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NORTH LONDON HEAT AND POWER PROJECT: PRESENTATION FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY
(Item B1)

Public Deputation

Ben Griffith made a public deputation, stating that the council should rethink the new North London Waste Authority's new Incinerator. Ben Griffith asked members to rethink the incinerator based on cost, how it affects the Council's stance on the climate emergency and the perceived use of a new incinerator.

The Chair thanked Ben Griffith for the Public Deputation and welcomed Members to raise issues and ask questions.

On the importance of reducing overall waste, Ben agreed that overall waste had flat lined and that investment should be placed in waste sorting facilities. The Council should play a larger role in working with business to reduce waste, particularly plastic.

Martin Capstick of North London Waste Authority was present for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

- The overall goal of the North London Waste Authority is, for the seven local authorities that are members, for waste reduction and a range of recycling initiatives. However, The Energy Recovery Facility is a part of the overall goal and is in line with the climate emergency.
- The Energy Recovery Facility is a public sector project, and the project will have the cleanest emissions of any site in the UK, including 19 out of the 20 that have been recently approved.
- Waste forecasting is difficult and there are a lot of uncertainties, but the Energy Recovery Facility has the flexibility to deal with a range of future outcomes that can happen in North London.

The Chair thanked Martin Capstick for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions.

On the recycling rate, more system changes from government need to be realised, and while actions on the micro level can be actioned by local government and communities, on the macro level, more needs to be done so waste can be recycled fully. Like ensure packaging is created with recycling in mind, rather than expecting the end process to have to deal with unrecyclable packaging. While North London Waste Authority is a larger authority than most, and can recycle more, if the product is not created to be recycled, it makes it harder to hit the 50% recycling rate

On the increase of waste since 2011, there is a relationship between waste and the economy. After the financial crash waste recycling has seen an increase, more than projected. However, authorities have also not recycled nor correctly dealt with waste on the scale that has been forecast.

On capacity increases since 2015/17, over £150m has been spent on new facilities to deal with increases in capacity, but members of the waste authority will see a report that shows how waste volumes have been met, but currently the GLA is predicting that despite COVID-

19, London's population is still set to grow and more needs to be done to understand that impact.

On the government waste review, the last time there was a waste review was in 2013 and it did not look at individual facilities, but the total national waste capacity, and concluded it would not exceed the landfill directive. But we are currently waiting for Defra to release more on individual capacity in 2022.

On carbon capture and emissions, the government has moved very quickly on changing the landscape on carbon capture and storage within the last nine months, we have seen the timeline moved from 2050 to 2040 as a goal. The government will be announcing soon on what will be eligible for being part of carbon clusters, but these are fast moving developments. However, work is being done on the district heat network to get more positive results from our emissions, this could cover between 10,000-50,000 homes.

On converting waste safely, when waste is converted to energy, there is potentially hazardous waste called bottom ash created, but other by-products can be used in industry like road building.

On timelines, Islington's carbon neutral target date is 2030, but the UK Parliament Environment and Climate Change Committee has discussed 2040 as a Government target recently for carbon capture and storage, but it would not be possible today to suggest what timeline locally we would see this happen.

On the ARUP report, the North London Waste Authority is very passionate about waste reduction, with the current program seeing a reduction of 10,000 tons of waste per year. This will be through engagement with communities and prompting food waste schemes, and re-use initiatives.

On Western Riverside Waste Authority, it is cheaper for an authority to recycle than it is to dispose of waste. Our members have consistently made the case for doing the right thing with waste and costing more, than doing the easy thing and save money. But the economic case is still very clear, that recycling is financially important for the authority to continue.

On internal and external confirming of capacity, the development consent order was a thorough piece of work and was placed both with the inspector but also with the public. Since then, four years later, an update has found the tonnage is still well within the limits that were projected.

On the priority of how waste is dealt with, on the site, there is a planned resource recovery facility that will collect and store bulk waste. This facility will give the flexibility on what can be done with the waste.

On the commitment to the council's 2030 carbon neutral pledge, right now there is not a zero carbon approach to waste. But energy recovery is better than waste sold to landfill in developing countries. The energy recovery facility is better than over 100,000 cars off the road in terms of carbon, per year. The best way to make the use out of the carbon, is to ensure it goes to heating homes and reducing the need for fossil fuels.

On third party waste collections, some local authorities will collect some third party waste as part of their business collections, but the energy recovery facility is not for third party use, which is around 500,000 tonnes per year of commercial waste.

