



AGENDA FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Members of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee are summoned to a meeting, which will be held in Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **25 April 2017 at 7.00 pm.**

Lesley Seary
Chief Executive

Enquiries to : Olayiwola Adeoye
Tel : 020 7527 3044
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 13 April 2017

Membership

Councillor James Court (Chair)
Councillor Dave Poyser (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Raphael Andrews
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE
Councillor Gary Heather
Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Caroline Russell

Substitute Members

Councillor Theresa Debono
Councillor Satnam Gill OBE
Councillor Alice Perry
Councillor Angela Picknell

Quorum is 4 members of the Sub-Committee



A. Formal Matters	Pages
1. Apologies for Absence	
2. Declarations of Substitute Members	
3. Declarations of Interest	

If you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest*** in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may **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, you **must** leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a **personal** interest in an item of business **and** you intend to speak or vote on the item you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you **may** participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

***(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 of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.

(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you 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 you or your 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.

This applies to **all** members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	1 - 6
5. Public Questions	
6. Chair's Report	

B. Items for Decision/Discussion	Pages
1. EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT - PERFORMANCE PRESENTATION	7 - 16

2.	COMMUNITY ENERGY SCRUTINY REPORT	17 - 20
3.	QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016-2017	21 - 24

C. Urgent non-exempt items (if any)

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

D. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Constitution and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

E. Confidential/exempt items

Pages

F. Urgent exempt items (if any)

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 Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will be on 25 May 2017

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Agenda Item 4

London Borough of Islington

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 9 March 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held at Committee Room 4, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 9 March 2017 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Court (Chair), Poyser (Vice-Chair), Andrews, Hamitouche, Heather, Jeapes and Russell

Councillor James Court in the Chair

100 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**

None Received.

101 **DECLARATIONS OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**

None

102 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

Councillor Dave Poyser declared a personal interest with regard to Item B7, Regeneration of Retail Areas as he is presently a member of the Archway Town Centre Group.

103 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

104 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 5)**

A member of the public requested an update following a meeting between Environmental officers and the contractors regarding fly tipping around Wedmore Gardens.

The Executive Member for Environment & Transport advised that the Council continues to work with various agencies in addressing anti-social issues such as fly tipping wherever it occurs irrespective of whether it is on council or private owned land and to treat the issue of fly tipping very seriously.

The Chair informed the resident that an update on the outcome of the earlier meeting that had occurred in the day would be communicated to her.

105 **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 6)**

None

106 **REGENERATION OF RETAIL AREAS SCRUTINY REVIEW - WITNESS EVIDENCE - VERBAL (Item 7)**

The Chair invited David Fordham, Service Manager, Service Trading Standards, Jan Tucker, Chair of Archway Traders Association and Christine Lovett, CEO of Angel's Business Improvement Bid (BID) to address the Committee on their experiences, challenges and future prospects within the retail areas in Islington.

During consideration of this item the following points were raised -

- Members were informed about the draft street trading strategy which lists key things the Council aims to achieve in the next 5 years
- Members were advised that the value of revitalising and keeping the markets alive, providing local jobs for local people and meeting environmental sustainable objectives was the stimulus for action
- That the strategy aims to create a dynamic street trading and market experience suitable for residents and businesses
- Members agreed that as shopping habits of members of the public had changed over the years, street markets would have to adapt to this new trend.
- There are a number of challenges facing Street Trading and include lack of infrastructure regarding the removal of waste, parking issues on market site attracting new traders and retaining the existing traders.
- Members were advised that the Council aims to raise the profile of street markets and would be promoting street markets in the Time Out Magazine in May 2017 called 'love your market'
- A recognition that street markets still had a vital place within the community not only with the residents but businesses in its vicinity so the regeneration of the market was essential to provide future opportunities.
- Members were informed that street markets would be encouraged to introduce different themes on market days as it was noticeable that the existence of farmers markets had resulted in increase in trading and footfall especially visitors
- Members were advised that most authorities in the country were experiencing similar issues on managing street markets and that the decline of traditional street markets was due to a number of factors such as competition from other forms of retail, lack of investment or vision by the local authorities and changing demographics .
- A Member enquired if the loss of vibrancy of street markets was due to the prevalence of food stalls competing with the shops especially as businesses pay rates and charges. The Service Manager, Service Trading Standards advised that it had not been raised as an issue, however the Council be looking at ways of

