Islington's sustainable community strategy
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Executive Summary

The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a long-term vision with key objectives and priorities for action for the London Borough of Islington. The Islington Strategic Partnership has developed it after extensive consultation with local organisations and residents, and it updates the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy adopted in 2003.

The overall vision remains one of creating a stronger, more sustainable community in which all have access to excellent services and can realise their potential.

To achieve this vision for Islington, the latest strategy is closely focused on delivering three key objectives:

- Reducing poverty
- Improving access for all
- Realising everyone’s potential.

To direct our work to achieve these objectives, priorities for action are identified, which indicate the kind of initiatives to be taken in future to address the main issues facing the borough, which are:

- Improving people’s employment prospects and the prosperity of the area
- Improving educational attainment and learning
- Tackling health inequalities and improving health
- Improving safety and people’s feelings of safety
- Improving the quality of the environment
- Improving the quality of housing
- Building stronger, sustainable communities.

The specific means to deliver the objectives of our community strategy will be through our future Local Area Agreements, which will set out targets for the visible and tangible improvements we want to make over a three-year period. The proposed priorities for action will inform our new Local Area Agreement for 2008 to 2011.
Introduction

Aims

The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out our long-term ambitions for the whole of Islington looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years. Its aim is to build a stronger, sustainable community in the borough. It highlights what the challenges are for the borough now and what they might be in the future, and focuses on the actions we need to take collectively in order to tackle them, to improve the lives of everyone in Islington.

Overall responsibility for achieving the strategy lies with the Islington Strategic Partnership (ISP), which brings together the main statutory service providers in the borough such as the council, the NHS, and police with representatives of the voluntary, community, faith and business sectors. Through sharing knowledge, expertise and resources, the Partnership works together to improve the lives of our residents.

The aim of the ISP is to bring about sustainable improvements to the quality of life of local people and to create a community where people of all ages from very diverse backgrounds, comprising extremes of advantage and disadvantage, have a chance to fulfil their potential.

The Partnership is already doing a lot, both collectively and through its individual organisations, to achieve these aims and to offer excellent quality services to everyone.

The key aim of this strategy is to focus on the people most in need and the areas that are most deprived, tackling those issues that can make a real difference to people’s lives in the long term by, for example, addressing worklessness, and by improving the mental and physical health of our most deprived residents.

Building stronger, sustainable communities also means ensuring equality in meeting the different needs of the community. Islington is a diverse borough with a diverse community. We are firmly committed to identifying, understanding and responding to the different needs and experiences of our community, and particularly those of vulnerable individuals and communities represented within the ‘equality strands’, like black and minority ethnic communities, disabled people, older and young people, women, faith communities, lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people, and asylum seekers and refugees.

Progress to date

The strategy builds on the success of what we have already achieved.

The Islington Strategic Partnership (ISP) was established as the local strategic partnership for Islington in early 2001, building on an already existing informal partnership. Led by the council, it brings together other statutory providers and a wide and diverse membership from across voluntary, community, faith and business sectors.

The ISP developed its first community plan in 2001 and agreed a Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in 2003. A lot of work has been done since to tackle
the challenges facing the borough and to deliver better homes, better education results, better health, improved outcomes for children and older people, safer neighbourhoods and cleaner, greener open spaces.

The ISP’s current Local Area Agreement for 2006 to 2009 also sets specific targets to achieve real and visible improvements over three years.

More information on what we are already doing to tackle the main issues facing the borough is included in Appendix A, which sets out the main outcomes of Islington’s LAA.

More information on the progress that has been made since 2001 in tackling poverty and deprivation in the borough, and in improving the quality of life of local people, is set out in Appendix B.

Top help tackle discrimination and promote equality the ISP has also identified a range of cross-cutting issues which are important for disadvantaged groups, in particular improved language skills which impact significantly on access to services, employment, education and health, as well as improving life chances and opportunities and narrowing disadvantage. Target setting is also important, and this is a key element of the Equality Standard, which the council and other statutory partners are committed to achieving.

How the strategy was developed

This strategy is ambitious for Islington and its people. It is also realistic.

The SCS builds on the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and previous studies of the needs of particular groups made in preparation for the LAA. It is based on the latest available information on the population profile of the borough, with future trends and projections on which to base decisions, and it has been developed through extensive consultation with residents, members of the ISP, elected Members and a wide range of local voluntary and community representatives.

In developing the strategy we have worked hard to focus on the key issues that will affect Islington and the people who live here over the next 10 to 15 years, and which will require collective action by the Partnership. There was a broad consensus that the key issue facing the borough was the stark contrast between affluence and poverty, and that by lifting people out of poverty the Partnership could make a real impact, for example by helping people to get work and stay in work. There has also been strong support, from both service providers and the public, for supporting people with poor mental health and promoting good mental health and well-being.