On engagement with local authorities, there have been a lot of meetings between the waste authority and its members over the last year, where many of the issues tonight have been asked about.

On the highest possible rate of recycling in the capital, the Mayor of London set a target of 50%, but there is currently a pathway of only 42%. The target is aspirational and is continually being worked on to get to 50%.

On lobbying the government on plastics, there has been a clear effort to take part in the government discussion on waste. For example, the waste authority has taken part in the consultation on single use plastic.

On contamination of recycling, public misunderstanding around recycling is what drives contamination. Usually with the best intentions, as something a resident feel an item should be recyclable, so place it in a recycling bag, as this might get dealt with in a green way, but really this will lead to contamination of the bag. But currently the waste facility will process more bags with contamination than ever before, currently working to around 15% of contamination.

On spare capacity for commercial waste, working with waste collecting companies is subject to members of the waste authority agreement. It will be up to members on how we deal with commercial waste generated in North London.

On phasing out incineration as part of the strategy, the waste authority is passionate about following the waste hierarchy and phasing out incineration would be the eventual outcome in the future.

Members noted that our waste recycling rate appears to be stuck at around 30% and suggested that the council consider new options for increasing the recycling rate including technological and social solutions.

The chair invited the North London Waste Authority to a future meeting of the committee, as the energy recovery facility project develops.

Further questions that the Chair and Vice Chair sent to Martin Capstick of the North London Waste Authority can be found in the **Appendix A** at the end of the minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted

515 GLL - LEISURE RECOVERY (Item B2)

Tyron Fuller - Partnership Manager - GLL was present, together with Andrew Bedford Head of Greenspace & Leisure for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

Partnership support: Working in partnership with Islington throughout this pandemic has been key to our continued recovery. The support has been unprecedented, respected and appreciated. For example The Sobell Leisure Centre being a Covid-19 testing centre.

Being Covid Secure: Specifically within Islington centres and products have reopened with supportive sign off from the LBI Leisure management team, EHO and Public Health. GLL's

Covid protocols have been chosen as best practice by the Cabinet Office. GLL highlighted as the face of England's COVID secure physical activity facilities. GLL represent the leisure sector on the Cabinet Office Website.

Covid Secure- Challenges:

1. Customer Journeys
2. Programming
3. Restricted capacities
4. Environmental
5. New Covid Secure Measures and Requirements
6. Colleague Management
7. Customer Confidence

Better Business: Monthly tracking is live to compare business return vs 2019. Usage 77%. Membership Base 77%. Swim School 88%. Full data and information is shared and reported to LBI monthly highlighting strong performance areas and risk areas.

Better Service- Call Centre: As of the 9th September a local call centre for Islington customers was live and hosted from Ironmonger Row Baths. This will support the incoming call volume to GLL whilst our larger central systems are mobilised. This will ensure that our customers are having an improved customer experience and we are dealing with enquires effectively. Also please note that all centre mailboxes have been returned directly to centre based management teams.

Better Service- Capital 2021: Capital Works Programme, £11.5m contract to date. Further £2.45m scheduled for rest of contract period. Full pitch Replacement of Market Road completed. Sobell LC gym development signed off.

Better Communities: Community Development Team is fully mobilised within Islington. Team includes Community Sports Manager, Community Sports Officer, Aquatics Development Manager, Football Development Manager and Football Development Officer. Monthly Reports with key work streams with outputs are shared monthly with LBI colleagues

Key work streams included but not limited to;

1. Targeting Inactive groups of the community
2. Development of programmes and products
3. Working with community groups and schools to provide opportunities to participate in activities
4. Supporting Schools and Colleges with Work Experience Opportunities
5. Seeking Funding opportunities
6. Creating employment opportunities and training for Islington Residents

The Chair thanked Tyrone Fuller for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions.

On disabled staffing, while it is only a small number of staff who identify as disabled who work for GLL in Islington, we will be working closer with Islington Recruits Team, who will be able to shortlist candidates who will be guaranteed an interview. Work experience opportunities will be offered as well to those who want to find out more. Action- Officers to feedback on the apprenticeship scheme.

On community access to the trampoline park, currently the offer is once per term, but the hope is to create a legacy arrangement and allow for more schools and youth groups to have access as it builds. The centre is more set up for leisure trampolining and the other side of the hall at the Sobell Centre is used for classes and some training. It does take up space for other sports like badminton, however, there are other sports halls at the Sobell Centre.

