

**Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD**

**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 Islington Town Hall, Upper St, N1 2UD on **17 October 2023 at 7.30 pm.**

Enquiries to : Emma Taylor
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Despatched : 9 October 2023

Membership

Councillor Tricia Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Clare Jeapes (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Mick Gilgunn
Councillor Ruth Hayes
Councillor Claire Zammit
Councillor Angelo Weekes
Councillor Caroline Russell

Substitute Members

Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong
Councillor Praful Nargund
Councillor Jason Jackson
Councillor Toby North
Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Heather Staff
Councillor Flora Williamson

Quorum is 4 members of the 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 - 2
5. Chair's Report	
6. Order of Business	

7. Public Questions

For members of the public to ask questions relating to any subject on the meeting agenda under Procedure Rule 70.5. Alternatively, the Chair may opt to accept questions from the public during the discussion on each agenda item.

B. Items for Decision/Discussion	Pages
8. Scrutiny Initiation Document - Active Travel	3 - 6
9. Introduction to Active Travel from The Director of Climate Change and Transport	To Follow
10. Islington Pensioners Forum - Active Travel Evidence Session	
11. Scrutiny Report: Net Zero Carbon Review 2022-23	7 - 26
12. Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs - Annual Report	27 - 110
13. Quarter 1 Performance Report (2023/24) - Libraries and Heritage	To Follow
14. Quarter 1 Performance Report (2023/24) - Environment & Transport	111 - 124
15. Workplan 2023/4 and Terms of Reference	125 - 130

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 23
November 2023

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

London Borough of Islington

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 12 September 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee held at on 12 September 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Clarke (Chair), Jeapes (Vice-Chair), Craig, Gilgunn, Hayes, Zammit, Weekes and Russell

Other: Councillor Champion

Councillor Tricia Clarke in the Chair

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

No Apologies for absence were received

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

No substitute members were declared

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

No declarations of interest were made

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

23 **CHAIR'S REPORT (Item 5)**

The Chair updated the committee, explaining there was to be an informal working group in October focusing on the inclusive economy and green jobs.

The Chair had also attended a London Scrutiny Event in July in which they raised the issues with Thames Water to deal with the large development with the Greater London Authority (GLA).

24 **ORDER OF BUSINESS (Item 6)**

The order of business was as per the Agenda.

25 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Item 7)**

Public questions were taken after each agenda item.

26 **SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT: ACTIVE TRAVEL 2023/24 (Item 8)**

Deferred.

27 **SCRUTINY REPORT: NET ZERO CARBON REVIEW 2022/23 (Item 9)**
Deferred.

28 **ANNUAL REPORT: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AND JOBS (Item 10)**
Deferred.

29 **Q1 PERFORMANCE REPORT (2023/24) - EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS (Item 11)**

The Committee noted The Executive members apologies. It was advised any questions arising could be submitted directly to the Executive Member for a written response.

RESOLVED:

That the report was noted.

30 **WORKPLAN 2023/24 (Item 12)**

The committee suggested inviting a Tree Officer to a future meeting to receive an update regarding the removal and planting of trees in the borough.

RESOLVED:

That the workplan 2023/24 was noted

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

CHAIR

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)
Title of review: Net Zero Carbon 2030 - Active Travel in Islington
Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Director leading the review: Martijn Cooijmans, Director of Climate Change and Transport
Lead officers: Eshwyn Prabhu, Head of Transport Strategy and Air Quality; David Shannon, Active Travel Team Leader
Overall aim of the review: <p>We all need safer, cleaner streets and at least 20 minutes a day of physical activity to keep healthy. Active travel is the most accessible way to do this - not just by walking and cycling, but also by taking journeys on public transport, since these will usually include periods of walking. Active travel is all about making journeys by physically active means such as walking, wheeling, running or cycling. More often than not these journeys are relatively short such as the school run, trips to local shops, cycling to local workplaces or to the train station where a commuting journey continues.</p> <p>The aim of this review is to consider how the council is working and can work to take the lead on supporting and enabling people to change to active travel, developing initiatives to widen the uptake of active travel and identifying ways to support residents and businesses to achieve both health benefits and financial resilience through active travel.</p>
Objectives of the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enabling active travel – the council’s programme of projects, initiatives and promotion of different forms of active travel (cycling, walking and wheeling) and making residents aware of the services available to them (e.g. cycle training schemes, working with schools and businesses, cargo bikes, assisted purchase of cycles, secure cycle parking, cycle hire schemes).▪ Inclusivity and disability – To consider equalities issues relating to active travel, and how the council can successfully challenge inequalities (such as physical and financial) in this area.▪ Health and wellbeing – an exploration of the contribution of active travel to physical and mental wellbeing.▪ Overcoming obstacles – a discussion of the key barriers to active travel and solutions available, including working with Transport for London to explore opportunities for joint working on active travel.
How does this review contribute to the Council’s priorities? <p>This review will contribute to the following priorities in the Islington Together 2023 Plan:</p> <p>Fairer Together: Everyone in Islington who needs extra help can access the right support for them at the right time and in the right place.</p> <p>Greener, Healthier Islington: Communities in Islington can access, and enjoy London’s greenest, cleanest, and healthiest neighbourhoods and are able to live healthy, fulfilling and independent lives.</p>

Scope of the review and evidence to be received:

The review will focus on...

1. Enabling Active Travel

- What is active travel?
- What services does the council provide to support active travel?
- How does the council enable active travel and what services are available to residents?

2. Health and wellbeing

- A focus on the positive contribution active travel can have on mental and physical health.
- Expert witnesses from the health sector to discuss benefits, and

3. Inclusivity and disability

- Council initiatives that enable active travel for disability groups.
- An examination of the services offered to broaden participation in active travel, with presentations from expert witnesses.
- The financial benefits of active travel.
- Are all communities able to access services equally, what information, advice and support is available to support them?

Q&A panel discussion to follow.

4. Overcoming obstacles

- Expert witnesses and personal testimony to outline the obstacles to active travel.

Q&A panel discussion to follow.

The Committee will receive the following evidence:

Meeting – 17 October 2023

- Introduction by Martijn Cooijmans, Director of Climate Change & Transport
- Discussion topic – Islington Pensioners Forum attending.

Meeting – 23 November 2023

- Discussion topic – Enabling active travel (Presentations from Ourbike, Living Streets)
- Discussion topic – Health and Wellbeing (Presentation from Islington Public Health)
- A Q&A panel of the experts to answer questions from the committee

Meeting – 25 January 2024

- Discussion topic – Inclusivity and disability (Presentation from Wheels for Wellbeing)
- Discussion topic – Overcoming obstacles (Presentations from Transport for London and Cycle Sisters)
- A Q&A panel of the experts to answer questions from the committee

Additionally, at a separate date to be agreed, the Active Travel Team will offer an in-person **showcase of the active travel programme's highlights**, eg Dr Bike, cycle skills training, bike hangar and parking for hire bikes site visits.

Questions for consideration by the committee:

- What comments does the committee have on how to best promote the health benefits of active travel?
- How can the council improve inclusivity and widen participation in the active travel programme it offers?
- What communities are there in the borough that the council could better connect with to access the active travel services and are there new initiatives that could be created to serve those communities?

Review timetable (list specific meeting dates if possible)

1. SID to be agreed: 17 October 2023
2. Witness evidence to be received: 17 October 2023 – 25 January 2024
3. Draft recommendations to be considered: 7 March 2024
4. Report to be approved: 13 June 2024
5. Report to be submitted to Executive: July 2024 (Date TBC)
6. Provisional date for Executive response: September 2024 (Date TBC)
7. Provisional date for 12-month update report back to the Committee: October 2024 (Date TBC)

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

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Scrutiny Review of Net Zero Carbon 2030 - Circular Economy and Green Jobs

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

London Borough of Islington

17 October 2023

FOREWORD

Islington Council declared a climate emergency on 27 June 2019, committing the council to working towards making Islington net zero carbon by 2030. Carbon emissions for Islington as a borough were 679,589 tonnes, representing a reduction of 42% since 2005 (BEIS – 2018). However, the council has direct control over only 4% of those carbon emissions, with indirect responsibility for another 5% as a landlord to c. 25,000 properties. A 10-year Net Zero Carbon Strategy, 'Vision 2030: Building a Net Zero Carbon Islington by 2030' was adopted by Executive in November 2020. Through this strategy, the council made a wide range of commitments focused on addressing the climate emergency.

However, the Council faces several challenges that present significant risks in responding to the climate emergency. According to climate risk modelling by Mayor of London and Bloomberg, Islington is amongst six boroughs at particularly high risk from the effects of climate change. Continued government austerity and limited funding, and a lack of supportive national policy, provides real challenges and threatens to undermine the progress made towards the Net Zero ambition.

The Government's main climate change policy document is the Net Zero Strategy (Build Back Greener) which was published on 19 October 2021 (updated April 2022). It set out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet the Government's net zero target by 2050. While this presents opportunities for innovation, it is vital that local services transform in a way that is resident-focused and best meets the needs of Islington's diverse communities. Services must be delivered in a way which not only reduces the environmental impact of the council's activities, but reduces inequalities, is focused on early intervention and prevention, and committed to regenerating the borough in a way that will benefit residents.

The Committee wished to review how the Council was taking the lead on encouraging sustainable development, developing policies to encourage sustainable economic development, and working to identify ways to support a circular economy in our borough with residents and businesses, to help achieve this goal.

The review sought to look at the five Rs: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair. In light of this, the Committee has agreed eight recommendations that seek to further develop the council's work in achieving the net zero carbon ambition.

Cllr Tricia Clarke
Chair of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aim:

To review how the Council is taking the lead on encouraging sustainable development, developing policies to encourage sustainable economic development, and working to identify ways to support a circular economy in our borough with residents and businesses, to help achieve this goal. The review will look at the five Rs, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair.

Evidence:

The Committee commenced the review in September 2022. The Council considered evidence from a number of witnesses, as follows:

- Evidence from Council Officers
 - Presentation on the Circular Economy Action Plan – Head of Net Zero Carbon Programme
 - Presentation on Green Economy and Planning – Director of Planning, and Director of Inclusive Economy and Jobs
 - Presentation on Council Housing and Buildings – Director of Housing Property Services
 - Presentation on the Natural Environment – Head of Greenspace and Leisure
 - Presentation on the Transport Workstream - Team Leader for Transport Planning
- Evidence from External speakers
 - Dr Daniel Evans – Urban Agriculture Project
 - Elaine Trimble – Cally Energy
 - Professor Linda Clarke – University of Westminster

Summary of Main Findings:

Over the course of the municipal year, the Committee heard evidence from a number of witnesses and council officers on the challenges facing the circular economy in Islington.

The Committee considered the Circular Economy Action Plan, scrutinising the plans to develop a local economy that eliminates waste and pollution, circulates products and materials, and regenerates nature. The Committee reviewed the emerging work to develop a local economy based around green jobs and considered how this would benefit the environment, local people, and local businesses by supporting new highly-skilled jobs. It would be crucial to engage with local partners, businesses and residents in achieving this aim.

