTION

Child Friendly

Islington is a place where all children and young people are rooted in a community where they feel safe, can thrive and are able to be part of and lead change.

Community Wealth Building

There is a sustainable, inclusive, and locally rooted economy in Islington, where wealth is fairly-shared and residents and businesses feel they have a stake in their community.

Empowering People

Everyone in Islington who needs extra help can access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place.

A Safe Place to Call Home

Everyone in Islington has a safe, decent and genuinely affordable place to call home.

Greener, Healthier

People in Islington can live healthy and independent lives and enjoy London's greenest, cleanest and healthiest neighbourhoods.

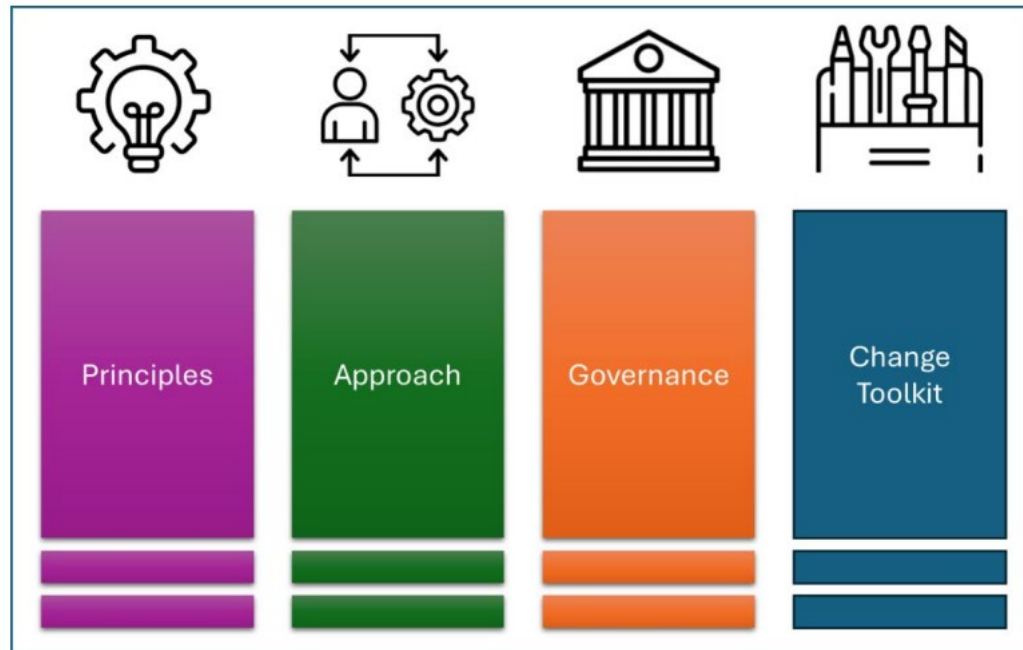
CARE

Islington Together Delivery Plan 2024-26

- Outlines key deliverables for the next two years for the organisation
- Aims to maximise the impact for our communities in the delivery of the **Islington Together Plan 2030** and the five missions
- A new suite of performance indicators to ensure transparency, grip and pace in delivery – holding officers to account
- Changing the way we work together, a key feature and includes: digital strategy, data and insight, prevention and early intervention, inclusive workforce and communications

Change Framework and Principles

- Putting our communities at the heart of our approach



How we make change

Our change principles help put our values into practice, and outline how we approach change and make sure it is successful:

Start with our residents; understand need then plan collaboratively

Focus on Islington Together, our missions and the outcomes

Design informed by data and insight

Do it together and empower others

Test, learn and evaluate
(remember what works already)

Where change is complex, involves multiple areas or the whole council or needs specialist skills, this is supported council-wide.

Child Friendly

- Create a seamless offer of support for families with school age children (5-19) including SEND
- Develop a 0-19 (to 25 with SEND) locality based approach to supporting children and families
- Develop the Child Friendly Islington programme with partners, ready to deliver 'test and learn' initiatives
- Implement the schools re-organisation plan
- Collaborate with partners to improve the factors affecting school attendance
- Mature and embed the framework for Lifelong Corporate Parenting

Community Wealth Building

- Secure £12m additional income for low-income households by supporting them to claim their full benefit entitlement
- Support delivery of 1,000 apprenticeships and 5,000 local people into work
- Publish and commence delivery of a Strategic Asset Management Plan to ensure assets are aligned in support of strategic missions
- Enable key local economic clusters – green, life sciences, tech and creative – to create more training employment and business growth opportunities, targeting 60% participation from underrepresented groups
- Establish a long-term approach to tackling the underlying causes of poverty and economic wellbeing
- Convene local Anchor Institutions to deliver shared targets for local employment, local procurement and decarbonisation

Empowering People

- We will utilise greater opportunities that enable us to capture resident voice and be able to evidence how residents' experiences and feedback have contributed to Council decision making and the design and delivery of services.
- We will work in a joined-up way with partners in the voluntary sector, the NHS and health and care providers to ensure that an early intervention and prevention approach is embedded in the services we deliver and commission.
- Deliver Resident Experience improvements so that residents can easily access services in person, by telephone or online leading to satisfaction levels of 85%
- We will ensure that our community centres and spaces are put to use in ways that best serve the needs of all of our residents

A Safe Place to Call Home

- Invest £200m in homelessness support and prevention over two years
- Invest £17m in the Thriving Neighbourhoods programme and other estate and neighbourhood improvements
- Complete 154 Council Homes and secure planning consent for a further 178 council homes and 10 affordable shared ownership homes
- Deliver an integrated 24/7 public safety service for residents providing engagement, education, and enforcement, focused on response and safety, with a Borough wide ASB policy, supported by 300 safe havens and extend support for private renters through expanded licensing
- Invest £200m in decent homes, building and fire safety, repairs, and combatting damp and mould
- Deliver trusted landlord services with residents at the heart of improvements and upper quartile tenant satisfaction

Greener

- Plant 600 trees a year and add green space to meet 1.5 additional hectares of green space by 2030
- Increase recycling to 36% including investing £2m in estate-based recycling
- Deliver more Liveable Neighbourhoods, covering around 50% of the borough by 2026
- Develop a long term strategy for a borough wide district heating network to help drive forward asset decarbonisation across the borough
- Develop and implement a new climate action plan to include climate adaptation and resilience and embedding across operations

Healthier

- Review, reorganise and embed an improved mental health support offer for Islington residents
- Improve the capacity and reach of drug and alcohol services, providing treatment and recovery support to 1,890 adults and young people in 2024/25
- Increase the number of people receiving help and support to stop smoking, with 1,529 people given help to stop smoking in 2025/26
- Work together to create and put in place health and care services that respond quickly and empower people to live healthy, independent lives
- Lead a partnership approach for Islington to be recognised as a carer and age friendly borough
- Support the transition to cycling and active travel across the whole borough by creating new routes and cycle networks, alongside delivering additional residential bike hangars and borough wide bike bays.

What next?

- Key asks to Government through a new public affairs approach and asks
- *Purpose into Action Week* to promote and discuss with the organisation the Delivery Plan. A week long event for all staff having the opportunity to attend
- MTFS to address the financial challenge over the next 3 years
- Performance reporting to the Executive and continue to Scrutiny Committees
- Local Government Corporate Peer Review, CQC inspection for Adults and expecting a Children Safeguarding Ofsted inspection (ILACS)