There are also issues affecting everyone, for example the effects of climate change, which present challenges to the borough over the next 10 to 15 years and will require action by everyone in order to ensure that our future is sustainable for the generations to come. These issues will be addressed in a range of plans and strategies, and through action by different partners.
Partner organisations will also continue to improve the services they currently deliver to the public, and set out their own ambitions to make Islington a better place to live and work.

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been specifically developed to focus the collective work of the Islington Strategic Partnership.

More information on how the strategy was developed is included at Appendix C.
Our vision

Our vision for 2020 is that Islington will be a place where:

1. We will have made bold steps towards reducing poverty in the borough, so that:
   • No one is living below the poverty line
   • Children and young people achieve in education
   • People are skilled and supported into work, and to remain in work
   • People have good mental and physical health, and better quality and longer lives
   • Our housing and especially our estates offer a safe, positive and welcoming environment in which to live.

2. We will have removed barriers that prevent anyone from taking full advantage of services, support and opportunities, so that:
   • Everyone has access to work, and to progress in work
   • People can access education and training
   • People get high quality support and services at the time that they need them
   • Reduced crime and perceptions of crime mean that people feel confident to move around all parts of the borough
   • People have access to good quality open spaces, where they can mix with people from all communities in the borough

3. We will have helped people raise their aspirations, encouraging them to make the most of all the opportunities available to them and enabled them to make a positive contribution, thereby realising everyone's potential, so that:
   • Young people and older people are valued and respected
   • People feel proud of where they live
   • People feel confident and willing to contribute to create a sustainable community

Overall, Islington will be a place where we have achieved real change to create a stronger, sustainable community by 2020.
The challenges

There are many issues that will affect the borough and its people over the next 10 to 15 years. Islington is the second smallest local authority area in London but it is very densely populated. Crucially it is an area of great contrast with neighbourhoods showing some of the country’s worst deprivation alongside considerable wealth – Islington is the sixth most deprived local authority in the country with 75 per cent of its residents living in a deprived area, and yet it also has some of the most expensive private housing in the country with an average house price of £449,000. It is this contrast and the effects of poverty, unemployment and the lack of affordable housing which create major challenges to be tackled over the next 10 to 15 years if we want to create a stronger, sustainable community.

A diverse population

The population of the borough is likely to change significantly over the next ten years, with proportionally more older people aged between 45 and 64 and fewer younger residents in the 15-29 years group. This is also a very ethnically diverse population, with 25% of residents from non-white backgrounds estimated to increase to 27% over the next ten years. 40% of our residents are from backgrounds other than White British and refugees represent 5-10% of Islington’s population. There is clear evidence that residents from non-white backgrounds are more likely to experience poor health, be without work and to live in rented, social housing. 16% of residents define themselves as disabled. Islington is also estimated to have the third highest percentage of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) residents of all London boroughs.

The economy and employment

The number of residents who make up the available workforce has declined sharply over the last ten years, leading to increased polarisation of income – there is strong evidence that this trend is likely to continue over the next ten years. Over the last six years there has been a sharp rise in people who are economically inactive, with 40,600 people representing 32.8% of the working age population – significantly higher than London and national averages.

Despite a relatively high proportion of knowledge-based employment in the borough, Islington’s resident workforce has a significant proportion that is less well qualified compared to the rest of London, and particularly of people who have no qualifications. Those who do hold qualifications are increasingly finding that they are insufficient to secure gainful employment. There is also strong evidence that the level of qualifications decreases within an aging population.

Education and attainment

Attainment at all levels in Islington’s schools has improved significantly in recent years and the gap between Islington and the national average and between different groups within the borough has narrowed. But there is still some way to go. There is high mobility and considerable diversity within our schools with 70% of pupils from a black or minority ethnic background and a forecast of an overall increase in pupil numbers. The challenge is to
further improve attainment in Islington's schools and make them the choice of all parents in the borough in the future.

**Housing**

Social housing in Islington accounts for almost 50% of all of available accommodation significantly higher than the London and national average. 48% of social housing residents are from non-white backgrounds.

Access to affordable housing is the key challenge. There is a low level of available and affordable housing within the Borough, continued excessive demand for social housing and high demand for private housing irrespective of price increases. This acts as a powerful polarizer between income groups. There are too few opportunities to develop new affordable housing and overcrowding is a significant issue.

**Health and well-being**

Islington residents are 34% more likely to die prematurely than the average for London and England. Life expectancy for men and women has increased over the last ten years but the gap between Islington and England is growing: in 2003/04 male life expectancy in Islington was 74.6 years, 2.3 years lower than England, and female life expectancy 79.7 years, 1.4 years lower. There are also great disparities within the borough, for example Bunhill ward has the highest life expectancy in the borough for women (83 years) yet the lowest for men (71 years).

Health also varies across the borough, with some communities and areas facing significantly poorer health than others. We need to improve health across the borough, but also reduce health inequalities within the borough. We have significant challenges to reduce coronary heart disease and cancer and above all to significantly reduce smoking across all age ranges.