assisting or supporting such businesses

- With regards to the cost of hiring stalls and pitches and the revenue derived by the Council, the Service Manager, Service Trading Standards advised that Council charges £60 per week, the lowest in comparison to other neighbouring authorities and cheaper than markets that are located on private land. On the issue of revenue, Members were advised that any revenues received would be ring fenced.
- A Member enquired whether the Council offered support such as mentoring/training for new stall holders with a view to helping the stall holders move into retail shops .
- A Member enquired if Officers were aware of a financial incentive being offered to stall holders in Crystal Palace where they were being charged a percentage of their daily takings. The Service Manager, Service Trading Standards Street indicated that he would look into this payment scheme, but reminded Members that LBI charges were presently the lowest in comparison to other authorities.
- Christian Lovett welcomed the Council's strategic approach to street trading, stating that the success of the farmer's market in Chapel Street was due to the difficult and bold decisions taken by the Council and such difficult decision should continue to be applied to parking concerns around the markets.
- Jan Tucker highlighted the parking issues around the Archway square especially with the relocation of Archway market. Jan Tucker indicated that business was picking up in the private market and it was noticeable that shops were flourishing. She also suggested that Markets should be encouraged to introduce theme days such as Antique and Craft activities within the markets, activities that have resulted in an increase of foot fall in the market.
- The Council should continue taking difficult decisions on issues such as business rates, employment opportunities for Islington residents and parking challenges in and around the market without impacting the traditional nature of the street markets. Christian Lovell welcomed regenerating retail areas but it was important that well known markets such as Chapel Market not lose its original identity. Reference was made to neighbouring markets such as in Camden Lock where most of the stalls are now privately owned and although regarded as successful, the view was expressed that it had lost its traditional nature.
- A Member suggested that consideration should be given to businesses such as One pound shops and Charity shops taking up empty spaces as these businesses do attract people into the area.
- The Executive Member for Economic Development noted that in defining the purpose of growth, it was important to ensure that whatever changes are introduced that it benefits everyone, resident and businesses in the neighbourhood. She also advised that private markets results in money out flow of the borough as most of the stall holders were not residents
- A Member suggested that in situations where there were empty spaces above shops, consideration should be given to using the rooms for culture or exhibition events. Also she noted that in terms of regenerating the retail areas, Officers should look into tapping into some of the healthy scheme initiatives promoted by the Office

of the Mayor of London on walking, cycling and supporting less traffic. Also Healthy Street Schemes was mentioned with funds for provision of street benches.

- A Member added that markets were vital to the local community as it brings people into the area and that the relationship between shops and street market traders are symbiotic. He also noted that without parking spaces street markets would struggle.
- In response to parking concerns the Service Manager Street/ Trading Standards acknowledged that parking was an issue around markets however the council was involved in a project looking at the issue and would provide an update to the Committee in the next month.

It was RESOLVED that

1. The Service Director Planning and Development circulate to Members of the Committee documents relating to the Healthy Street Scheme.

The Chair thanked David Fordham, Jan Tucker and Christine Lovett for attending.

107 BRIDGE WORKS ON HOLLOWAY ROAD (Item 8)

Nick Fairholme, TFL Director of Programmes was present and was accompanied by Daniel Hall, Project Manager TFL and provided a verbal update to the Committee during which the following main points were made-

- Nick Fairholme apologised to residents and businesses for the disruption to their daily lives as a result of the unplanned works on the Holloway Bridge Work on the A1. In explaining the causes for the work, Nick Fairholme reminded Members that works on the bridge was necessary as the bridge had reached the end of its operational life and that the delay and subsequent closure of long sections of the Holloway Road was done in consultation with Islington Council and Highways Officers simply to allow demolition to be carried out during the Christmas period when traffic would be lighter.
- Ascertaining the ownership of the deep seated cables under the road surface owned by gas, electricity, water and telecommunication companies was very challenging as in most cases they had been laid underground for decades.
- Nick Fairholme acknowledged that as a result of the disruption especially over the October half term break in 2016, TFL did issue over 500 letters and emails to residents and businesses explaining the situation and staff were deployed to respond to enquiries from residents and businesses in the affected area on Holloway Road. In addition he also stated that TFL would respond at short notice especially when sudden incidents occurred for example making available shuttle buses.
- The Director confirmed that he was delighted to announce that despite the disruption, the unplanned works to the Bridge was completed on schedule with all the roads opened by 16 January 2017 and traffic restrictions lifted.
- Members were advised that although engineering works are complex in nature, most of the challenges are not noticeable until when work commences however lessons

learnt from this experience would be shared when TFL engages in other projects.