The Committee reviewed the challenges associated with implementing a circular economy approach in the council's housing services, but noted opportunities to reuse and recycle materials and promote environmental practices through retrofitting, construction and building management. The Committee welcomed the work to maximise the borough's green spaces, supporting biodiversity and resident engagement with the natural environment. Local food growing projects have a number of environmental and social benefits and the Committee welcomed work to develop these further.

The Committee also considered the importance of active travel, and supported initiatives such as transforming Last Mile Deliveries through the use of cargo bikes, which would reduce vehicle

movements and carbon emissions in the borough. The Committee noted the importance of air quality and is mindful of the health and environmental risks associated with air pollution.

The Committee has made 8 recommendations focused on supporting the local circular economy, reducing waste and encouraging recycling, developing new green jobs, improving biodiversity and supporting local environmental initiatives such as retrofitting and community energy schemes. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Encourage the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) to support Islington Council in our reduce, reuse and recycle ambitions through their new Waste Strategy and:
 - (i) Maximise the opportunities for new Islington-based apprenticeships as a consequence of their future strategy and developments.
 - (ii) review and understand the performance of London Energy and other contractors.
 - (iii) continue to focus on waste reduction and recycling to maximise diversion of waste from incineration.
 - (iv) bring forward carbon capture at the Edmonton ERF.
 2. Work to support residents in making sustainable choices and reducing waste by:
 - (i) Exploring options for design improvements and resident information to drive behaviour change and support an increase in effective/compliant food and other recycling on estates.
 - (ii) maximising opportunities for local food growing and food supply, organic practices, prevention of food waste and effective food recycling.
 - (iii) Work with NLWA and other partners, for example, on campaigns to promote reusable rather than disposable products (e.g. reusable nappies and sanitary products), and the waste disposal of such products.
 3. Work with London Councils to lobby government for greater regulatory powers, particularly on waste and supermarkets and retail bodies to increase their recycling provision for customers.
 4. Focus on how the council can facilitate the development of local retrofitting skills. Explore how the council can build inhouse capacity for retrofitting, for example through developing and training its own accredited retrofit assessors and co-ordinators
 5. Investigate options to relaunch a resident-led 'pesticide free streets' scheme and continue to develop a plan to reduce the use of glyphosate in council operations
 6. Review best practice to help the council support and enable community energy schemes in the borough to support the overall buildings retrofit programme.
 7. Develop options for increasing last-mile deliveries by businesses using vehicles that minimise pollution by using cargo-bikes, etc. and that do not lead to nuisance to residents from delivery depots, micro-kitchens, etc.
 8. Investigate how we can use air quality monitoring and reporting as part of our performance reporting and promotion of net zero carbon ambitions.
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Committee commenced the review on 6 September 2022, with the overall aim to review how the Council is taking the lead on encouraging sustainable development, developing policies to encourage sustainable economic development, and working to identify ways to support a circular economy in our borough with residents and businesses, to help achieve this goal. The review will look at the five Rs, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair.
- 1.2 The Committee also agreed to the following objectives:
1. Understand the impact the Circular Economy Action Plan is having on the Net Zero Carbon 2030 goal.
 2. To examine what members, residents and local businesses can do to support a Circular Economy in Islington, and to review how this can be best communicated.
 3. To make suggestions to feed into the upcoming Circular Economy Action Plan
 4. To assess the impact of the council's development and economic development policies to ensure they are championing sustainable approaches.
 5. To consider how all council services can contribute to the circular economy.

2. Main Findings

- 2.1 This report summarises the Committee's review of Net Zero Carbon 2030 - Circular Economy.
- 2.2 In a series of meetings from July 2022 to February 2023, the committee deliberated on strategies to advance the circular economy and promote sustainability within the borough. Key highlights from these meetings include discussions on embedding green and circular economy principles into local strategies, fostering innovation, and encouraging social value. The council emphasised collaboration with construction industries, upskilling programs, and engagement with housing associations and residents to drive sustainable practices. Achievements and targets were outlined, along with the challenges of obtaining funding and addressing retrofitting needs in the council's housing stock.
- 2.3 Another focal point was the commitment to greening initiatives and biodiversity enhancement. The Council aimed to increase tree planting, promote food growing in communities, and create new green spaces. The Council highlighted its achievements in these areas, along with the need to upskill the workforce for green jobs. Moreover, the meetings discussed strategies to integrate circular economy principles into the transport sector, emphasising active and sustainable transport options, reducing emissions, and promoting green jobs. Lastly, the committee addressed the Urban Agriculture Project, which seeks to encourage sustainable, circular food supply chains in urban areas, fostering community engagement and biodiversity improvement.
- 2.4 In summary, these meetings reflected Islington's dedication to sustainability, circular economy practices, and green job creation. The council explored various avenues, including housing retrofitting, green transport, and urban agriculture, all aimed at reducing environmental impact while enhancing the well-being of its residents.

3. 22nd July 2022 meeting – Circular Economy

3.1 This meeting considered an introductory presentation from the Head of the Net Zero Carbon Programme and Corporate Director for Environment focused on the council's Circular Economy Action Plan. The Committee noted that a circular economy is an alternative to a linear 'take, make, dispose' economy and is based on three principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature. The Committee considered the circular economy model and examples of interventions at each point in the cycle:

1. Rethink and reduce e.g. Library of things
2. Redesign e.g. New homes design guide
3. Repair & remanufacture e.g. Repair cafes
4. Reuse e.g. Dress for success
5. Recycle e.g. Bulky item recycling
6. Recover e.g. Energy from waste (last resort)

3.2 The council's Circular Economy Action Plan was developed to explore possibilities for developing a circular economy in Islington, and sets out how the council will apply circular economy principles to its policies and strategies, alongside a number of actions. Actions detailed in the plan included the following:

We have	We will
Included circular economy requirements and KPIs focusing on refurbishment, flexibility of use, and recycling of waste material in the New Homes Guide.	Manage council assets based on longevity and flexible use, community benefit and sustainable refurbishment where required.
Retrofitted our first refuse collection vehicle, with a second on order	Retrofit 8 refuse collection vehicles over two years
Provide support for car clubs and cargo bikes	Reduce our overall fleet size, move to electric and retrofit where possible.
Reuse material in our road maintenance programme	Work with partners to raise awareness of the circular economy and share best practice
Delivered Bunhill 2 heat and power networks and are developing greenSCIES	Celebrate circular economy achievements at our islington sustainability awards
Delivered various reuse and waste minimisation initiatives	Investigate reusing more material more locally from our reuse and recycling centre
Managed digital infrastructure on circular economy principles (cloud services, leasing, reuse)	Investigate supporting more library of things, marketplaces and other sharing initiatives
Opened our first library of things	Support repair services directly and through communications and improving access and visibility
Required circular economy statements for large planning applications	Incorporate circular economy principles in a new food strategy
Launched a circular economy grant scheme for SMEs	Develop a progressive procurement policy to include specific circular economy requirements such as 'products as services'.
	The inclusive economy team will support SMEs aiming to be more 'circular'

3.3 Officers advised that next steps would include developing new initiatives, raising awareness of circular economy principles both internally and externally, and monitoring progress.

Performance indicators were in development. It was advised that a new and updated Circular Economy Action Plan would be published by April 2024.

- 3.4 Officers had carried out some benchmarking and advised that Islington's carbon footprint was not an outlier in comparison to other London Boroughs, and was smaller than many due to Islington being a relatively smaller borough in terms of size and population.
- 3.5 Members questioned officers on how circular economy principles could be developed further. It was advised that the Waste Team were looking to grow the 'Library of Things' project, with more items and more hubs across the borough, however the council would need to consider cost and affordability. It was also noted that work was underway to understand the feasibility of developing more heat networks, and officers were considering how to engage more with schools to support them in lowering their carbon footprint.

4. 6th September 2022 meeting – Green Jobs and Planning

- 4.1 This session was used to provide an overview of the green economy and planning and the future plans for how to embed the circular economy initiatives into council work.
- 4.2 The Director of Planning, Director of Inclusive Economy and Jobs, and Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs was present for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee.
- 4.3 A green economy will reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities. It aims for long term development that is environmentally friendly while also promoting health, wealth, and well-being for all people. In London, the number of green jobs is expected to grow rapidly in the coming years, to 335,000 by 2030 and 732,000 by 2050.
- 4.4 The Committee considered the emerging vision for Islington's Green Economy. Objectives would include maximizing the opportunities associated with a new green economy, ensuring the local labour market is appropriately skilled and resilient, and local people are able to access secure and well paid sustainable jobs. Early actions included partnering with the Mayoral Green Construction Skills Academy, working with Housing Repairs to develop a pipeline of local employment opportunities in retrofitting, considering opportunities to ensure green practices in demolition and construction through Section 106 agreements, and supporting a number of initiatives working with local businesses to around greening highstreets.
- 4.5 The following actions were highlighted in the discussion:
- The council will embed green/circular economy initiatives into our Local Economy Strategies across the borough, ensuring it is effectively promoted and local people and business can benefit at a local level.
 - The council will develop the specification for a 'net zero' and circular economy focused affordable workspace.
 - The council will develop Green Social Value guidance including circular economy asks for integration into council commissioning and procurement processes.
 - The council will encourage potential suppliers to work together with us on achieving best practice and innovation in the application of circular economy in achieving social value.

- The council will identify where procurement of targeted high spends and high embedded carbon items can be focused on circular economy principles, such as leasing rather than purchasing.
- The council will promote green practices as part of the implementation of the Chapel Market regeneration programme e.g. food waste; circular economy products; sustainable deliveries.
- The council will convene a meeting with CITB to hear directly from construction industry on challenges faced, and what council/s can do to help.
- The council will work with Corporate HR and trades unions to promote the benefits of upskilling and keeping abreast of new green skills.
- The council will develop business case to fund programme similar to ReLondon and circular economy to empower Islington residents and businesses to adopt circular economy practices, targeting under-represented entrepreneurs.
- The council will continue to work with Islington Sustainability Network (formerly ISEP) to raise awareness of the circular economy, to share best practice from around Islington and to increase membership amongst the Islington business community.
- The council will create a joint skills plan with local education and skills providers to outline the opportunities and gaps in green skills and jobs and identify the different needs of various sectors in the borough and recommend tailored approaches to strengthening green skills and jobs in these areas.