Mental health is also a significant issue. At any one time, 16.5% of men and 22% of women in Islington are experiencing a mental health problem, significantly higher than the average for London and England. Children and young people in Islington are 36% more likely to be experiencing some form of mental health problem than England.

There is also increasing recognition of the long term risks posed by obesity, with 24% of Islington schoolchildren in Year 6 found to be obese, and of alcohol, which is estimated to reduce male life expectancy by 12.9 months locally. Continued action will be needed to promote healthy eating, physical activity and sensible drinking.

**Crime and safety**

Although crime in the borough of Islington is on a generally downward trajectory, having reduced for the fourth year in a row, Islington still experiences the highest rate of crime per thousand residents for the Metropolitan Police Boroughs. A particular challenge is the large number of daytime and night-time visitors compared to other boroughs, which results in a large number of crimes but also distorts the real picture of crime affecting the resident population.
Environmental quality

The effects of climate change will have a wide-reaching effect on the borough, and will impact on disadvantaged groups disproportionately, as they have less opportunity to invest in adapting to its effects, less access to open space and are often in poorer quality housing.

The level of car ownership in Islington is very low, but in a densely populated area this leads to congestion and a degraded environment.

The views of residents themselves show that more still needs to be done to tackle general rubbish, litter and detritus on the roads and unacceptably high levels of graffiti and fly-posting, as well as levels of pollution. Action will be needed to tackle pollution and improve air quality.

Improvements in environmental quality are taking place, with increasing amounts of household waste recycled or composted. More recycling by business also needs to be promoted, and reducing the overall amount of waste produced remains a key challenge.
Our objectives and priorities for action

To tackle the challenges we face over the next 10 to 15 years and achieve our overall vision for Islington, we will focus our efforts on achieving three key objectives:

- Reducing poverty
- Improving access for all
- Realising everyone's potential.

These objectives reflect the common issues that arose from the consultation, and those areas where, in addition to all its existing activities, the Partnership could target its resources and interventions on the people and places that need it most, to make a real impact on people's lives.

To help us deliver our objectives we have also identified priorities for action which are set out below. These identify more specific actions to be taken, in order to address the key issues in areas such as employment, health, learning and attainment, crime and safety, and housing and environment. The priorities for action also reflect ideas and proposals for new initiatives arising from the consultation.
Objective 1 – Reduce Poverty

The economic divide between rich and poor is the key issue facing the borough. By focusing our efforts on lifting people out of poverty we can make a real impact on people’s lives, for example by supporting people into work. We also need to tackle the loss to the local economy incurred by the high number of workless people in the borough and the high proportion of residents who are currently excluded from the workforce.

We will:

- Make a long-term difference to peoples’ life chances by targeting the most deprived groups such as disabled and mentally ill people, older people and children living in low income households
- Target the most deprived areas of the borough for improvement – many of these areas have remained the poorest neighbourhoods for the past 100 years
- Get more local people into sustainable work to tackle the problem of worklessness in the resident population
- Raise educational attainment and levels of qualifications for all age groups
- Get more young people into education, employment or training, so we can reduce their risk of poverty in the future
- Reduce the number of Islington residents becoming homeless through targeting support to people when they become vulnerable
- Reduce the level of debt amongst low and middle income households
- Maximise people’s income through ensuring everyone claims the benefits that they are entitled to – so that work pays for families on low and middle incomes, and people who can’t work such as older people get the financial assistance they need.

Why this is important for Islington

The economic divide within and between neighbourhoods in Islington is sharp. There is evidence of extreme disadvantage throughout the borough, including low educational achievement and employment, and high levels of worklessness, crime, anti-social behaviour and physical and mental health inequalities. Low income is a serious issue for a significant proportion of our residents, especially those in social housing in areas where economic inactivity is highest.

There are strong links between low attainment levels and high levels of worklessness, and between worklessness and increased poverty. In addition, people with poor physical and mental health are both more likely to be out of work, and therefore more likely to be living in poverty.
For some people, including many pensioners, work may not be the most appropriate way to raise their income. They may need help to ensure they are claiming all the benefits they are entitled to – most unclaimed benefit is owed to pensioner households, but pensioners who wish to work should also be supported to do so.

There is strong evidence to show that variations in life expectancy and overall health are linked to socio-economic inequalities, social exclusion and the lasting impact of childhood disadvantage. There is also good evidence that there effective interventions that can reduce these impacts and improve health. People living in the poorest communities in the borough are generally more likely to smoke, to eat less healthy and to be less physically active, and to suffer adverse health consequences as a result.

Alongside the effort to reduce poverty we will need to tackle the higher than average presentation of residents with mental ill health, and the higher than average health inequalities in the population.

By supporting the least well off we can have a positive effect on the lives of everyone who lives, works and visits the borough.