- Nick Fairholme advised the Committee that a number of options had been considered with regards to the closure of the A1 road and the decision was not taken lightly and the overriding issue in this instance was safety.
- Lessons learnt from the experiences on the Holloway Bridge project include improving the engagement and consultation process with residents and businesses by using social media forums to communicate not only prior to the commencement of the project but throughout the duration of the project. Also better collaboration between contractor and utility companies should be encouraged especially where there are over 15 different utility companies involved.
- With regards to identifying ownership of underground utility cables especially in the future, Members were advised that utilities are now mapped and there are now electronic records available which identifies not only the exact location but the actual depths of the cables underground.
- The meeting was advised that Upper Holloway would have a number of utility cables but these were not as complex as those that were found on the Bridge works at Holloway Road.
- A Member wanted TFL to consider the impact of the works around Highbury Corner on passenger safety using the Highbury & Islington station especially on Arsenal match days as this would result in an increase in footfall in and around the area.
- Nick Fairholme advised that works on the Highbury Corner would involve demolition of the bridge which would result in vehicular diversions in and around the area. The meeting was advised that TFL has plans to carry out works around the Christmas break so as to minimise disruption and that the works will be carried out in phases.
- The first phase which involved the partial demolition of the bridge was carried out in summer 2016 with the next phase commencing between April to June 2017 on the carriageway and the final major work which involve the closure of roads around Highbury Corner would commence around Christmas.
- Members requested that both local businesses and residents be kept abreast of the works schedule around Highbury Corner. Nick Fairholme agreed that communication was vital however it was important to manage public expectation as too much information provided too early in the scheme could easily be forgotten however TFL would endeavour to keep all affected updated.
- In response to a question on whether TFL had the ability to manage the Highbury Corner works following its experience on Holloway Road, Nick Fairholme assured Members that TFL had a good track record of delivery such as the Hammersmith Bridge project were completed on time .
- A Member indicated that there is a public perception that TFL's primary focus centres around buses and their routes instead of those residents that are directly affected with the ongoing works as they have no form of involvement or contribution prior to and during the works. It was suggested that TFL should facilitate on site meetings with local people being invited to feed into the work programme.

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 9 March 2017

- In response to a question about the delay on the Gospel oak to Barking Line, Nick Fairholme advised that he was not directly involved and not aware of the present situation.
- Nick Fairholme agreed to update the Committee at a future meeting on the progress of works, the timeline for works around Highbury Corner and the proposed bus diversion routes when information is available.
- The Executive Member for Environment & Transport informed Members that the Council had been engaged throughout the period of disruption on Holloway Road, and that she had attended the public meeting between TFL and the public which had provided an opportunity for TFL to listen to residents concern. She also stated that having undertaken a site visit she saw the full extent of the issues and its complexity.

Members welcomed the news that no complaints were received from residents or businesses of any loss to the service provided by any of the utilities.

The chair thanked Nick Fairholme and Daniel Hall for attending.

It was RESOLVED that

1. The TFL Director of Programmes provide details to the Committee on the engineering works around Highbury Corner and in particular the proposed bus diversion routes that will put in place.

108 WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17 (Item 9)

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

CHAIR



ISLINGTON

Executive Member for Environment and Transport - Performance Presentation

E&R Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2017

Fuel Poverty

- Over 700 households a year receiving ‘Energy Doctor in the Home’ small measures and advice
- More than 50 high-risk households have received substantial energy efficiency packages through ‘Warmth on Prescription’
- Bulk-referrals to the annual Warm Home Discount, with over 4,700 households signed up since Nov 2013, bringing up to £1.1m into the Borough. Large numbers signed up to water social tariff as well
- Delivering a successful partnership with Robin Hood Energy to encourage switching to lower tariffs and smart meters

Seasonal Health Interventions Network - SHINE

- Across 2016, 2,399 vulnerable residents referred, each being offered an average of four to five interventions



SHINE (continued)...

- In January 2017, SHINE expanded to all of London with EDF funding. Hopeful for GLA backing as well.