On the digital experience, a new app has been launched during the first lockdown in 2020. There has been some teething problems, but there has been an ICT update from using Legend to a system built for GLL called Flow.

On disability access to swimming, as lockdown measures eased, allowing school swimming sessions became a programming priority but still a balance was sought, which meant if one centre was being used for school swimming classes, another centre would be free for open swimming. Some residents did not want to or could travel to other centres, which was a problem.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted

516

MAJOR SCRUTINY REVIEW: NET ZERO CARBON PROGRAMME - WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY (Item B3)

Matthew Homer, Street Scene Strategy Manager was present, together with Keith Townsend, Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration, for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

Scope: Islington's Waste Reduction and Recycling Action Plan, including the draft Circular Economy Action Plan update.

The Challenge – Why is this important: In June 2019 the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, which commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Reducing waste and recycling and moving towards a more circular economy is a key part of achieving this.

- 60,000 tonnes household waste per annum
- 31% is recycled, composted or reused

Vision 2030 – Scope 1 and 2 emissions, 680,000 tCO₂e each year Total Islington related emissions ~ 2 million tCO₂e each year.

Net zero carbon target for Islington does not include emissions outside Islington related to the production and disposal of goods and food consumed in the borough. These are emissions that we – the council, residents and businesses – still have control over through our consumption.

As well as reducing waste and increasing recycling, we need a focus on reducing emissions arising outside of Islington, as a direct result of our own consumption and behaviour.

Our objectives:

1. Reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging.

2. Maximise recycling rates.
3. Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants).
4. Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.

Deliverables:

Objective 1: Reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging

Key priorities:

- Take action to reduce single use plastic
- Take action to reduce food waste
- Increase reuse • Deliver waste minimisation and recycling communications campaigns
- Develop a Circular Economy Action Plan

Objective 2: Maximise recycling rates

Key priorities:

- Household recycling target of 33% by 2022 and 36% by 2025
- Expand food waste collections to all remaining purpose-built blocks of flats and trial the service for flats above shops
- Improve service standards for recycling container deliveries and make recycling sacks easier to access
- Develop a new business waste recycling plan

Objective 3: Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities

Key priorities:

- Comply with the ULEZ and transition the recycling and waste fleet to low/zero emission vehicles

Objective 4: Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

Key priorities:

- London to manage net 100% of all the waste it produces by 2026

Circular Economy Action Plan Draft

- An alternative to a linear 'take, make, dispose' economy, based on three principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature
- Targets consumption based 'scope 3' emissions.
- Supports Vision 2030 objectives

Interventions at various points in the cycle for example:

1. Procurement strategy – drive out waste from procured goods
2. Home design guide – design homes to minimise impact
3. Library of Things & Dress for Success – reuse consumer goods
4. Repair Cafes – repair consumer goods
5. Recycle – locally and into new products
6. Recover – EfW

The Chair thanked Matthew Homer for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions. On what the plans are for regeneration of recycling in the community, the recycling rate throughout the Covid-19 remained steady, but better communication around the services that the council offers, like the borrowing of DIY tools. The re-use work should start seeing more engagement as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

On the cost of the remaining 5% of waste fleet to achieve ULEZ compliance, depending on the vehicle it can cost up to £500 per day. There has been a delay due to Covid-19, but a lot of work is being done to get the vehicles finished on schedule.

On food waste reduction, there are a lot of officers across the council that are really engaged with food waste, but the challenge is reaching out to members of the community that are not engaging in food waste collections. The informal working group will be covering food waste in the next meeting on 13 January 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted

517

NET ZERO CARBON PROGRESS REPORT (QUARTER 2) (Item B4)

Tamsin Fisher, Net Zero Carbon Strategic Business Manager was present, together with Keith Townsend, Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration, for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

Islington Climate Festival launched across council channels – over 100 events in total with the Gazette on board as media partner. Jason Torrance of UK 100, David Harrison of Living Streets and Jeremy Corbyn MP spoke at launch event on the 18th of October.

Community Municipal Investment (CMI) launched on the 29th of October, the final day of the 'Islington Together: Let's talk about a greener future' festival.

We have implemented the switch to renewable sources for 100% of electricity being used across our corporate buildings.

Developed social value guidance in draft form to include integrating net zero objectives into the awarding of all contracts.