**Priorities for action**

**Improving employment and prosperity**
- Support people into work, to remain in work and to acquire the skills they will need to progress in their job
- Reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training
- Support people to claim the benefits to which they are entitled
- Ensure that all employers in Islington meet minimum wage requirements
- Provide support to people in debt to help them improve their financial position

**Improving learning and attainment**
- Ensure an uncompromising focus on standards and achievement from all years through all key stages and ensure that provision is good or better in all schools and settings including Pupil Referral Units
- Provide learning opportunities specifically aimed at helping people access sustainable work.
- Support families where children are at risk of exclusion and/or have poor attendance records

**Improving health**
- Take a preventative approach to promoting good physical and mental health, providing health information in a variety of non traditional settings tailored to the needs of particular communities and groups
- Ensure that all schools become “healthy schools” helping children to adopt healthy lifestyles at an early age
- Continue our drug prevention work and give support to those who have drug and/or alcohol dependency
- Support carers, for example by finding ways of increasing their income and giving them access to respite
• Encourage people to increase their levels of physical activity, by promoting walking and cycling
• Improve access to advice and casework services to help support people and improve their mental and physical well-being.

**Improving safety**
• Continue to reduce crime and the fear of crime by:
  - increasing the visibility of front line services on the street
  - increasing the use of public spaces
  - fostering better relations between different groups of people, such as the old and the young, to reduce fear
  - improving employment prospects locally
• Support victims of crime and develop services that reduce re-offending
• Take up every opportunity to bring in funding to improve the external areas on housing estates, to reduce perceptions of crime.
• Increase access to Home Fire Safety Visits and other preventative services for those most at risk from fire and other hazards in and around the home

**Improving the environment**
• Assist low and middle income households to avoid fuel poverty
• Provide advice and support to people on heating and cooling their homes in an energy efficient way

**Improving housing**
• Provide support to those at risk of losing their home in order to retain tenancies
• Improve the quality of existing social housing stock
• Ensure that a proportion of new housing units remain genuinely affordable and available to those on an intermediate salary
• Reduce overcrowding by building new homes, efficient management of our housing stock, and mitigate the effects of overcrowding by targeting services, especially support for children
• Continue work to prevent homelessness and offer choice to people in housing need.

**Building stronger sustainable communities**
• Establish more sustainable funding streams to support the provision of services by the community and voluntary sector, moving away from specific project-based funding
• Create incentives for diverse local groups to work together for the benefit of their neighbourhoods
• Provide more free access for disadvantaged groups to local cultural activities and venues.
• Target children from the most disadvantaged families to ensure that all children access service provision, for example children’s centres
• Ensure that Islington’s children in care enjoy the lives we want for our own families.
Objective 2 – Improve access for all

By removing the barriers that prevent everyone from accessing the services, support and employment opportunities they need and want, we can help ensure better outcomes for all members of the community.

We will:

- Remove the barriers people face in getting access to sustainable work
- Remove the barriers people face in accessing the services and support they need, including language, literacy and numeracy
- Ensure easier access to better quality services to improve the general physical and mental health and well being of people
- Deliver services which actively reach out into the community to help improve the life chances of people of all ages who are currently socially excluded
- Deliver services that are ‘joined up’, which meet the needs of people in a holistic way and which are tailored to meet the needs of different groups of residents rather than offering a 'one size fits all'
- Actively involve people in designing and delivering the services they want
- Target children from the most disadvantaged families to ensure effective access to good quality services
- Provide more opportunities for younger and older people to contribute to their communities, and encourage better interactions between young and old
- Continue to address the needs of key groups within our diverse community who face greater barriers to accessing services, including disabled people, and refugees and asylum seekers.
- Ensure that people feel confident in moving around the borough, with good quality, affordable transport provision, and increasing walking and cycling

Why this is important for Islington

We want to help people access the jobs, services and support they need to improve their own life chances. We know that some people face real barriers to accessing support and services, such as not being able to speak English. Others may have rejected the services available to them. People who feel socially excluded and perceive themselves to be "outside the system" are very difficult to ‘reach’. Not only is this likely to have a negative impact on their own life chances, but in some cases it could also have a negative impact on others, for example through behaving anti-socially.
We want to ensure that all services in Islington meet the needs of the population. This means ensuring joined-up working between partner organisations, which we recognise is a challenge we need to continue to tackle, and actively involving people in the way that their services are delivered. Easier access to better quality services will improve the general physical and mental health and well being of people.

To ensure access for all to basic services in future we will need to tackle the shortage of affordable housing, and the lack of local jobs to match the attainment and aspirations of our residents, and we are committed to doing that. Other issues include the increasing proportion of older people in our population, and a growing number of new arrivals who will suffer health inequalities and who face greater barriers to accessing services.