4.6 The Committee also received questions and comments from the public and members of the committee.

- On the anchor institutions the council are currently working with, organisations like Arsenal Football Club, Whittington Hospital and local colleges play a large role in the circular economy and have the biggest potential to make the biggest difference. A task and finish group of these institutions has been set up to look at Net Zero Carbon.
- On adult education, the council is offering many courses, via our partners in education, that are within the circular economy that can skill up adults looking to take on new vocations. Courses like bicycle repair and textiles are important, but also courses on English as a second language can be vital for community wealth building.
- On working with larger employers based within Islington, the council is doing a lot of work to educate residents on how to pass on the plastic waste back to the business. This has worked well with the local markets in Islington, where residents are using more paper bags or reusable items and these initiatives should be levelled up to larger businesses.
- On reusing building materials on brownfield sites, this will vary from site to site, based on what the is agreed for the materials for sites. But often, applications need to state what materials they are using, and the impact on the environment. Currently lots of sites are not just reusing materials, but reuse parts of the old structure, and incorporate it into the new design.
- On the Holloway Prison development, it is a council agreement to use residents and local supply chains for developments, but the Holloway Prison development has specific arrangements to ensure that local businesses are also involved in the events space on the site.

5. 3rd October 2022 meeting – Council Housing and Buildings

- 5.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Housing and Property Services, outlining the scrutiny review of council buildings and homes and how these can provide green jobs and embed circular economy practices in the processes of providing council buildings and homes.
- 5.2 The Council was working to deliver a new build scheme to Passivhaus level performance and intended to incorporate this methodology and best practice into the new build programme. Officers would also work with housing associations, landlords, tenants and owner occupiers to increase awareness of the energy efficiency measures available. The council also planned to replace gas boilers in council buildings with low carbon energy heating sources or connections to heat networks, and improve energy efficiency through insulation, solar technology, and lighting replacements.
- 5.3 It was highlighted that it was difficult to embed circular economy principles into this workstream due to quality standards, however officers were reviewing opportunities for reuse and recycling through the new build scheme and capital works. The council would also seek to reduce carbon emissions in construction work and include circular economy principles in procurement.
- 5.4 The following key points were made in the discussion:
- There was a need to seek funding to support the delivery of green jobs. Three grants had been applied for to date and any opportunity that arises to apply for a grant or bid was taken.
 - There were schemes looking at heat networks across the board, including cross borough boundary heat networks. Officers advised there was a collaborative project currently with all North London boroughs to see if it was possible to connect heat networks using the NLWA. There had also been talks with the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy and the GLA to support funding.
 - There were not currently plans to offer grants to landlords for retrofitting schemes but the council could signpost available government grants and launch an accredited supply list of local traders and builders.
 - All council properties were being considered for retrofitting and feasibility studies were being undertaken.

6. 10th November 2022 – Natural Environment workstream

- 6.1 The Committee received a presentation on the Natural Environment from the Head of Greenspace and Leisure Services and in particular how it fits into the Circular Economy and Green Jobs.
- 6.2 Key points raised in the presentation and discussion included:
- The Council aims to develop and deliver a programme to support greening initiatives across the borough, and this would include delivering in line with the Vision 2030 Strategy and Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - The Council has delivered the Islington Greener Together Programme with some first schemes evident on the ground and council is now aiming to deliver its tree planting programme. The Greener Together programme will also include

delivering projects with Housing and Highways and development of a pocket park framework.

- With regards to tree canopy cover, the Council will increase tree planting and there are plans to combat drought impact through adaptations.
- To support biodiversity and engagement with nature, the council aims to increase food growing in communities and promote the benefits of green spaces.
- Officers highlighted a number of Green Space targets which include a 26% canopy cover by 2025, and 27% by 2030 which is quite high comparable to neighbouring authorities considering the borough's size and dense nature of the borough. The council aims to replace every tree lost by delivering an overall net gain of at least 600 trees every year by 2026 and provide 1000sqm of new green space by 2026.
- The Committee welcomed achievements in this area, including 38 approved Greener Together projects, the receipt of external funding to accelerate urban greening, the planting of 701 trees in 2021/22, and grant funding for a Tree Officer post has been received to engage with residents on identifying locations for trees and therefore increasing the capacity of the team. A tree donation process would also be launched with Trees for Streets.
- The Council had exceeded its target of 250m squared additional habitat space for wildlife in parks and 13,000 volunteer hours in parks. It was commented that the volunteer sessions allowed young people to engage with nature. Other projects to support biodiversity included Islington in Bloom, the Islam Nature Walk, and the Big Cities Butterfly Workshop.
- Risks to the Greener Together programme included a lack of capacity for consistent engagement with communities and inability to build trust and lack of potential maintenance budget sources for new green infrastructure.
- Risks identified within the Park Services included the potential lack of support from the local community to leave areas of green space wild so as to improve biodiversity. It was also commented that there is a lack of maintenance capacity for new green infrastructure which needs to be addressed.
- Risks within the Tree Service include seeking funds to buy, plant and maintain the number of trees required for the canopy cover and tree number targets and also finding enough space to plant the additional trees on public land.
- The service is embedding circular economy principles by working with community partners and Friends Of groups to create more food growing opportunities in our parks, estates and in peoples own gardens.
- Although all green waste collected in the borough is recycled and used to create compost, the service is looking to develop more local compost facilities. The service has moved away from traditional bedding displays to a model of reusable plans. in addition, The Service has been able to decarbonise its fleet of vehicles for example by moving away from diesel machinery to electric controlled units. The Service also promotes urban cultivate project creating new clusters of space for urban agriculture using left over open space.
- In terms of green jobs and upskilled green workforce, the committee was advised of its apprenticeship scheme that created a pipeline for new staff. The service currently had 8 apprentices.
- The Council is also developing new green skill jobs such as solar panel installers, heat pump specialists and renewable energy engineers by working in partnership with the Parks for London Green Skills Hub to develop employment pathways and training programmes to meet the current and future needs of the industry.

- Officers commented that the upskilling of local residents and the workforce was vital. There was a shortage of the skills needed to perform new green jobs, and there needed to be clear pathways into the industry for young people.
- The service was considering using social value in procurement to deliver upskilling initiatives, including providing volunteering opportunities for local people where they will begin to learn new skills.
- The reduction in pesticide use across the borough was reiterated. In general, glyphosate was no longer used in Islington parks and open spaces and only used in limited places to treat invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.
- On the issue of composting, the meeting was informed that presently this material is processed out of the borough. It was thought that composting locally would be preferential, however more would need to be done to support this in housing estates and gardens.
- A member reiterated the need for Council to promote its greening projects and opportunities to engage with the natural environment.
- It was suggested that there may be an inadequate number of green champions for the 38 projects in place. In response, it was stated that the ambition was to have more champions with future schemes.

7. 23rd January 2023 meeting –Transport Workstream

- 7.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Team Leader for Transport Planning, explaining how the service can embed the circular economy into their workstreams.
- 7.2 The following main points were noted in the discussion:
- In compact cities, the effective local transport of people, products and materials was central to a circular economy, enabling local goods and material flows. This in turn supported smaller scale transport options for goods and effective local public transport options, reducing energy and resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and improving local air quality.
 - Islington's transport networks made a significant contribution to the borough's CO2 emissions (116,000 tonnes in 2019) contributing towards climate change. The elimination of transport related emissions would support the achievement of the Council's goal of tackling climate change by achieving net zero carbon emissions in Islington by 2030.
 - People targets and initiatives: to achieve 90% of all trips being taken by active and sustainable transport, a 4.6% reduction in private car ownership, a 9.2% increase in trips by public transport, and 93% of residents to live within 400m of the strategic cycle network.
 - Goods targets and initiatives: to achieve a 10% reduction in freight traffic in the morning peak-time.
 - Materials and procurement: Reuse of materials, adopt a progressive procurement approach for investment into the public transport system to support local supply chains and leverage maximum social value.
 - Last Mile Deliveries: Identify micro distribution hubs to provide space for local couriers for last mile deliveries; Promoting cargo bikes as a first choice alternative to vans for last mile deliveries; Increase Out of Home delivery options including parcel lockers.
 - The Council wanted to enable employment growth and increased economic activity within the borough. It was, however, recognised that an economic

development model built on perpetual growth presents significant challenges to the Council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 commitment and to the borough's transport system. The Council wanted to meet the twin challenges of building a fairer Islington and tackling climate change by building a green economy that will provide green, low carbon jobs, including the transport sector.

- Officers responded to concerns over e-bikes and cycle hire providers; explaining that the Council was trying to work with the providers to mitigate issues such as dumping of the bikes and irresponsible use. As well as looking at a pricing structure for these in which there would be an update in due course. The Executive Member also explained that these types of bikes were a very well used service, but the concerns raised were very valid.
- Questions arose over the use of parcel lockers, including not wanting these to be at the expense of pavement space or an unused service. Councillors suggested that these should be installed in places where there was business interest or public buildings such as libraries, which could produce an income stream. Officers explained that concerns were already raised over loss of highway space and accessibility issues surrounding parcel lockers, but these would be placed in areas they were needed and did not cause a nuisance.
- Officers reiterated that driving had a huge impact on the environment, and therefore, the promotion of active travel and creating a physical environment was important in making the use of motor vehicles less attractive. Officers further explained that they were developing an action plan on active travel to consider how unused parking spaces could be used.
- Councillors had concerns over the use of bike hangars. Officers explained there had been increased delivery of bike hangars which came with increased operational challenges. Software was being developed to aid this management to make it more seamless and if anyone saw an empty or unused bike hangar to contact them.
- Councillors explained their concerns over the last mile initiative and how this could cause increased noise pollution and only non-motorised vehicles should be used for this such as McDonalds use of only bikes for deliveries locally as moped users had increasingly become irresponsible. In response officers explained that in Hackney the Amazon micro distribution hub used the building they already had so this had not created further noise pollution but would investigate the impact of these on residents. They were also trying to tackle bad behaviour of mopeds and that McDonalds exclusively using push bikes for deliveries had been successful.
- The Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport explained that the Council was trying to encourage research into the use of cargo bikes, which could hold up to 100kg, all over London.

8. 23rd January 2023 meeting – Evidence from Dr Daniel Evans on the Urban Agriculture Project

- 8.1 This was an opportunity for committee members to receive an update from Dr Evans on urban agriculture and how this encourages residents to cultivate their own food/crops in urban areas to create a more sustainable and circular food supply chain.
- 8.2 The following points were raised in the presentation:

- The aim of the project was to integrate environmental, spatial, and social characteristics of a cluster of underutilized city spaces to determine how best to use these to support a local, circular, and sustainable food supply chain.
- In Islington the project focused on was Octopus Community Plant Nursery, Hollins and McCall Estate, Tufnell Park Road as this was an underutilised space.
- The project aimed to map clusters of under-utilized sites at the 'ward' scale; to collect environmental, spatial and social information from each site; to build a model whereby this data was used to optimize and assign different food supply chain functions to each site, from composting and germinating seedlings to cultivation and food exchange and to build a user-friendly dashboard so that anyone (e.g. urban land planners) can input information about a cluster of sites and see the most optimum uses for each one.
- This was a heavily community-based project so as well as computing what was technically possible (with regards to Environmental and/or Spatial variables) the Dashboard results could have been weighted to account for preferences of the community, for example not wanting to use sites for composting.
- Councillors asked for further explanation on community engagement and expansion. Dr Evans explained that while the project ended in March, they had been keen to remain in Islington and expand the methods used to be able to update with new areas that may open.
- He also explained that it was important to the project to engage with all stakeholders and those that live around the area. They also wanted to do a series of pop-up workshops, so the community had been engaged at all stages. They had also been looking to find further funding to continue the project beyond March. As part of the project, they aim to provide the community with useful and proper information such as how to compost properly to catalyse interest and conversation surrounding this.
- The project would also improve biodiversity in the area as taking underutilised areas for growing means a 100% increase in biodiversity and through food initiatives this will engage the community in other aspects such as net zero carbon.
- One important aspect of the project was that the team had created the dashboard so that anyone after can use it. It could be updated continuously and was easy to use.