Energy Services

- Work ongoing on Bunhill Heat and Power (phase 2) which will supply a further 500+ Council homes and the new Moreland school using waste heat from London Underground
- Installation of PV panels on Council buildings saving ~£75k a year, and programme switching to LED lighting a further ~£120 a year
- Islington is a successful partner in THERMOS: an EU funded project to create free decentralised energy tools for LA's across Europe



Air Quality

- Local Air Quality has a significant impact on health inequalities, particularly the large numbers of deaths at relatively young ages. Most heavily polluted areas in Islington are also the most deprived wards
- Reducing resident exposure – Air Text notifications (inc. at bus stops), encouraging lower risk travel routes, and use of public transport
- Launch of Archway ‘Zero Emissions Network’ with increased air quality monitoring
- Working with Mayor on ‘Ultra Low Emissions Zone’, alongside calling for a diesel-free London
- Anti-idling campaign at key Borough hotspots, including working with local volunteers and backed up by enforcement.



Strategic Transport

- Transformation of four dangerous junctions: Archway completes this June, Old Street and Highbury Corner both planned to commence summer 2018, and Kings Cross due next consultation in 2018
- Holloway Road re-opened in January, and works on Upper Holloway Station are ongoing with more closures expected before full electrification of the line in 2018, including Crouch Hill bridge
- Caledonian Road station lift replacement works to complete end of July, station having remained open throughout after Council lobbying
- Works underway to make Finsbury Park station step free by 2018 and deliver a new station entrance in 2019
- Further consultation on Crossrail 2 planned for late 2017



Strategic Transport (continued)...

- Islington's first cycle Quietway is almost complete
- TfL to begin construction of cycle North-South Superhighway in the Autumn, with TfL funding available for the Council to continue its cycle improvement programme to 2021/2
- Major public realm improvements planned for Central Street and Clerkenwell Green, with design work taking place in 2017 and delivery in 2018
- Over the next 12 months, we will increase the number of EVCP's (Electric Vehicle Charging Points) from 10 to more than 100 bays



Waste and Recycling

- Along with all other NLWA boroughs, Islington's published recycling rate fell 14/15 to 15/16, locally from 32.8% to 29.4%
- Technical issues with the above figure are still being resolved but of the 12 Inner-London Boroughs, our rate still remains the third highest
- The common factor in reduced recycling rates is tighter industry-wide contamination tolerances
- Very challenging 16/17 NLWA recycling target for Islington of 35.2% on a trajectory to 50% by 2020. First six months of 16/17 at 31.3%
- Commenced implementation of the 'village principal' with new doorstep collection dates for rubbish and recycling for half the borough towards improving efficiency through neighbourhood working



SES Cleansing Operational Performance

- Developments to improve street cleaning include new vehicles and mechanical sweepers, as well as in-cab devices and improved back office digital systems. Mobile phones for front-line staff
- So far across 16/17, 93% of fly-tips have been removed within 24 hours of being reported, up from 90% in 15/16
- Success of 'Clean Islington' smartphone app using GPS location technology – reports almost doubled this year compared to last
- Powers adopted by the Council to tackle abandoned shopping trolleys, with nearly 200 removed (and companies invoiced) so far



Parks and Cemeteries

- Representing London in 'Britain in Bloom' this year
- User satisfaction with in-house Grounds Maintenance service up from 93% last year now to 96%, and brought the Cemetery Grounds Maintenance service in-house
- Improvements completed to Compton Park and Seward Street play-space – construction underway for improvements to Archway Park
- Secured £1.8m Lottery funding for Caledonian Park Clocktower project
- Major projects to extend East Finchley Vaults and Mausolea, and increase burial capacity at Trent Park



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Report of: **Corporate Director for Environment and Regeneration**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	25 April 2017	B2	All

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SUBJECT: Report back on community energy scrutiny

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee report on Community Energy was agreed on 1 February 2016 and received by the Executive on 21 April 2016. The scrutiny committee's recommendations are directed towards several council services and this report summarises progress against these recommendations.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress against the recommendations made by the committee as of April 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1 Between October 2014 and January 2016, the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee explored the concept of community energy within Islington, the existing policies and strategies to encourage it and the opportunities for the council to provide assistance, support to both residents and local groups.
- 3.2 Community energy is defined by the government's Community Energy Strategy as "community projects or initiatives focussed on the four strands of reducing energy use, managing energy better, generating energy or purchasing energy." Whilst the UK government has tended to make a clear distinction between community and municipal energy this distinction is typically not viewed as important in comparable countries such as Germany or Canada.
- 3.3 Since the start of the scrutiny, the UK government made a number of significant changes which have greatly reduced the likelihood of community groups undertaking community energy projects. These include changes to project financing such as:

1. Reducing payments for generation Feed in Tariffs by two-thirds
2. Removing or reducing three tax allowances:
 - a. Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) allowances
 - b. Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme (SEIS) tax relief
 - c. Social Investment Tax Relief (SITR)

Although it will not have a large bearing on Islington, the government also changed the rules to make the installation of wind turbines harder. All the above led to the financial and regulatory climate for community energy becoming rather unsupportive.