**Priorities for action**

**Improving employment and prosperity**
- Remove the common barriers to work that the economically inactive face: difficulties managing mental/physical health issues, barriers experienced by the disabled, assurance of a liveable wage, security when moving off benefits and into employment
- Provide more entry-level jobs for school leavers
- Increase affordable childcare provision to help people back into work, to retain work and create more jobs locally
- Explore the feasibility of partners providing first opportunities to unemployed local people

**Improving learning and attainment**
- Broaden the curriculum offered in our secondary schools to meet the aspirations of all our citizens
- Take steps to ensure that adults have opportunities to access learning and skills
- Take action to give young children the best possible start with their learning, involving parents and the wider community

**Improving health**
- Ensure early diagnosis and prompt treatment and support for people with long term, chronic and life threatening conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.
- Improve people’s access to healthy affordable food
- Make sports and recreation venues more accessible to different groups, for example to children and older people and those on lower incomes including maximising the use of a range of community buildings
- Reduce teenage pregnancy and ensure all young people have access to effective sexual health services
- Give people more choice and control about how they want to be cared for, and ensure this is supported by independent advice and advocacy
- Increase the range and quality of health information available throughout the borough

**Improving safety**
- Create more capacity at a local level to target crime hotspots and areas of need
• Encourage local employers to give time off to their employees so that we can recruit more local people as special constables
• Support community initiatives to improve safety, such as the use of technology by local shopkeepers to look out for each other's businesses, as, for example, at the Angel Business Improvement District
• Establish safe routes to and from schools and stations
• Increase third party reporting (particularly of hate crimes) and use Safer Neighbourhood Teams to help identify the perpetrators of hate crimes at an earlier stage
• Inform the community about their role in hazard prevention and provide a fast and effective response whenever emergencies occur in Islington.

Improving the environment
• Work to ensure that transport in the borough is accessible, environmentally sustainable and well integrated with the city's transport network
• Create accessible public and green spaces, including streets by, for example, the removal of street clutter, so that everyone can move about the borough easily
• Ensure that all parks, public spaces and estate open spaces are clean, safe and accessible, and create more spaces where children can play and people can meet and interact

Improving housing
• Ensure that new housing meets the 'homes for life' standard to accommodate people who become disabled at some point during their lives
• Ensure new housing developments create access to good quality green space

Building stronger, sustainable communities
• Provide more language classes and conversation clubs to improve English among people of all ages
• Make better use of school and other community buildings to provide a range of services to the whole community
• Bring community centres on estates back into use as a resource for the whole community
• Build on the Children's Centre model by delivering more integrated services at local level.
Objective 3 – Realise everyone’s potential

We want Islington to be a place where all individuals have high aspirations and the maximum opportunity to fulfil their potential whatever their age. By helping people to raise their aspirations, and encouraging them to make the most of all the opportunities available to them, we will enable them to make a positive contribution to Islington and its communities, and help realise everyone’s potential.

We will:

- Improve the pathways into education and employment for young people to enable them to realise their potential
- Improve pathways to employment for those currently outside of the workforce
- Promote positive mental health and well being for people of all ages
- Help people raise aspirations for themselves, their families, neighbours and their wider community, focusing on the most deprived and marginalised groups
- Invest in the 'social capital' we have in the borough and encourage others to do the same. This may take the form of being a good neighbour, supported volunteering, running a community network or tapping into local informal networks that give people access to information
- Encourage more middle and higher income earners and businesses to stay and contribute to the borough.
- Enable everyone to make a positive contribution to Islington and its communities, and encourage individuals to feel that they belong and are proud of the neighbourhood that they live in

Why this is important to Islington

In Islington we know there is a significant issue with some people having low aspirations, and we need to work to help people raise their aspirations and to create more opportunities for them to improve their life chances. To do this we will need to tackle the social and economic polarisation in the borough and increase the numbers of working-age residents who participate in the active workforce. We will also need to address the needs of children and young people, and older people who may experience mental health problems.

Raising aspirations will also help to tackle comparatively high teenage pregnancy rates, and the rate of crime, and help build stronger, sustainable communities. People who play an active role in, and feel part of their community, benefit from better self-esteem and better mental and physical health. Building communities that people are engaged in and want to belong to, creates a more sustainable future for people, their families and the place they live in.
Our priorities for action

Improving employment and prosperity
- Improve links between employers and young people, to provide careers guidance, and expand opportunities for scholarships and apprenticeships
- Explore new ways of engaging with local businesses
- Increase supported volunteering opportunities to provide a route back into work and to improve mental health and social inclusion
- Work with employers to support good mental and physical health in their staff, so that they can stay in work and progress in their career

Improving learning and attainment
- Provide a wide range of opportunities for adult learners to gain new skills, including basic skills training and lifelong learning options
- Take action to ensure that every child goes to school every day
- Improve learning by supporting the development of excellent behaviour through a community-wide approach

Improving health
- Support people to stop smoking to improve their general health and well being and reduce the risk of life threatening illnesses such as coronary heart disease and cancer
- Help people to live as independently as possible with support and physical adaptations for those who need them
- Deliver more services in people’s own homes and closer to home, and in partnership with other services, only using hospitals for those things that they do best.