Tree Mitigation Strategy and associated design guidance complete. Still in process of introducing firm targets for offsetting loss of carbon sequestration from trees on our development sites which is subject to internal consultation. Process for strategy governance and adoption still unclear. Revised due date due to work to analyse associated costs still to be undertaken, and strategy has taken on a potentially wider adoption for other council departments. Work and research to extend our strategy to include the public realm is underway

UCL Phase 1 roadmap towards NZC for existing council stock now complete. Criteria for first stage of Phase 2 agreed and wider UCL project group schedule to meet to start work on this stage. Phase 2 will include completing feasibility studies for minimising carbon footprint of our larger housing estates.

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The seven Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) have been introduced as trials with first consultation, on St. Peter's LTN, finished, and consultations on Canonbury East and Clerkenwell Green LTNs underway

GreenSCIES is delayed but we are building team capacity by recruiting a Project Manager to bring this back on track to meet the Mar 22 timescale.

Established the governance model and working groups as lead authority on the Renewable Power for London programme. Groups now mobilised and working towards developing the twoyear action plans in line with the December 2021 programme deadline set by London Councils.

Urban Tree Challenge funding bid complete, and now awaiting result. Tree planting season underway, 600+ trees reserved (target was 430). The online donation process set up but was paused while working in partnership with Islington Clean Air Parents on the Forest for Change donation process in (raised over £23k). Anticipate resuming online donation process and running a test in December.

Energy Hub and Portal is making good progress, with content now well developed. On track to launch in December 2021.

The Chair thanked Tamsin Fisher for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions.

On the ventilation in wall cladding, the condensation work is running in parallel with fire safety workstreams in the external walls in the Harvist Estate. Action- Officers to get back to members on ventilation.

On the next phase in UCL, housing colleagues have broken down a potential program so the Council can priorities the work to retrofit for minimising the carbon footprint of our larger housing estates. Work will need to be done with Government departments to ensure that the Council can fund these works.

On the work the Council is doing with partners on Net Zero Carbon, the council is part of seven Cross London programs on various elements of Net Zero Carbon. Islington is leading on renewable power of London, which is being done with London Boroughs and the GLA. The action plan is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted

518

Q2 PERFORMANCE REPORT (2021/22) - ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT **(Item B5)**

Councillor Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport was present, together with Keith Townsend, Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

Audited quarterly recycling rate data from Waste Data Flow comes in around three months after the end of the quarter with Q1's figure of 30.9% being just marginally down on the 20/21 outturn of 31.3% and against the higher 21/22 target of 32%.

The corresponding 'residual (non-recycled) waste per household' figure is 392kg though it is still too early in the year to extrapolate to any proper comparison with last year's record low figure of 348.5kg.

We don't yet have 20/21 benchmarking data but overall, Islington's 19/20 recycling rate of 29.6% placed us 4th out of all 13 inner London Boroughs and our residual waste rate was then the second lowest of all 33 inner and outer London Boroughs. Part of the recent improvement is down to improved processes in place for sorting and accounting for contaminated recycling, though achieving the 21/22 target of 32% will be a challenge.

The Chair thanked Councillor Rowena Champion for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions.

On the measures of residents killed or seriously injured on Islington roads, Covid-19 was a part of the reason there were fewer deaths or incidents on the roads. However, while we would like this figure to remain as low as lockdown measures ease, we must put more effort into cycle lanes and low traffic neighbourhoods to ensure safety is kept high.

On street cleanliness, while there has not been a drastic change in the street cleaning provision, a longer autumn season has not helped. The Council took on more contract staff support to street cleaning. The sickness of staff during the heights of Covid-19 and annual leave being allowed to be rolled over in greater number last year, the service has done its best to ensure that street cleaning is still happening, on a five day service.

On working with landlords to ensure their tenants are being informed of Islington refuse collection, the private sector landlord licensing scheme will have provision in it to ensure landlords are aware of their role in ensuring refuse collection happens in their properties.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

519 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT (2021/22)- EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS (Item B6)

Councillor Asima Shaikh, Executive Member Inclusive Jobs and Economy was present, for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

Performance has been strong in Quarter 2 with 1106 unemployed Islington residents supported into paid employment exceeding the profiled target of 500 by 55% and the year-end target of 1000.

The Council's corporate plan 2018-22 set out an objective to 'Deliver an Inclusive Economy', supporting people into work helping them with the cost of living. As part of delivering this objective, the Council has set a target of supporting 4,000 residents into employment over a 4-year period. We have surpassed the target by 19% and at the end of September 2021 had successfully placed 4,764 residents into employment. To achieve the corporate commitment 6 months ahead of the expected term and despite the economic downturn due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic is an excellent achievement. This result reflects the embodiment of the Islington working partnership and joint working with partner organisations.