9. 25th January 2023 – Working Group focussing on retrofitting and insulating council homes

9.1 The Committee held an informal working group and received presentations from Elaine Trimble from Cally Energy and Professor Linda Clarke from the University of Westminster. The working group focused on how to reduce energy costs in council buildings and how the Council the process of retrofitting more sustainable and circular to help Islington residents.

9.2 Cally Energy - *presentation by Elaine Trimble.*

The Aim of Cally Energy was to crowdsource funding for solar PV cells for two local sites: Cally Pool, with an estimated saving of 11 tonnes of CO₂ per year, and Thornhill Primary, with an estimated saving of 9 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

The following key points were raised in the discussion:

- Cally Energy was created by a group of residents that wanted to create positive energy change and engage residents in a not-for-profit venture. There were currently around 50 members.
- Challenges faced included developing relationships within the council, finding suitable sites, concerns over end ownership of PV cells, and how to make sure residents' benefit from their programmes. As energy payments are equalised across the borough in an effort to be fair, it means that residents who have an array on their building would not financially benefit in terms of a cost reduction. The win will be in the community energy neighbourhood fund, but that requires finding roofs of sufficient size.

9.3 **Retrofitting Presentation from Professor Linda Clarke**

The presentation highlighted the need for expertise in implementing retrofitting schemes. There was a skills shortage, a recruitment crisis, and a fractured market. It was thought that transformation of the labour process was required through better recognised training programmes, revised qualification profiles, and better opportunities for career progression. Local authorities had a role to play in promoting good practice through the maintenance of their social housing stock, their procurement activity and relationships with contractors, and their direct employment of staff.

Retrofitting was imperative for addressing climate change, would help with the energy and cost of living crises, and would help to tackle fuel poverty. It was suggested that establishing an Islington Retrofitting taskforce and DLO would be options for further developing local retrofitting activity.

Officers explained how the Council is supporting retrofitting in the borough and summarised the challenges, including the available budgets, an old and inefficient housing stock, the requirement to seek planning permission for changes, and the inability to make internal changes to leasehold properties. The council supported the training and development of staff and officers noted the significant investment needed to develop new training programmes.

10. **20th February 2023 – Scrutiny Review Concluding Discussion.**

9.1 The Committee were invited to discuss their thoughts and conclusions on the scrutiny review, with a view for the draft recommendations to be brought to the March Meeting.

9.2 The following key points were raised in the discussion:

- A campaign to national government on the climate emergency was needed urgently.
- Looking at best ways to deal with residual waste, through incineration or other means, it needed to be the most environmentally friendly option. There needed to be government intervention to reduce single use plastic usage which would drastically reduce waste produced that needed to be incinerated.
- An expansion on retrofitting and further training for officers in house, to help reduce costs and produce more green jobs.

- Working with community energy schemes with a view in the future to possibly buy council owned solar panels.
- Councillors were asked to send any further thoughts to the Chair.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 In conclusion, Islington's ongoing commitment to sustainable practices and the circular economy demonstrates its proactive approach to addressing pressing environmental challenges. Through a series of well-informed meetings, the council has laid out a comprehensive roadmap for integrating green initiatives, fostering innovation, and encouraging social responsibility within the borough. These discussions reflect an earnest desire to create a more environmentally friendly and economically robust community.
- 11.2 Furthermore, the emphasis on upskilling the local workforce and promoting green jobs underscores the council's dedication to building a greener, more sustainable economy that benefits its residents and businesses alike. Islington's efforts in greening initiatives, biodiversity enhancement, and sustainable transport align with a broader vision of creating a healthier, more resilient urban environment.
- 11.3 As Islington continues to push for change and sustainability, it sets an example for other communities looking to address climate change and environmental risks while simultaneously building a thriving circular economy that benefits both present and future generations.
- 11.4 The Committee would like to thank witnesses that gave evidence in relation to the scrutiny review. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2022/23

Councillors:

Councillor Tricia Clarke (Chair)
Councillor Gary Heather (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Angelo Weekes
Councillor Claire Zammit
Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong
Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Mick Gilgunn
Councillor Ruth Hayes

Substitute Members:

Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Jason Jackson
Councillor Praful Nargund

Other Councillors:

Councillor Bell-Bradford
Councillor Champion
Councillor Khondoker

Officer Support:

Emma Taylor and Thomas French – Democratic Services
Andrew Bedford - Head of Greenspace and Leisure;
Caroline Wilson – Director of Inclusive Economy and Jobs
David Hardiman – Assistant Director Communications
Eshwyn Prabhu - Interim Head of Strategic Transport;
Hayley Sims – Strategic Lead for Policy and Equality
James Wilson – Energy Sustainability & Consulting Manager
Karen Sullivan – Director of Planning
Kaya Chatterji – Head of Local Economies
Keith Townsend – Corporate Director for Environment and Regeneration
Lynn Stratton – Communications
Martijn Cooijmans - Director of Climate Change and Transport;
Matthew Homer – Street Scene Strategy Manager
Matt West – Director of Housing and Property Services
Richard Gill – Energy Projects & Programmes Officer
Richard Martin – Net Zero Carbon Strategic Business Manager
Ronan Murray – Net Zero Carbon Officer
Sakiba Gurda – Head of Planning Policy
Sarah Hitchcock – Head of Net Zero Carbon
Will Umney – Team Leader Transport Planning

SCRUTINY INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)
Title of review: Net Zero Carbon 2030- Circular Economy
Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Regeneration
Director leading the review: Keith Townsend, Corporate Director - Environment
Lead officers: Sarah Hitchcock, Head of Net Zero Carbon Programme
<p>Overall aim of the review:</p> <p>To review how the Council is taking the lead on encouraging sustainable development, developing policies to encourage sustainable economic development, and working to identify ways to support a circular economy in our borough with residents and businesses, to help achieve this goal. The review will look at the five Rs, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repair.</p>
<p>Objectives of the review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the impact the Circular Economy Action Plan is having on the Net Zero Carbon 2030 goal. • To examine what members, residents and local businesses can do to support a Circular Economy in Islington, and to review how this can be best communicated • To make suggestions to feed into the upcoming Circular Economy Action Plan • To assess the impact of the council's development and economic development policies to ensure they are championing sustainable approaches • To consider how all council services can contribute to the circular economy
<p>How does this review contribute to the Council's priorities?</p> <p>This review will consider how a Circular Economy can help to achieve to the Council's Net Zero Carbon goal and therefore is linked to the priority 'We work together to create a cleaner, greener, healthier borough'.</p>
<p>Scope of the review and evidence to be received:</p> <p>The review will focus on...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How the Local Plan, the way we build Council homes and the way we manage our own buildings can all support a circular economy. 2. How the effective local transport of people, products and materials is central to a circular economy, enabling local goods and material flows. 3. How a circular economy can bring a range of economic benefits, from improved resource security at a larger scale, through to new economic and employment opportunities at the local scale. <p>How circular economy approaches are promoted, and how to effectively work in partnership with residents and local businesses on this issue.</p>

The Committee will receive the following evidence:

1. Meeting 1 - 6 September 2022
 - Green Economy and Planning
 - Menstrual Waste- One off scrutiny report and Speaker
2. Meeting 2 – 3 October 2022
 - Council Buildings and Homes
3. Meeting 3 – 10 November 2022
 - Natural Environment
 - Urban Cultivate- External Speaker
4. Meeting 4 - 23 January 2023
 - Transport
 - The Last Mile- External Speaker

There will be three informal working group meetings covering the following topics:

1. Energy purchasing October 2022
2. Energy advice January 2023
3. Open topic on Renewable Power for London TBC March 2023

Review timetable (list specific meeting dates if possible)

1. SID to be agreed: 21/06/22
2. Witness evidence to be received: 06/09/22 – 23/01/23
3. Draft report to be considered: 20/02/23
4. Final report to be approved: 27/03/23
5. Report to be submitted to Executive: July 2023 (Date TBC)
6. Provisional date for Executive response: October 2023 (Date TBC)
7. Provisional date for 12 month update report back to the Committee: September 2024 (Date TBC)

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

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Inclusive Economy & Jobs Service Annual Report 2022-23

Page 27

Presentation to the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny
Committee

12th September 2023

Agenda Item 12



ISLINGTON
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Outline

1. Islington's Economic Context
2. Community Wealth Building Strategy for an Inclusive Economy & Good Quality Employment
3. Economic Wellbeing
 - a) Skills
 - b) Employment
4. Supporting Young People
5. Business Support and Development
 - a) Town Centres, High Streets and Markets
 - b) Nags Head
 - c) Finsbury Park
 - d) Archway
 - e) Chapel Market

Outline

- f) Clerkenwell and Bunhill
- g) Caledonian Road
- h) People Friendly Streets
- i) Inclusive Business Growth

Page 29

- 6. Growth Sectors
- 7. Collaborating with Anchor Institutions in Islington
- 8. Building and Inclusive Social and Economic Infrastructure
- 9. Embedding Net Zero
- 10. Challenging Inequalities in Employment and Business



1. Islington's Economic Context

Page 30



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A challenging period for Islington residents

- Food, energy, interest rates, and rents have risen above wages and benefits, hitting poorer residents and local businesses hard.
- Higher rates of unemployment in Islington than in London and the UK
- Fewer women in employment in Islington than in 2022
- Higher levels of personal debt than in London as a whole
- Difficulties finding qualified staff due to Brexit, hybrid working
- Economic outlook is challenging across London with low growth in 2023 and declining household incomes.

With some positives...

- A halving in the percentage of Islington's workers earning less than the living wage compared to 10 years ago (7.2% now)
- More people from ethnic minorities active in the workforce
- An increasing number of businesses registered in Islington
- A rise in the number of businesses offering high quality employment

2. Community Wealth Building Strategy

Page 33

Community Wealth Building – people at the heart of economic development

Building economic resilience and shared prosperity through Community Wealth Building is key to the Council's objectives to tackle inequality and improve life chances, and a key part of delivering the Council's ambition for 2030 to **create a more equal Islington where everyone can thrive**.