Improving safety
- Continue to use Acceptable Behaviour Contracts as an alternative to ASBOs and pursue smarter, less patronising approaches to anti-social behaviour, for example by listening to those who may be committing anti-social behaviour
- Help prevent anti-social and criminal behaviour by young people and provide a safe environment for them, for example by increasing the opening hours for youth clubs and after-school activities.
- Promote alcohol awareness to reduce alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour, and reduce alcohol related illness and injury
- Help older people to feel confident about leaving their homes after dark

Improving the environment
- Develop initiatives to mitigate against and adapt to climate change, and raise awareness of the issues
- Work closely with residents, businesses and community and faith organisations to change their behaviour by, for example reducing energy use, reducing waste and promoting walking/cycling
- Pilot new ways of building in environmentally sustainable ways, and of providing open spaces
Improving housing

- Ensure all new social housing developments meet the target to be carbon zero by 2016, and are designed to adapt to rising temperatures.
- Make better use of landlords’ and residents’ associations to promote gardening on estates, recruit more Eyes for Islington and create pride of place

Building stronger, sustainable communities

- Support a full range of role models for young people in Islington, who work with parents as well as children.
- Develop and provide accredited parenting programmes
- Work with social landlords, tenants’ associations, resident groups and community organisations to encourage activities for people of all ages on housing estates
- Provide more opportunities for children and older people to contribute to their communities, and encourage better interactions between young and old.
How the strategy will be delivered

The Islington Strategic Partnership has overall responsibility for achieving the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The SCS itself will be regularly reviewed and updated in the light of progress and changes, with regular reports to the Board of the ISP.

Priorities for action

The specific means to deliver the objectives of our community strategy will be through our future Local Area Agreements which will set targets for the visible and sustainable improvements we want to make.

The priorities for action identified will inform our new Local Area Agreement for 2008 to 2011.

Improving mainstream services and aligning service plans

Improving mainstream services delivered to the people of Islington will be a crucial way of overcoming barriers, ensuring access to services and opportunities for all, and achieving the objectives of the SCS.

The shared vision and priorities for action of the SCS will inform the plans and strategies of the ISP’s members who include the main providers of public services in Islington like the council, the NHS, police and education establishments, as well as community groups and business partners.

Some of the most important plans and strategies to help deliver the SCS are shown in the table below.

Ensuring equality

In order to overcome barriers and ensure access for all, the SCS also recognises that specific action will be also be needed, and commits partners to respond to the different needs and experiences of vulnerable individuals and communities.

As part of its commitment to ensuring equality the ISP will set out clear targets to be achieved as part of a proposed “Equalities Charter.”
## Plans and strategies to help deliver the SCS

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<td>Children and Young People’s Plan</td>
<td>Islington Strategic Partnership – Children’s Board, including Council, Primary Care Trust, CEA@Islington</td>
<td>2007-2010</td>
<td>Supports better outcomes for children and young people in Islington in relation to: being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving learning and attainment, Improving health, Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime Disorder and Drug Misuse Action Plan</td>
<td>Islington Strategic Partnership – Safer Islington Partnership, including Council, Police, PCT, Fire Service</td>
<td>2008-2011</td>
<td>An action plan to ensure that the strategic priorities outlined in the Crime, Disorder &amp; Drug Misuse Strategy are achieved</td>
<td>Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Long and Prosper Strategy</td>
<td>Islington Strategic Partnership – Health and Older People’s Board</td>
<td>2007-2010</td>
<td>Sets out an older people’s vision for Islington based on the views and opinions of older residents to ensure that all over 55s have the best possible quality of life</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving health, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Strategy Plan</td>
<td>Islington Primary Care Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving learning and attainment, Improving health, Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borough Policing Plan</td>
<td>Metropolitan Police</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Service Borough Plan</td>
<td>Fire Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improving health, Improving safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>Owner</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Links to themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Islington Council Corporate Strategy       | Islington Council     | 2008-2011   | Supports the Council’s overall vision of “One Islington”, through three key themes of “Listening to Islington”, “Stronger Communities” and a “Cleaner, Greener and Safer borough. It will include a commitment to improve the quality of life for all residents and reduce the gap in life chances between the most and least deprived.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Improving employment and prosperity  
Improving learning and attainment  
Improving health  
Improving safety  
Improving housing and the environment  
Building stronger, sustainable communities                                                                 |
| Local Development Framework                | Islington Council     | 2009-2017   | The LDF will set out a spatial planning strategy for the borough until 2017 in order to manage physical change and development. It is therefore a particularly important plan for helping to deliver the long-term objectives of the SCS. The ‘core strategy’ is currently being re-written to more closely reflect the objectives of the community strategy and will be consulted on over the next two years before being approved in 2009.                                                                                                                                 | Potential links to all themes  
Building stronger, sustainable communities                                                                 |
| Islington Housing Strategy                 | Islington Council     | 2008-2011?  | The Strategy will be developed and agreed by Executive in 2008. The aim will be to address the issues that arise from the correlation between housing tenure and risk of social exclusion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Improving employment and prosperity  
Improving learning and attainment  
Improving health  
Improving safety  
Improving housing and the environment  
Building stronger, sustainable communities                                                                 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Links to themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supporting People Strategy</td>
<td>Currently LBI but may become Islington Strategic Partnership, involving Probation Service and PCT</td>
<td>2005-2010</td>
<td>The aim is to deliver locally relevant housing related support services to help vulnerable people live independently in the community.</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving health, Improving safety, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Transport Strategy</td>
<td>Islington Council</td>
<td>2006-2016</td>
<td>A plan setting out detailed transport policies, proposals and programmes for the next ten years, showing how we will contribute to the Mayor's Transport Strategy for London.</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving health, Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality Charter (to be developed)</td>
<td>Islington Council</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>A proposed borough-wide vision and strategy for equality and cohesion, to deliver equality of opportunity and access for all residents</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving learning and attainment, Improving health, Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural strategy (to be developed)</td>
<td>Islington Council</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Will aim to maximise the value of Islington’s thriving cultural and arts sector for the whole community</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving learning and attainment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regeneration strategy (to be developed)</td>
<td>Islington Council</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>A new strategy to support better physical, economic and social regeneration for the borough</td>
<td>Improving employment and prosperity, Improving learning and attainment, Improving health, Improving safety, Improving housing and the environment, Building stronger, sustainable communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A