The scrutiny committee concluded that there were various different things that the council could do to both promote and support community energy, co-ordinate action by various groups, and help offer a gateway for communities to participate in community energy projects. The committee's recommendations cover general information provision, co-ordination within the council, and specific schemes.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

Some recommendations suggest that tasks are undertaken would require either procuring the services of an organisation or employing staff directly to undertake functions. Estimates remain that up to £120k would be required to fully fulfil these recommendations and work on identifying possible sources of funding will continue.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The report on the progress on the recommendations as set out in Appendix A does not have any specific legal implications.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

None identified. Energy efficiency interventions reduce carbon emissions.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

There are no additional resident impacts.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The committee is invited to note progress against its recommendations.

Appendices

Appendix A: The Committee's Recommendations and Progress

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Kevin O'Leary
Corporate Director for Environment &
Regeneration

Date 13 April 2017

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author:

John Kolm-Murray

Tel:

020 7527 3800

Email:

John.kolm-murray@islington.gov.uk

APPENDIX A: THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRESS

RECOMMENDATION 1: That the council continues to apply for any available funding to undertake energy efficiency measures in the borough

PROGRESS – The Council consistently scans and reviews all available sources of external funding to make appropriate funding bids to undertake energy efficiency measures in the borough. Funds are being pursued to deliver on Phase 2 of Bunhill and the service is working with partners across Europe on the THERMOS project, aiming to accelerate the development of low carbon district energy across the EU. The service has received funding to explore the feasibility of using heat from the City Road Basin of the Regent's Canal. The local carbon offset scheme, approved by the Executive in September 2016, is also being utilised to deliver a number of programmes such as the extensive high rise insulation programme scheduled to commence in 2017 and Islington's Warmth on Prescription health and fuel poverty programme.

In April 2017, the new phase of the Energy Company Obligation began and for the first-time local authorities will have a formal role in certifying eligibility for heating and insulation funding. The Council intends to fully participate in this.

RECOMMENDATION 2: That more information on community energy could be provided to councillors, staff and tenants' and residents' associations so they could provide residents with information.

PROGRESS – Information on community energy has been published on our Energy Advice site (www.energyadvice.islington.gov.uk) and factsheets are being developed. The Council via its internal Affordable Energy Board is producing a Community Energy Plan for Islington, which will develop a more detailed communications proposal.

RECOMMENDATION 3: That work take place to ensure there was a joined-up approach between different departments dealing with energy issues for residents.

PROGRESS – The Affordable Energy Board is chaired by the Executive Member for Environment & Transport and among its membership also includes the Executive Member for Housing & Development and senior officers across Environment & Regeneration, Housing and including senior officers from finance, legal, communications and media. The board seeks to provide a joined-up approach across the council to energy issues. Officers across the council regularly co-operate in the delivery of programmes such as those for decentralised energy, insulation and SHINE.

In December 2016 the Council launched an overarching energy brand for the Council's various work around energy. After working with residents and others, 'On Energy' has been developed as the brand the Council will use to cover and bring together all its various energy activities, whether from helping residents to save money on their energy bills or providing expert advice to others or to pioneering projects like the Bunhill Energy Centre. This will be used on all information pertaining to the council's energy projects, on all communication to residents specifically about energy matters and on all external reports and presentations carried out by elected members and officers.

Also in December 2016, the an organisational restructure brought together teams that had previously sat separately across two divisions into a unified Islington Energy Service in Public Realm. This has strengthened the service and provided clearer shared purpose.

RECOMMENDATION 4: That the council should look to provide a retail offering to residents, however the committee did not feel the council currently has the expertise in-house, and therefore should undertake initial discussions with 'White Label' providers who could run the back-office elements of the Islington offering.