That means working with residents, communities and businesses to tackle economic inequality and create an economy that works for everyone. The council and anchor institutions are crucial economic agents, supporting local people with our collective employment and purchasing power, and Islington's physical asset base.

The council's strategic plan, **Islington Together 2030 Plan**, outlines how we will deliver on our ambition and five key missions

- Child-friendly Islington
- Fairer Together
- A safe place to call home
- Community Wealth Building
- Greener, healthier Islington



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Vision & Objectives



3. Economic Wellbeing

Page 36



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Income Maximisation

Over the past year we have:

- Delivered three successful Pension Credit take-up campaigns.
- 506 more pensioners are now claiming Pension Credit with an annual value of 1.61 million.
- As well as Pension Credit, Imax helped other residents to claim benefits, in the first-year to the campaign securing £3.48m. The lifetime value of the campaigns is £15.56m.
- In 22/23 Imax increased Islington resident's income by £5.74m by helping resident's claim additional benefits.
- £ 84,047.19 worth of childcare bursaries were allocated in 2022/23. There were 101 claims for childcare bursary, 73 of which were unique. The childcare bursary supported 39 parents into work and a further 21 parents that received money to sustain employment.

Islington Childcare Bursary – Helping Parents Get Back to Work

The Islington Childcare Bursary scheme helps parents on low incomes to move into or remain in work by providing short term financial support towards the cost of childcare, which can be a significant barrier to employment. Here a parent explains how it helped:

Quote from a childcare bursary beneficiary

“Getting the childcare bursary, which was processed at quite short notice, allowed me to continue work experience for my university course. I want to become a qualified early educator., I am currently a full-time student at London Metropolitan, studying Early Childhood Studies. As part of my course, I must complete 260 hours in a childcare setting. My daughter is too young to be eligible for 30 hours at nursery, and whilst the free hours have allowed me to do the course, I wouldn't be able to do the work experience, and I have struggled to find appropriate part time work. In fact, due to my daughter having the same days at nursery as I have for university, I am limited to days I can work and already miss a bit of learning time due to drop off and pick up, I have asked the nursery if I could pay for breakfast club, but they explained they do not do that. I have applied for many jobs via Indeed, but I want to find work in a nursery as it will benefit my studying, I have finally been offered a job and they want an early start. Without help from the bursary, I would have missed this opportunity as well. Now I can continue my course and earn a bit of extra cash to get us a better Christmas”



Looking Ahead – 2023/24

- Recent changes to how Universal Credit (UC) and childcare interact, means that we may find fewer parents need our childcare bursary support to enter work.
- It is too early to be sure of the impact, but we will continue to support parents with holiday childcare, or with support for exams and other key Further Education or Higher Education activities.
- We are also working with local partners to ensure they support their clients to take up the improved UC offer
- In the past, the iWork discretionary bursary went beyond childcare to provide other key financial support around entering work including buying tools and paying for travel cards. In 23/34 we have met this need using the ESF programme funded bursary, this is now ended and we anticipate that this kind of support will now be increasingly sought after as the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact
- Our income maximisation service, Imax is helping Islington residents claim additional benefits and is aiming to increase their income by £6m by the end of the 23/24 financial year
- Imax plans to start a fourth pension credit campaign and starting targeted work with disabled people to ensure they're getting their full entitlements.
- Imax is about to launch a new benefit calculator that both staff and residents can use.



3a. Skills

Page 40

Creating clear skills pathways into work and supporting those already in work to upskill to find better and more secure jobs



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Adult & Community Learning

Over the past year we have:

- **Enrolled 1,788 learners on free courses** - the highest enrolment since 2016/17. **Key cohorts** include residents with disabilities and learning difficulties, parents of young children; people from black, Asian and Minority ethnic backgrounds and older residents.
- **Provision** included **English for Speakers of Languages**, Maths, English, vocational, free courses for jobs L3 and digital skills.
- **Worked in collaboration with key community partners**, such as the local jobcentres, Hillside Clubhouse and Light Project Pro International to develop free courses for priority groups.
- **Multiply funding** used to deliver budgeting sessions, Maths awareness workshops, Maths awareness for ESOL and vocational courses in primary schools, warm spaces and community centres across the borough. Exceeded the Year 1 target of 77 enrolments and encouraged by the GLA to bid for growth in Year 2.
- Hosted the **annual celebration of achievement** event.

Adult & Community Learning Priorities 2023/24

- To deliver the ACL reorganisation, resulting in a better performing service that is aligned to CWB priorities and has a more robust performance culture.
- To showcase the strengths of the service if and when Ofsted announce an inspection and secure at least a 'Good' judgement for each area.
- To engage with and deliver learning to 1800 local people.
- To develop the curriculum offer with CWB priorities, resulting in courses that meet local needs.

3b. Employment

Page 48

Reaching residents most in need of employment support and tackling precarious employment and lack of progression



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iWork Adult Employment Support

Over the past year we have:

- Provided the right support to get **3,013** people into work as part of the Islington working partnership.
- Worked collaboratively with youth progression and ACL to support successful delivery of the **ESF funded 'Connected communities programme'**
- Worked with anchor institutions in the Health and Social Care sector to support with workforce planning and the benefits of working with local agencies to reach local candidates. 40 local people placed into employment in the sector.
- Strengthened our partnership with council contractors to maximise the impact of section 106 local labour clauses to focus on good work and training opportunities. 32 local people placed into employment in the construction sector including 35 women engaged in forming a talent pool for local construction apprenticeships.



iWork Adult Employment Support

Over the past year we have:

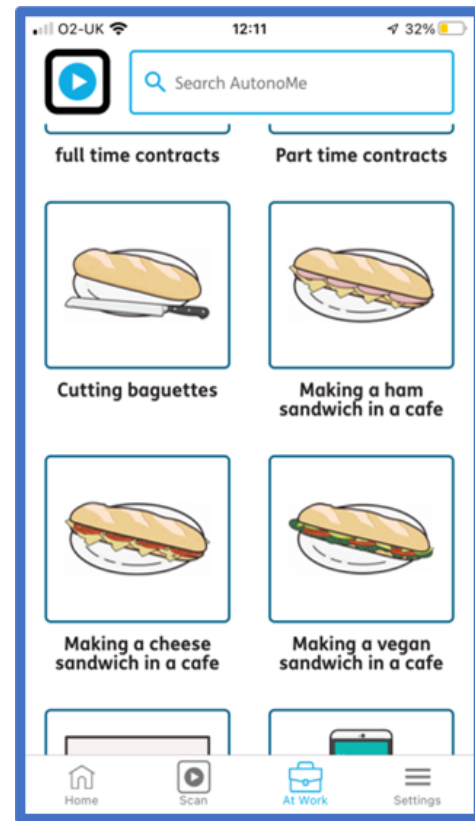
- Worked closely with Matrix, the council's recruitment agency, to support local residents into good jobs. 40 residents joined the council from underrepresented communities, helping to make the council more representative of our diverse local community .
- Integrated the Islington Supported Employment Team (ISET) into the directorate. The team have benefited from our sector brokerage teams and also our local employment links via the Local economy officers. As a result we now have residents with a global learning disability working at London Bridge station via an introduction to Network Rail (Finsbury Park) and with a local painting and decorating agency
- ISET have also built their own relationship with the Almeida Theatre who are offering one client a three month work experience placement and employed another resident who has been with them for almost a year.
- The ISET team have benefited from a new partnership with Autonomie who make teaching videos , enabling access via a QR code scanned on their phones which can be used repeatedly



Autonome and Almeida in Partnership - Facilitating Employment Opportunities



- Autonome is an innovative approach to supporting people learning disabilities and autism to develop skills for independent living and employment. They have many off the shelf videos that can be played over and over, teaching every day skills
- In addition to the video library Autonome have created specific videos for our clients who are close to employment , focusing on any small task that is proving a challenge . Our clients gain access to the videos via a QR code they can scan on their phones. They use actors who carry out the task but in the actual workplace that our resident is based.
- Jermaine asked for help to ensure he was cutting the sandwiches properly – and with the help of a bespoke video, he is about to increase his hours and take on new tasks as Almeida are so happy with his work



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Provide a strategic sectoral approach to securing employment for Islington residents with a focus on Construction, Health and Social Care, the public sector and via the LIFT Programme (Tech, Digital, Life Sciences and Creative Production).
- Support at least **1,500** unemployed Islington residents into employment and increase the proportion of residents from black and minority ethnic communities into work by 60% and provide targeted support for those with a disability and long term health condition.
- Identify new approaches to ensure we improve our impact on local parents, and particularly lone parents
- **New UKSPF employment and skills funding (£400K over 15 months)** to support disabled residents into work, promote more anchor institutions apprenticeships and residents to become self-employed or form co-operatives
- Use leverage with council contracted suppliers so that they provide employment for local people by working closely with council commissioners.
- Support the development of a refugee programme to understand our local growth sectors and advocate with local employers, including an NHS specific volunteering programme.
- Work more closely with our Youth Hubs and World of Work programmes to ensure that we are reaching younger residents and supporting positive career choices .

4. Youth Employment and Progression

Page 48



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Supporting Young People

Over the past year we have:

- 17 paid summer work placements for young people at risk of serious youth violence through the Your Choice programme pilot, with four going on to secure permanent roles with their host employer.
- Soft launch of the youth employment hub at West Library which has now hosted a series of events including; apprenticeship awareness sessions for young people, parents and carers, employability workshops, maths and English sessions and one to one careers guidance.
- Page 49 Brokered 68 World of work activities, supported by 147 volunteers which reached 6570 young people in primary, secondary and further education.
- Successful delivery of a pilot programme with NHS England to raise the profile of Health and Social Care careers for care experienced young people. Supported 17 looked after children, of which 6 were current or former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, with one-to-one employability support, NHS careers insights, coaching and mentoring by NHS professionals, leading to an expanded programme this year.



City of London Academy – Highbury Grove Careers Insight Session

- City of London Academy Highbury Grove ran two STEM careers Insight sessions for their Year 7's and 8's which took place on Tuesday 16 and Tuesday 23 November.
 - Students heard from 24 volunteers brokered by the Council's World of Work team covering professional services such as financial management, law, engineering, sports science and more.
 - The event contributed to the school meeting two Gatsby Benchmarks (a measure of careers education in schools) for (1) *learning from careers and labour market information* and (2) *encounters with employers*.
 - Students also developed essential skills in listening, speaking and aiming high
- Page 50

"I've really enjoyed hearing people talk about their lifestyles and how they got into their job. It is very interesting to hear and it's giving me a lot to think about." - Danette Yr.8

- Solicitor Ferdisha Snagg was one of the many employers who gave an overview of their career path to date and answered student questions. She was impressed by the wide range of engaging questions from the students

It is also important for me to be here today as it showcases that professional roles like mine are accessible." - Ferdisha, Financial Services Regulation Lawyer at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP



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Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Official launch of the Youth Employment Hubs in Caledonian and Finsbury Park wards, to include a programme of education, employment and skills activities for Islington's young people.
- Extend work with council suppliers, anchor institutions and other local businesses to expand world of work activities, create more work experience placements and develop pathways into early careers opportunities.
- Host / co-host regular networking and progression events with local partners to promote growth sectors and careers.