Islington's Local Area Agreement, 2006 to 2009

We are already doing a lot to tackle the main issues facing the borough. The ISP’s current Local Area Agreement sets targets to achieve real and visible improvements over three years. The main outcomes of Islington’s LAA from 2006 to 2009 are set out below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improving learning and attainment:</th>
<th>Improving liveability:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Improving pupil attainment</td>
<td>• Improving parks and open spaces;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improving the skills of the local workforce</td>
<td>• Improving environmental cleanliness;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reducing the rate of teenage conception</td>
<td>• Reducing our negative impact on the environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improving health:</th>
<th>Improving employment and prosperity:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reducing the prevalence of smoking</td>
<td>• Increasing household income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tackling obesity by promoting physical activity and healthy eating</td>
<td>• More successful, sustainable local businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reducing excess deaths in winter</td>
<td>• More inward investment into the borough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• More people in employment or economically active</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Improving safety:</th>
<th>Creating stronger, sustainable communities:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reducing crime and the fear of crime</td>
<td>• Increasing respect and understanding between residents from different economic, age, ethnic and cultural groups;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reducing anti-social behaviour;</td>
<td>• Increasing the capacity of local voluntary, community and faith organisations;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tackling domestic violence and hate crimes</td>
<td>• Increasing active citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improving the effective response of local emergency services</td>
<td>• Reducing economic polarisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improving access to services for disadvantaged groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Helping older and vulnerable people lead independent, active and fulfilling lives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress against these outcomes is measured using a basket of performance indicators and reported regularly to the Executive of the ISP.

The LAA targets will assist in:

- Eliminating unlawful discrimination, e.g. tackling racial harassment and homophobic crime and increasing the number of public places that are fully accessible to disabled people

- Promoting equality of opportunity, e.g. narrowing the achievement gap between Islington and the national average and between different ethnic groups in our schools; increasing the proportion of residents using mediated access channels and increasing the amount of public information available in different languages and formats
• Promoting good race and community relations, e.g. increasing the number of residents who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in Islington.

The LAA also focuses on improving the quality of life for two key groups within our diverse community:

• Disabled people; and
• Refugees and asylum seekers.

These outcomes will be updated in 2008.
Appendix B

Progress made since 2001

Work on developing the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy in 2001 included an audit which provides a baseline for measuring progress.

Below is a brief summary of changes in conditions in the borough since 2001.

The following local conditions have improved overall:

Benefits

- the Job Seekers' Allowance claimant rate has reduced by 1%, from 5.2% to 4.2%
- the overall claimant rate has reduced from 21.9% to 20.8%
- the percentage rate of residents claiming lone-parent benefit has reduced from 5.0% [tbc] to 4.6%

Crime and safety

- the overall number of recorded crimes has reduced from 35,968 to 35,248

Educational attainment

- the percentage rate of pupils achieving Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 has increased from 64% to 74%
- the percentage rate of pupils achieving Level 4 in English at Key Stage 2 has increased from 64% to 74%
- the percentage rate of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at Grades A-E has risen from 26.5% to 86.6% of pupils who are achieving Grades A-G

Health

- teenage pregnancy rates per 1000 women aged 15 – 17 years has decreased from 72 to 55.8
- the rate of deaths expected amongst those under 1 years of age has reduced from 21.8% to 18%
- the rate of looked after children per 10,000 children has decreased from 117 to 110

Environment

- the percentage rate of domestic waste that is recycled in the Borough has risen from 9% to 15.7%

Fear of crime has remained the number one concern of Islington residents between 2001 and 2006.
Since 2001 the following local conditions addressed by the Community Strategy have worsened:

- the percentage rate of residents claiming disability benefits has risen from 7.46% to 10%
- the number of incidences of domestic burglary has increased from 2,645 to 3,728
- the rate of deaths experienced by Islington residents that is above the rate of expected deaths is 40%.