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There are now two affordable workspaces up and running, so far this year they have delivered £644,091 in social value outcomes comprising, Outlandish: £574,840 and Fashion Enter: £69,251. Collectively, the two workspaces have delivered £1.21m of social value since they opened in November 2019.

Council services and partners supported 185 parents of children aged 0-18 into employment in Quarter 2 exceeding the profiled target of 165 by 12%. Parental outcomes have improved, partly due to more engagement with parents as school commenced in September 2021. Results also reflect improved systems and processes to collect data on parental outcomes from partner organisations. Work is currently underway as a result of a recent review of barriers to parents returning to the workplace, including enhanced marketing of subsidised council childcare places and access to a childcare bursary. The council has committed to £120k investment in childcare bursaries in budget proposals for 2022-23. Parents are now eligible to apply for up to 8 weeks of childcare bursary when starting training or paid employment. The bursary covers 4 weeks deposit and the first 4 weeks fees.

By the end of Quarter 2, 127 residents were supported into jobs with a council contracted supplier. The iWork service have recruited an Employer Engagement officer dedicated to supporting recruitment into council contractors. The work of the new Supply Chain Practitioners Group, an internal officer group has raised awareness amongst commissioners of the importance of this, and we are beginning to see the impact.

Following scrutiny of the Q1 report and the under-performance reported, further examination of all council contracts revealed under-reporting in Q1. Therefore, by the end of Quarter 2, 19 Islington residents gained an apprenticeship with a council contracted supplier, of these:

- 16 were placed by iWork's construction team onto local construction sites subject to a section 106 agreement
- 1 was placed with the council's own New Build programme
- 2 other roles were reported to us by contractors- one being taken on by a social care contractor, the other by a grant funded provider

The Chair thanked Councillor Asima Shaikh for the presentation and welcomed members to raise issues and ask questions.

On digital exclusion, due to Covid-19 face to face outreach has obviously been less frequent. This is a shame due to the impact that it has in the community on getting residents signed up to online council services. Action- Officer to provide detail on disabled residents and digital exclusion.

On sharing best practice, when Better Space was launched, it was suggested that the Council will hold an event to share the best practice that has been learnt.

On unemployment concentration, a sector perspective is being taken when looking at unemployment. So far social care and construction have been looked at, with a meeting just been held on the fashion sector, with plans for the digital sector next. This has led to better partnership with employers in different sectors, which has seen some areas collapse due to Covid-19 but also some areas grow as priorities changed. Before Covid-19, a lot of community outreach was done with community groups. It was shown that residents may not approach the Council for support getting work, but they would approach a local youth

group or outreach group. But work can be done on a geographic approach to see which parts of the borough need greater support.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

520 WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022 (Item B7)

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted

The meeting ended at 22:42

CHAIR

Appendix A: Email to Martin Capstick on 3 December 2021

Please find below for follow up questions from members of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2021.

If you could provide responses for the following, I will pass these onto the members.

From Cllr Heather:

1. Part of the need for increased capacity is that North London Waste Authority has not achieved its 50% recycling target - why?
2. Non-recyclable waste is projected to increase (by NLWA) - why has there been an increase since 2011?
3. The original plan for the facility was in 2013-15 and approval for it was given in 2017, have there been any material changes that might affect the increase in capacity being proposed now?
4. There is a government review of waste - will this be taken into account in the final design and construction of the facility?
5. My understanding is that there will be no carbon capture facility available until the 2030s. And the CC facility may be delayed until 2050. Is this the case? And also what mitigation of emissions from the facility will be taken in the intervening period, i.e. up until the 2030s or 2050?

Also of interest in relation to above is the letter yesterday from Haringey Council to the NLWA, calling for a pause and review of the ERF project, which I have attached for your information.

From Cllr Clarke:

1. Does NLWA have reducing waste, increasing recycling, increasing reuse and the eventual phasing out of incineration at the heart of its strategy? Is this the direction of travel?
2. It is important that if the contract is signed on 16th December that the publicly owned, publicly funded NLHPP at Edmonton will be publicly accountable and subject to scrutiny and performance reviews. Will NLWA come back to the E+R committee in 6months?
3. Are the NLWA going to use any spare capacity to burn non local authority commercial waste?