5. Inclusive Businesses Inclusive Places

Page 52



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For a more equal future

5a. Inclusive Local Economies

Town Centres, High Streets & Markets

Town Centres, High Streets and Markets to March 2023

Over the past year we have:

- Supported over 1,000 small businesses in Islington to survive and thrive, including through signposting, troubleshooting, referrals, and on-the-ground support.
- Delivered a grant to over 100 of Islington's smallest independent hospitality businesses to help with the cost of energy in the winter months.

Page 54

Successfully bid for 'Creative Enterprise Zone' accreditation for Archway, unlocking more opportunities to support grassroots creatives and young people in the area.

- Commissioned an 'Inclusive Markets' review to ensure our markets remain welcoming and affordable places for a diverse range of customers and traders.
- Engaged with hundreds of businesses in areas impacted by low-traffic schemes or public realm improvement schemes.



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- A first visit to Islington from the national 'Small Business Saturday' tour (taking place in Nov 2023).
- Increasing the number of businesses participating in circular economy practices via grants and other local initiatives.
- Launching our first series of 'Youth Markets' and 'Black-Owned Business Markets', as part of a wider 'Inclusive Markets Plan' designed to make our markets more welcoming and inclusive.
- Ensuring an inclusive festive events programme that factors in the cost-of-living crisis and climate crisis (free food/refreshments for attendees and all plastic free events).
- Launching and delivering a successful year one for Islington's new Creative Enterprise Zone in Archway.
- Developing a new business support programme, including discounted Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) membership and bespoke business advice service, focusing on access for priority groups.



b. Nag's Head



Nags Head

- One-to-one support to businesses, including referrals for grants and legal advice, help finding new premises, dealing with evictions and court summons, reviewing Valuation Office Agency assessments, tackling landlord problems.
- Worked with LBI Community Safety team to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and sign-up businesses to the Safe Haven scheme. Initiated a visit to the Halifax and an Environmental Visual Audit of the Morrisons delivery yard in Oct '22, following up on agreements with key stakeholders.
- Worked with the government's High Streets Task Force (HSTF) on town centre visioning, identifying actions to address the negative impacts of the busy road infrastructure, and scoping the opportunity for a local teenage market.
- Partnership between London Met University, Arsenal and Lavazza to launch the Learn to Dream mural aimed at inspiring younger people and encouraging them to pursue a better future, and ensured local businesses benefitted from the community event.
- TfL business engagement strategy for the installation of the C50 cycle route, carried out door to door visits of Parkhurst and Seven Sisters Road businesses along the route and overcame all obstacles identified – resulting in the scheme being generally well received.
- Supported businesses affected by the Hornsey Road burst mains pipe and several Holloway Road businesses flooded during the 17th August downpour.
- Facilitated the Nag's Head Town Centre Management Group and involvement in events such as the Christmas lights switch on event of 19 November '22 which brought together local community resources Streets Kitchen, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, Holloway Neighbourhood Group and North Library.



Overcoming adversity and building capacity to support business resilience

- Following an early morning water main burst on 08 August 2022, promptly visited all the business properties affected, just south and east of the town centre, to assess and report on impact.
- Subsequently ensured all businesses received adequate attention and support from Thames Water, their loss adjusters Sedgewick, and works contractors as well as council services including Business Rates and Environmental Health - this included researching the ownership of a few seemingly vacant properties.
- Helped ensure businesses affected by the flooding were represented at the 15 Sept '22 Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting with Thames Water and then stayed connected with the businesses throughout the year, helping to deal with a variety of obstacles as they arose.



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Maximise the potential of the C50 Cycleway for businesses on the route and the wider town centre by facilitating business engagement and comments before and during the consultation phase.
- Now that the upper floor (The Upper Place) of the Nag's Head Covered Market has opened, ensure that the whole market contributes positively to the community and any disruption to nearby residents is minimised.
- Secure social value benefits from the proposed Arsenal / Ashburton development at 45 Hornsey Rd & 252 Holloway Rd (and the railway arches and land in between) e.g. through having a say on the tenancies of at least some of the arches and keeping their rents below market rates.
- Facilitate vacant properties being brought back into use and to encourage developments such as the Marlborough Building and the Brownlow Developments properties of 409-415 Holloway Road to contribute positively to the local community.
- Build on the engagement with the High Streets Task Force to develop a prospectus for the town centre that summarises key ongoing and planned projects, highlights potential opportunities and can be used to help encourage a sense of ownership and develop a collective vision for the area.
- Support a pilot civic pride campaign in the town centre with a pre-assessment of current issues and a week of action in September, and link this with trial recycling from flats above shops along Seven Sisters Road.
- Continue to facilitate the Nag's Head Town Centre Management Group and support the set-up of a new traders associations in the area.



c. Finsbury Park

Finsbury Park

- Small Business Commissioner taken on a tour to visit and interview small businesses about their day to day challenges. High-profile visit raised the visibility of Finsbury Park and gave a platform for small businesses to share challenges on a national stage and to a government representative.
- Brokerage of local social value including supply chain opportunities for small businesses to supply the iWork team with items e.g., laptops, stationery and clothing for the Back to Work program, resulting in council spend being diverted to local businesses.
- Successfully encouraged Festival Republic to supply equipment and volunteers for Street Fest, a local event that supports the Street Homeless population.
- Created multiple employment and training opportunities for residents with local businesses in the catering and retail sectors. Additionally, jobs for residents were brokered with local stakeholders including Network Rail, TfL and Eurovia that saw local residents employed to work on C50 Cycle route business engagement and London Bridge Station.
- The first joint Traders Association Meeting in Finsbury Park was held between businesses from Fonthill Rd, Seven Sisters Rd, Stroud Green Rd, Blackstock Rd and Honsey Rd. This inaugural meeting strengthened the relationships between local groups, and kickstarted the process of establishing a joint vision for improving the appeal of the area for residents, businesses and visitors.
- During ongoing construction of the C50 cycle lane along Seven Sisters Rd, great effort has been taken to support businesses through this large infrastructure change. This has included facilitation of meetings, walkabouts and one to one engagements.
- The festive event held on 3rd December '22 was attended by more than 400 people as well as the Small Business Commissioner who switched the lights on. Local suppliers were used for catering and entertainment, which was free for attendees in acknowledgement of the cost of living crisis.



Joining up the dots between services - securing well paid jobs for our residents

- Local Economy officer work varies, covering a wide range interactions between many services in the support of businesses. One task is to work with transport operators to mitigate the impact of works on local businesses.
- In addition to businesses, residents are kept firmly in mind and if any opportunity arises from engaging with stakeholders or other council teams.
- One such opportunity arose during a meeting with TfL and its contractor Eurovia. The Finsbury Park LBI Officer was informed during a meeting about an upcoming opportunity to work with Eurovia on projects over the next 12 months and that ideally a local resident who knew the area was needed. Starting pay for this position was in the region of £30,000,
- It was a perfect opportunity for a collaboration between the Local Economies Team and Employer Engagement Team and so Eurovia were introduced to the employment team and directed to Islington's jobs portal for local residents.
- The Employer Engagement Officer worked closely with Eurovia to find a local resident who would fit the bill. The position was quickly filled, and the resident is enjoying their role and making a valuable contribution to the engagement processes.



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Completion of the new Finsbury Park Tri-borough Accord. The accord is a joint working agreement between Islington, Hackney and Haringay councils that focuses on community safety/policing, waste management, public realm improvements and business support to ensure a joined-up approach across borough boundaries.
- Deliver businesses interventions e.g. social media training, visual merchandising, public realm improvements, and business support to help build the resilience of local businesses, helping them to adapt as the economic climate changes. .
- New program of engagement with the Affordable Workspaces in Finsbury Park to ensure they continue to build on local relationships to produce more job and training opportunities. This will include workshops, skills training, community outreach and a new comms campaign.
- Continue to host the quarterly Tri-borough Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group Meeting.
- Building on the work with the five traders associations in Finsbury Park by encouraging more business to join the associations, more attendance at town centre meetings and build a joint business vision for the area e.g., encouraging the use local supply chains, more business-to-business work.
- Encouraging cycling groups and individuals to support businesses along the new C50 Cycle route to show that not all business comes from cars.
- Festive Light switch-on taking place Saturday 25th November.



d. Archway



Archway

- Awarded Creative Enterprise Zone status by The Mayor of London.
- Facilitated Bomb Arts Factory with London Living Wage accreditation and their hosting of a creative focused Employment Practitioners Network.
- Organised Archway's 'Greatest Christmas event' attended by approx. 2000 local residents & visitors across the day, promoting high street businesses with a treasure trail and Xmas shop window competition, whilst providing Market Trader Trainees with practical trading experience and mentoring in Archway Market.
- Organised several focused walkabouts of Archway; including a visit by Amy Lane, Night Czar for London to understand Archway's Night-time Economy and a GLA walkabout to meet local grassroots creative organisations to understand the issues they face.
- 'Mosaic to the Irish Community' delivered in partnership with Heritage colleagues and local schools – unveiled by Irish Ambassador to the UK & the Mayor of Islington, paying homage to the huge contributions of Irish people to life in Islington, and the reason for Navigator Square's name, whilst also proving a footfall attraction for the local economy.
- Secured £3500 in donations for the Archway Town Centre Group to assist businesses with bulk ordering, along with £5000 sponsorship of the Christmas event.

Archway becomes a Creative Enterprise Zone (CEZ)

- Responding to the concerns of local creative businesses who said that they were suffering with lack of affordable workspace and ways to nourish young local creative talent, we led a multi-team bid, supported by a wide range of local stakeholders. The CEZ will deliver:
- A £70k Impact Grant with approx. £200k match from Islington Council - officer time, community infrastructure levy, S106, Archway animation funds & Sponsorship which will be used to support the delivery of:
 - -A dedicated Creative Enterprise Zone Manager for 2 years/3 years pro-rata.
 - -Community engagement to develop a creative strategy to take the zone forward.
 - -Mapping & feasibility of unused public assets, such as garage under crofts, for types of creative use.
 - -An events focused Co-operative Community Interest Company.
 - -Showcase activity through special events to highlight grassroots creatives.
 - -Training and workshops – encompassing mentoring, workshops and talks to support residents into local creative careers
 - -Creative Internships with 50% match towards three, three-month creative internships



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Revitalised Archway Town Centre Group, which includes a rotating chair, new business plan and more accessible meetings.
- Working with the Library Team on the Library Improvement Fund bid, to pilot a digital tech hub in Archway that can be used by residents and local organisations, including 3D printing, podcasting and design.
- Securing the removal of British Telecom boxes associated with anti-social behaviour so we can utilise the space for pop up street trading.
- Initiating a shared use electric car pilot for Archway businesses.
- Exploring a potential pilot for an urban growing project using an old unused subway.
- Delivering the Creative Enterprise Zone action plan including community engagement for co-design of the future of the Creative Enterprise Zone, recruiting a new officer dedicated to supporting the creative economy in Archway and scoping feasibility of Affordable Workspace within the CEZ boundaries.

e. Chapel Market

Chapel Market

- New Economics Foundation study commissioned and delivered to support development of a roadmap to more inclusive markets.
- Market Trader Support project delivered across 2022, which engaged and supported 133 traders/prospective traders.
- Several successful events delivered across 2022.
- Commencement of the Chapel Market public realm improvement project in May 2023.
- Delivery of several 'activation' activities to promote Chapel market and improve footfall during period of improvement works.
- Deployment of the Chapel Market brand identity across social media.
- Delivery of one of three planned market trader training programmes in conjunction with Adult Community Learning.