**Progress against 2001 community strategy themes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme/Indicator</th>
<th>Position in 2001*</th>
<th>Latest Position</th>
<th>Change Up/down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work and Enterprise</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate/JSA Claimants</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 Worst Performing Wards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tollington Ward – numbers</td>
<td>620</td>
<td>495</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highbury Ward – numbers</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>Boundary Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junction Ward – numbers</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mildmay Ward – numbers</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sussex Ward – numbers</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>Boundary Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best Performing Ward</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canonbury West Ward - numbers</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>Boundary Change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Claimant Rate</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Parents</td>
<td>5.0% [tbc]</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability</td>
<td>7.46%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>Worsened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP (East London/Central London)</td>
<td>£15,496</td>
<td>£22,000</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crime and Community Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Recorded Crimes</td>
<td>35,968</td>
<td>35,248</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>2,645</td>
<td>3,728</td>
<td>Worsened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft and Handling</td>
<td>16,378</td>
<td>No current category</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of Crime amongst Residents</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>No Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education and Skills</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Stage 2/Level 4 English</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Stage 2/Level 4 Maths</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 GCSE’s at Grades A-E/A-G</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>86.6%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Social Care</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of deaths over expected rate &lt;60 yrs</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Worsened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of deaths over expected rate &lt;1 yrs</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Improved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. Source: ONS April 2007
2. Source: All from DWP Information Directorate May 2006
3. Source: All ONS November 2006
5. Source: Islington Community Safety Partnership Unit’s Data Analysis Team. May 2007
10. Source: Islington PCT. April 2007
11. Source: Islington PCT. April 2007
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table:</th>
<th>Improved</th>
<th>Increased</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teenage Pregnancy Rate/1,000</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>55.8(^{12})</td>
<td>Islington PCT. April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looked After Children/10,000</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>110(^{13})</td>
<td>Information and Performance Team. LB Islington. April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and the Environment</td>
<td>Improved</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Audit Commission. BVI 2004/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling of Domestic Waste</td>
<td>9(^{%})</td>
<td>15.7(^{%})(^{14})</td>
<td>All GLA Population Estimates Scenario 8.07. 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Population</td>
<td>179,000</td>
<td>182,649(^{15})</td>
<td>All GLA Population Estimates Scenario 8.07. 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Under 19 Years</td>
<td>39,775</td>
<td>40,224</td>
<td>Islington PCT. April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population aged 60+ Years</td>
<td>27,300</td>
<td>23,209</td>
<td>Audit Commission. BVI 2004/2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Figures provided by Stratford Development Partnership have not been verified
Appendix C

How the strategy was developed

The SCS has been produced by Islington Council on behalf of the Islington Strategic Partnership.

It is a 'refresh' or updating of the ISP's original Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy produced in 2002.

It has been developed through extensive consultation with key stakeholders including members of the ISP Board and Theme Groups, elected Members, and a wide range of local voluntary and community representatives, through interviews and Theme Group events, or workshops

Who was involved

Metropolitan Police
Islington Society
BASSAC
Family Mosaic Homes
Childcare Trust
Citizens Advice Bureau
Homes for Islington
Islington Primary Care Trust
FinFuture
London Fire Brigade
Islington Community Network
Islington LGBT Forum
London Metropolitan University
JobCentre Plus
Islington Chamber of Commerce
EC1 New Deal for Communities
Islington Law Centre
Disability Action in Islington
Whittington Hospital
Business Link for London
Adult and Community Learning
CEA@Islington

Consulting with residents

Consultation with residents took place during June 2007 with a feature article on our proposed objectives in “IslingtonNow”, the residents’ magazine delivered to all households in the borough. A questionnaire asked people to give their views on our approach to tackling the big issues in Islington. People could also respond on-line. We received 217 responses and there was strong support for our three objectives of reducing poverty, improving access and realising everyone’s potential. Crime and safety rated highly
amongst respondents concerns and there was significant support for helping mentally ill people to contribute to the community and prevent their isolation.

In addition to this we carried out a postal survey of members of Islington’s Citizens’ Panel to test support for our proposed key priorities for action. The Panel is a representative group of 920 Islington residents who have agreed to take part in consultations such as these. We received 357 responses – a return of just under 40%. There was strong endorsement for each of our proposed actions with at least 87% of respondents saying each action was either “very important” or “fairly important”.

The actions that most people said were “very important” were ensuring open spaces and parks are clean, safe and well maintained, tackling anti-social behaviour, providing more activities for you people to do after school and in the evenings.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our public consultations.

**Equalities**

In developing the SCS we have considered the impacts of the proposed objectives and priorities for action on people from disadvantaged groups in consultation with key stakeholders. We have carried out a formal “Equalities Impact Assessment”, which helps us to ensure that our proposals will have a positive impact on all groups in the community and avoid any negative impact on particular groups. The impact assessment found that the consultation had recorded significant input from members of all equality strands.