PROGRESS – In November 2016 the Executive agreed to enter a strategic partnership with Robin Hood Energy under an Islington-owned brand for the marketing of gas and electricity at agreed tariffs to Islington residents. This is anticipated to launch in advance of the peak autumn supplier switching season.

RECOMMENDATION 5: That any final decision of provider should be based against, council control of tariffs, which should include a green tariff, a resident focussed debt process, and the long term economic sustainability of the company.

PROGRESS – The council took into account a range of factors when negotiating with potential partners and we believe that Robin Hood Energy offer a good deal. Whilst we cannot impose any control over tariffs we are insisting on a competitiveness clause in our agreement with the company. We will work with Robin Hood Energy to ensure that any vulnerable or indebted Islington customers are offered support from our own Energy Advice Service, who have an excellent track record in negotiating debt relief. Robin Hood Energy do not currently offer a green tariff. They have recently taken on a large number of customers due to taking over supply to the white label company Ebico from SSE so are steadily becoming a more significant player.

RECOMMENDATION 6: That any retail offering should be looked at holistically, with residents encouraged to switch tariffs, but also include the installation of smart meters, energy efficiency measures, and where possible, community energy generation. This would be more cost-effective, save residents more money, and should be done on street by street, estate by estate basis.

PROGRESS – The new white label tariff will be promoted to residents through all appropriate means, including through all Council Services. A well prepared communication and marketing plan is being developed to enable engagement street by street, estate by estate. Everyone switching to the new white label offer will be offered a 'smart meter' as standard and promotion materials will be developed to encourage the take up of energy efficiency measures. However, smart meters will be promoted to prepayment meter customers in particular as a more convenient means of both paying for energy and keeping track of it use. Prepayment meter users will be able to top up online or by phone as well as using existing PayPoints.

Our approach to community energy will be outlined in the Islington Community Energy Plan (see below)

RECOMMENDATION 7: That the council should do more to encourage community energy and that consideration be given to working with an organisation such as Repowering London to provide a community energy scheme in Islington, or in-house capacity be found to help schemes get off the ground.

PROGRESS – Informal discussions on solar panels took place with Repowering London and the council has looked into providing such a service in-house, although the general uncertainties and recent changes to the financing of community energy projects had a detrimental effect on the number of communities looking to set up community generation projects. Whilst we have engaged with a local community energy group in N7 and Powering Up North London It is currently considered unlikely that there will be significant expressions of interest from community groups or TMOs without the council largely funding any projects and providing buildings or land. The Affordable Energy Board will develop a Community Energy Plan in 2017 and consider potential sources of funding such as the local carbon offset fund however additional resource will be required to deliver an ambitious community energy strategy.



Report of: Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	25 April 2017		All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Report: Quarter 3 Performance Report – Environment

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Each year the Council agrees a set of performance indicators and targets which help us to monitor progress in delivering corporate priorities and working towards our goal of making Islington a fairer place to live and work.
- 1.2 Progress is reported on a quarterly basis through the Council's Scrutiny function to challenge performance where necessary and to ensure accountability to residents.
- 1.3 This report sets out a progress update for those indicators related to Environment and Transport over the first three quarters of 2016-17.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress to the end of Quarter 3 against key performance indicators falling within the remit of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council routinely monitors a wide range of performance measures to ensure that the services it delivers are effective, respond to the needs of residents and offer good quality and value for money.
- 3.2 This year, rather than Policy & Performance Scrutiny Committee (PPS) scrutinising all quarterly performance reporting, a new approach was agreed whereby each of the four theme based scrutiny will be responsible for monitoring performance in their own areas.

4. Quarter 3 update on Environment performance

Objective	PI No	Indicator	Frequency	Q3 Actual Apr-Dec	Q3 Target Apr-Dec	Target 2016-17	On/Off target	Same period last year	Better than last year?
<i>Effective disposal of waste and recycling</i>	ER1	Percentage of household waste recycled and composted	M	31.3% (Q1+Q2)	35.2%	35.2%	off	29.4% (15/16)	yes
	ER2	Number of missed waste collections - domestic and commercial (per calendar month)	M	475 (average Q1 - Q3)	450	450	off	417	no
	ER6	Number of reported flytips (all land types)	M	267 (average Q1 - Q3)	n/a	To be set for 17/18	n/a	361	yes
<i>Deal promptly with planning applications</i>	ER3	a) Percentage of planning applications determined within 13 weeks or agreed time (majors)	M	100% (Q3)	85%	85%	on	86.0%	yes
		b) Percentage of planning applications determined within the target (minors)	M	87.7% (Q3)	84%	84%	on	80.0%	yes
		c) Percentage of planning applications determined within the target (others)	M	89.4% (Q3)	85%	85%	on	86.0%	yes
<i>Promote and increase use of libraries and leisure centres</i>	ER4	Number of leisure visits	Q	1,749k (Q1-Q3)	1,576k	2,145k	on	1,690k	yes
<i>Tackle fuel poverty</i>	ER6	Residents' energy cost savings (annualised)	Q	£277k	£171k	£223.5k	on	£266k	yes