Young People Learning Food – “Know your Onions” in Chapel Market

- Chapel Market, like many traditional markets, suffers from a disconnection between the younger generation. The root cause is that traditional markets are not particularly relevant to them. This is visibly apparent in observing the average age of both customers and traders at the market. A key aim of our work is to build connections to the market with local young people and inspire those with entrepreneurial spirit to view the market as a place in which they belong and can develop their own business.
- A recent project that supported this aim took place this July, when Chapel Market hosted students from three local schools (The Bridge, Richard Cloudsley and Beacon High), participating in the 'Know Your Onions' programme (a food education project run by the charity ['School Food Matters'](#)). This was the first time the project operated in Islington.
- The purpose of the initiative was to teach secondary school children where their food comes from and connect them with the process that goes into food production from farm to fork.
- The students grew their own produce at a commercial garden run by the charity, harvesting their produce and selling it at a local market. The Market Development Officer provided support to the project, including equipment hire and professional guidance on subjects such as sales and visual merchandising techniques.
- The students thoroughly enjoyed their time at the market, developing self-confidence by experiencing a day in the life of an entrepreneur and developed a personal connection to the market.



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Completion of the Chapel Market public realm improvement project in December 2023.
- Delivery of an art exhibition featuring portraits of local traders, hosted by Chapel Market gallery White Conduit Projects, to encourage footfall at the market.
- Hosting pop-up markets at Chapel Market following completion of the development works.
- Recruitment of new traders, focusing on finding traders from a range of backgrounds to complement the existing offer.
- Improving operational aspects across all Islington Markets to facilitate growth and retain new and existing traders.

. Clerkenwell & Bunhill



Clerkenwell & Bunhill

- **Hired an Islington resident on a project management apprenticeship:** on London Living Wage salary; facilitating training and qualifications; launching career and improving prospects for local person; strengthening local economy.
- **Multiple opportunities brokered for local businesses to deliver social value:** several employment opportunities identified and advertised via Islington Employment Service; >10 World of Work opportunities; business-to-business local procurement opportunities identified and realised; multiple LIFT and ISN referrals including 4x relationships brokered with architect firms for LIFT BBE apprenticeship programme; regular London Living Wage promotion and referrals.
- **Everyday business support:** assisted businesses with 121 support, including grants, business rates, licensing, triage of council queries etc, plus referrals: World of Work, ISN, employment services, LIFT, Safe Havens, Toilets for London; creating opportunities for local businesses to grow and thrive.
- **Whitecross Festive Event:** 400+ people in attendance; £5084 procured locally, and all stall holders also local – meaning more money staying in the local economy!

14 Clerkenwell businesses and six Bunhill businesses received energy relief grant; **£10,000 provided for local hospitality businesses to help with rising energy costs**

Continue to **work with Central District Alliance (CDA) to improve local economy in Clerkenwell area:**

- **First Islington Management Group** held Aug 23 – aim is to identify and deliver social value opportunities; harnessing CDA links with larger businesses in Clerkenwell to deliver such opportunities
- **London Living Wage campaign** underway – aim is to promote to CDA members for these businesses to contribute to Islington's LLW goal to become 'living wage borough' by 2026
- **SME engagement and events** - scheme to link local SMEs with larger businesses in the area to benefit from their skills & knowledge e.g., Google can provide digital skills courses, banks can provide financial advice specific to small businesses etc.
- General support in Safe Havens and Toilets for London schemes

Islington's Businesses Deliver Social Value

A local **architect firm** is spending locally and providing social value for residents:

- Using locally-owned green grocers for everyday fruit & veg supplies for office and staff lunches, delivered by cargo bike
- Working with local migrant-owned coffee shop, which also trains and employs refugees, to buy their ground coffee supplies for the office. The coffee is roasted in an innovative low-energy roasting machine and is delivered in reusable hessian sacks and by cargo bike and on foot.

This coffee shop is also working with Islington's migrant team to connect to local refugee organisations re staff hire and they have applied for the Energising Small Business fund and joined Islington Sustainability Network.

In Clerkenwell and Bunhill other connections brokered include:

- Islington Employment Service to hire locally;
- LIFT Plan BBE apprenticeship programme to provide opportunities for local people entering the built environment industry
- World of Work programme to provide opportunities for work experience and educational engagement opportunities to inspire the next generation.

• **A new co-working space which aims to offer a vibrant co-working / social / health space for local people has:**

- Identified 4 employment opportunities to recruit for locally; general manager, host, event manager, and wellness coach.
- Have advertised for one of these via Islington Working Portal with plans for others in coming months
- Are in talks with local fitness instructors/personal trainers to run classes and offer personalised fitness and health training for tenants of the space
- They are committed to becoming a London Living Wage employer
- They are talking to local suppliers to enhance their local spend i.e., procurement for everyday office supplies such as fruit, coffee, lunches etc.

Looking Ahead 2023/24



Social value event – Bunhill:

Event to engage with large businesses and corporates in Old St area to promote and broker local social impact opportunities

Opportunity to repeat in Clerkenwell

Page 75



Whitecross Heritage project:

With help from local partners such as Soapbox, St. Luke's Community History Group, Finsbury Library, London Metropolitan Archives, British Library, and local artist, this project will enhance the history and heritage of Whitecross Market, with the aim of:

Enhancing sense of identity and ownership for residents

Attract more visitors

Encourage more dwell time for customers

Drive more custom for businesses and traders



Business support:

Support for businesses affected by low traffic schemes

Subsidised membership to **Federation of Small Businesses**

Circular Economy grant scheme to help businesses launch/enhance their zero-waste offering

Expansion of **Energising Small Business grants - helping** reduce energy consumption, improve environmental impact, and reduce running costs

Night-time Economy – investment to improve evening offer of local economy area, drive footfall, and increase custom for businesses



Shared Cargo Bike scheme

Rollout of promotional campaign to promote Islington's shared cargo bike scheme on Exmouth Market and 3 other locations across the borough.

Aim to increase awareness of cargo bikes and increase usage to help move towards Islington becoming a net-zero borough by 2030



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g.Caledonian Road – “The Cally”



Caledonian Road 'The Cally'



- Supported the growth of the Cally Traders' Association
 - Arranged banking facilities, governance, and branding/promotional materials
 - Organised networking events, a jubilee event, a trial market (September 2022), heritage walks and festive events in partnership with the Caledonian Traders' Association
- Shop local initiatives with 25 local businesses offering discounts throughout June and July 2022
- Assisted hundreds of businesses with 121 support, including on grants, business rates, food hygiene, energy costs and business training
- Delivered a 'Footways' digital map aimed at attracting people to the Cally high street via an appealing and accessible walking route
- Led the Future Neighbourhoods Strategy from inception to publication (November 2022) after being awarded 30k from the Greater London Authority. The strategy sets out actions and outcomes necessary to harness a green/sharing/circular economy in The Cally, including a food surplus café, tool sharing scheme and training for businesses
- Negotiated with the Barnsbury transformation team a series of 'on the ground' local economies initiatives, including all workers being provided with the local discount card. The developer has also been provided with a directory of local building suppliers and a trade mission is being set up to ensure maximum benefit for local businesses.



Helping Businesses Pay Their Energy Bills

- There has been an impactful business support offer in The Cally, to support our small and independent business community amidst a backdrop of rising energy prices, the cost-of-living crisis and other economic pressures
- Ten local businesses were supported through the £500 energy relief scheme, to help with rising energy costs. The quote below comes from a local café who received the grant:

I would like to thank you so much for all your help and support. Your commitment with the community is amazing. We feel someone there really cares about us and is trying their best to help and find the best way to improve the area - *Café Owner, Caledonian Road*

Page 78



- Not only have businesses in The Cally been supported through grant provision, but tailored 1-2-1 support, too
- Cally's Local Economy Officer has worked closely with business owners to understand the economic challenges they are facing and identify routes forward together
- One business, for example, has been supported (through translation, signposting to free legal advice and regular check-ins) in a 5 month complaint process with their energy supplier, which has resulted in positive ombudsman involvement and authorisation to leave the energy contract early.



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For a more equal future

Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Shop local initiatives to be launched in September 2023, notably a Cally Loyalty Card and website.
- Quarterly networking events for Caledonian Trader's Association members from September 2023 onwards.
- Business engagement for the Cally Liveable Neighbourhood took place throughout July 2023. Cally Local Economies Officer will continue partnership work with People Friendly Streets to ensure businesses have a strong input into plans for improving the public realm and 'liveability' of Cally.
- AccessAble's report recommendations (July 2023) on improving accessibility in The Cally will be embedded into Liveable Neighbourhoods and Local Economies work.
- Work underway to deliver Future Neighbourhood projects, such as a food surplus café and a business-focussed tool/equipment sharing scheme. By 2024, we aim to see regular use of a sharing bank and food diverted from Chapel Market/local supermarkets to a surplus café.
- Deliver a green economy youth engagement programme (we have 16k development funding for this work from the Greater London Authority).
- Develop training offer on green economy for local businesses in the Cally around reducing waste and saving money.
- Set up a regular Cally Street Market at Freeling Street or other suitable location.
- Continue to support the Caledonian Traders' Association to sustain and grow and provide meaningful business support to local traders.
- Initiate project targeting high number of vacant properties on Cally Road.
- Continue to work closely with local housing developers to encourage local spend and identify social value opportunities.



h. People Friendly Streets



Key Achievements to March 2023

- **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods** made permanent St Peters and Canonbury East November 2022, Canonbury West and Clerkenwell Green February 2023 with relevant business engagement taking place.
 - School Streets underwent public consultation (Scared Heart primary school, Robert Blair Primary School, Highgate Hill) aided by Local Economies team.
 - **Liveable Neighbourhoods** consultations Phase 1 completed: Cally, Mildmay and Barnsbury and Laycock. Phase 2 Mildmay co-design workshop and business engagement with businesses in and around Mildmay and neighbouring areas.
- An all-Islington exemption was granted to the Funeral Directors in December 2022, this grants access to all Low Traffic Neighbourhoods to support their vital work in the community.