Effective disposal of waste and recycling

- 4.1 Audited quarterly **recycling rate** data from Waste Data Flow come in around three months after the end of the quarter. Q2 came in at 31.2%, very consistent with Q1's 31.4%. This level of performance is roughly midway between that for 14/15 (32.8%) and that for published for 15/16 (29.4%), showing some signs of recovery, though still well behind the ambitious NLWA target.
- 4.2 The published recycling rates of all NLWA boroughs dropped in 15/16, and this is mainly attributed to tighter industry-wide regulatory controls around contamination levels. Even for 15/16, Islington's rate remains the third highest of the twelve Inner-London Boroughs. London-wide, at least nine borough's rates have shown a consistent year-on-year decline over the last four years, and only two boroughs have shown a consistent year-on-year increase over the same period (Southwark and Hillingdon). In that context, in showing only one annual drop over the 2012-2016 period, Islington is still performing well in benchmarking terms overall.
- 4.3 At the midpoint of the year, average **residual (non-recycled) waste per household** is projecting at 396kg (in 15/16 it was 412kg), exceeding the NLWA target of 413kg. Residual household waste generated per household is the second lowest (best) in London and remains the lowest of all the NLWA constituent Boroughs.

- 4.4 **Waste collections** throughout the year have been under pressure due to the ongoing vehicle availability and reliability issues of an ageing fleet. Monthly missed collections averaged 441 in Q1, 555 in Q2 and 429 in Q3, with the month of January at 373. The average total number of collections each month is 2.08 million, so as at month 10, the year to date level of reported misses is around 0.023%, or around one in every five thousand. New vehicles are now on order and scheduled to arrive from May, supporting further improvement longer term.
- 4.5 In early February, the doorstep waste and recycling collection days and times changed for more than 50,000 households (almost half the borough), and this produced a considerable spike in reported missed collections, particularly mid-month. The overall February figure was 1686. The service has been working hard to minimise and resolve the disruption to services as the changes bed-in, and a fuller account will be given in the next report.
- 4.6 At the last E&R Scrutiny Committee, Members asked for a **dumping/fly-tipping indicator**, and this is added as a monthly measure in ER6 above. This is the total number of reported fly-tips across all land types and waste types, and the monthly average to month 9 of 16/17 shows an improvement on the figure for the same period last year of 26%.

Deal promptly and effectively with planning applications

- 4.7 **Planning applications** performance remains strong and stable, above both target and performance in the same Q3 period last year, in all three categories. In benchmarking terms for the last quarter for which data has been published (Q2 16/17), the Council's performance is in the top quartile of all London Borough's across all three categories, very possibly the first time this has ever happened and a real achievement for the service.

Promote and increase use of public facilities

- 4.8 **Leisure visits** continue to strengthen with Quarters 1-3 up a further sixty thousand or 3.5% on the same period last year and well ahead of the year- to-date contractual target. This is despite Archway having been closed for works, and having a reduced service at Highbury.
- 4.9 Sports usage remains particularly strong, and amongst target groups, visits from people with disabilities and over-60's overall remaining above target and strengthening. Percentage of online booking is also improving and the trend on numbers of complaints and accidents/incidents is downward

Resident's energy cost savings

- 4.10 The Quarters 1-3 **annualised estimated energy cost savings** for residents is already 24% ahead of the annual 16/17 target at nearly £280k. This performance indicator is an aggregated measure of savings achieved by residents through Warm Home Discount, Debt Relief and Energy Doctor (EDTH) visits with both the former two categories performing strongly.

Report author:

Name: Steve Wills

Job Title: Performance and Business Officer, Environment and Regeneration

Tel: 020 7527 2613

E-mail: Stephen.wills@islington.gov.uk

Final Report Clearance

Signed



13 April 2017

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Date

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Executive Member for Environment and Transport

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