Charlton Place

- Charlton Place is a sub-scheme in the St Peters Low Traffic Neighbourhood. The initial design/intention was to create a 24/7 traffic filter to stop traffic from entering and exiting the road. The Local Economies team worked closely with the businesses and market traders across Camden Passage and Charlton Place, meeting with every businesses to grant them the opportunity to feedback on the scheme.

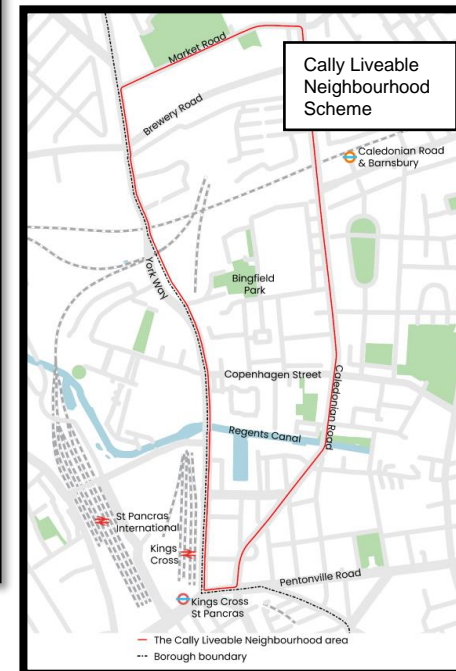
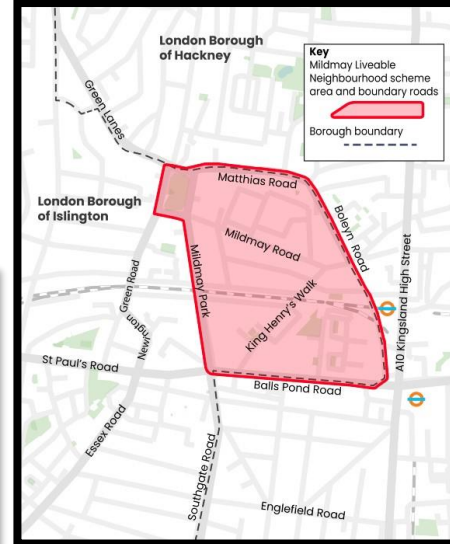
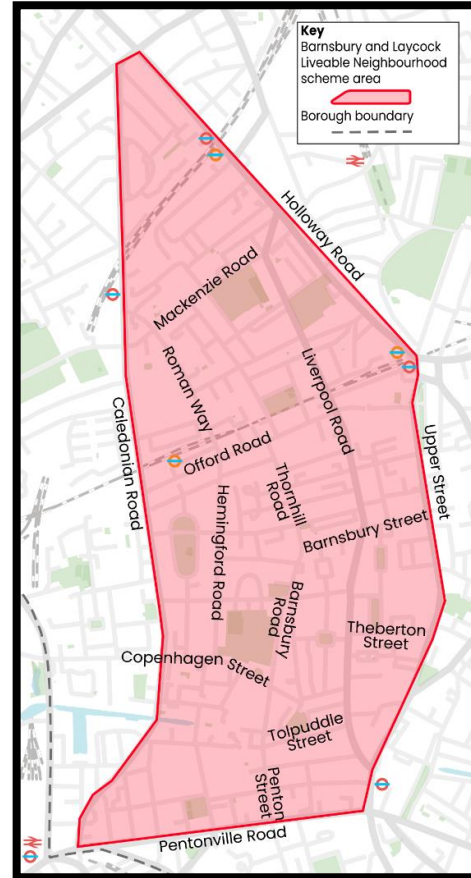
- A 'local access only' zone has now been implemented which means that business deliveries can still take place whilst significantly reducing through-traffic to the area. The Local Economies team will continue to work with businesses in the area to develop plans to support the unique heritage and economy of the Passage.



Looking Ahead 2023/24

Liveable neighbourhoods business engagement

- **Cally** - winter 2023 Stage 3 public consultation and formal consultation on the final designs
- **Mildmay** - autumn 2023 Stage 3 public consultation and formal consultation on the final designs
- **Barnsbury and Laycock** - autumn 2023 Codesign workshops and business engagement with businesses



Inclusive Business Growth

Page 84

Helping grow Islington's small and micro business community by connecting them to opportunities and supporting wider ownership through co-operatives and social enterprises

Inclusive Business Growth

- Cooperate Islington gave up to £10k in grants to 17 early-stage cooperatives in Islington, distributing a total of £67,286 in funding overall. Businesses also received a total 174 hours of expert business development support combined.
- Enhancing the online directory of the construction sector and related trades on 'Find Your Islington' to create a more user-friendly portal that will better assist buyers in the borough to meet Section 106 obligations and other social value commitments.

Page 85

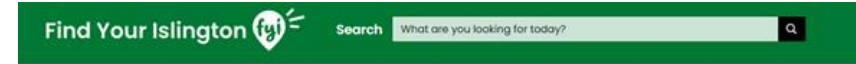
Quarterly briefing provided to councillors outlining current business support available to help members to navigate enquiries from businesses and provide further options to signpost them onto.

- We secured £400k in funding to commission a Net Zero Carbon Business Accelerator Programme that supports diverse start-ups in the engineering, digital, built environment, and engagement fields to work on solutions that directly address Islington council's priority and respond to green skills shortage and sustainability issues in the borough



Business Support to Islington's Construction Industry

- Islington Council is redeveloping its online directory of the construction sector and related trades on 'Find Your Islington' to create a more user-friendly portal that will better assist buyers in the borough to meet Section 106 obligations and other social value commitments.
- Through improved access to additional commercial and ethical information on each business (e.g., contracting information, which organisations are accredited Living Wage Employers, or can undertake retrofitting work, a buyer will find it easier to identify the local suppliers that meet their needs and invite them to bid for various works-packages.
- The directory also provides local businesses the opportunity to advertise their goods or services free of charge and receive updates from the council about local supply chain opportunities from building and refurbishment projects in the borough.
- The directory is inclusive of organisations that support the core functions of the construction sector such as architects, specialist engineering firms and other related professionals, as well as generalist areas, such as office supply.
- Online launch of the directory will be in October 2023, with a business networking event inviting businesses from the directory and buyers in the borough taking place in the new year.



Construction Services

A directory to help you find a wide range of construction services based in Islington



All listings



Architecture, design and surveying consultancy



Builders, builders merchants and plant hire



Groundworks, site management and landscaping



Painters, plasterers and decorators



Pest control, asbestos, waste and cleaning services



Roofing and glazing



Safety



Structural engineering



Woodwork, metalwork and masonry



Utilities



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Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Further develop Cooperate Islington including piloting supplier readiness programme.
- Commissioning business support programme as part of UKSPF's direct allocation to boroughs that is focused on increasing resilience with a focus on underrepresented founders given the additional barriers faced in sustaining a business.
- Meet the Buyer event with Marlborough Highways in along with other Meet the Buyer events and a business networking event for construction directory businesses in the new year.
- Work with MSDUK, which is an organisation working to increase ethnic businesses in company supply chains, to build greater supplier diversity in Islington.

6. Growth Sectors

Page 88
Championing social inclusion in Islington's growth sectors,
by expanding responsible, sustainable and inclusive
business practices and sector strategies



Growth Sectors

Over the past year we have:

- **Health and Care**- raised £250,000 to establish a five borough health academy in North Central London, working with North London Partners create a fully integrated GLA Social Care Academy
- **Green Economy** - We secured £400k in funding to commission a Net Zero Carbon Business Accelerator Programme that supports diverse start-ups in the engineering, digital, built environment, and engagement fields to work on solutions that directly address Islington council's priority and respond to green skills shortage and sustainability issues in the borough
- **Construction** - iWork construction team worked with Islington's New Build, apprenticeships and repairs team, to support four residents to gain degree level apprenticeships with the New build team. Residents were targeted from underrepresented groups and provided with pre-employment sessions and programmes.
- **Life Sciences** – Islington was successful, as the lead borough, in a bid from UK Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver a programme to boost the life sciences social economy in partnership with Hackney, Camden, Tower Hamlets, Hammersmith & Fulham, Lambeth and Southwark
- **Tech & Knowledge** –360 residents have learned more about careers in tech, creative and science industries. 161 of these were on training courses including software development, digital marketing and UX design Additional activities have included networking events at workspaces and career insight sessions with employers.

LIFT – Creative Career Starts

Achievements

- 10 x 3 month paid internships with top creative agencies
- Industry training from City University
- Access to free coworking space at Better space Islington
- All interns from underrepresented backgrounds – three with disabilities

Page 90



Results

- Added value for businesses; several recruited additional roles
- All have progressed into creative industry careers, half with their host employers
- Model has been adapted by advertising group Havas who have recruited to 3 cohorts of LIFT residents

LIFT - Residents into Media

The Havas Platform Program

- 5th largest media agency in the world, based in Kings Cross
- 20 local people placed in 6-month full time paid internships this year in tech, creative and business roles
- Insight and exposure into careers in advertising, communications and media
- Embedded training, mentoring and peer-to-peer support
- LIFT support throughout the recruitment process and for duration of internship
- Accessible eligibility criteria; no formal qualifications required
- All interns from underrepresented backgrounds, including people with disabilities, refugees, care leavers, and young carers



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Inspiring More Women into Construction – The American Tradeswomen’s Visit

- We welcomed a delegation of female construction workers from North America who joined us to discuss policies and activities to improve gender equity in construction training and employment .
- The delegation proved inspirational, and the council's construction employment team has resolved to focus their energies on bringing more women into the industry, using the 50 apprenticeships forecast for the Holloway Womens Prison site as the impetus for this.
- Since then the team have run three women specific insight sessions and have build a local talent pool of over 35 women interested in entering roles in construction.



Looking Ahead to 2023-24

Health and Care- working closely with partners in the NHS and Adult social care to ensure that local people are prioritised for local vacancies and pathways are created to address skills gaps in the sector.

Green Economy – Creating new opportunities in the ‘green economy with jobs related to new building techniques and reusing and recycling

Construction – Support apprentices to receive high quality training and sustained placements with a focus on increasing the number of women and residents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

Tech & Knowledge – we are lead partner on LIFT (Leading Inclusive Futures through Technology), a £7.4m project to deliver jobs and training in tech and digital related jobs.

Life Sciences – £1.4m has been secured to support emerging social businesses and potential entrepreneurs in public health and life sciences, thereby increasing opportunities for underserved communities to benefit from economic opportunities in these sectors.



6. Anchor Institutions

Page 94

Collaborating to Employ, Buy and Lead Locally



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For a more equal future

Key Achievements

- Publicly launched the Islington Anchor Institutions Network in September 2022 at Islington Town Hall
- Ran a series of Task and Finish Group meetings and workshops with relevant members of each Anchor to develop an action plan.
- Held an event at City, University of London in April 2023 to review and sign-off action plan and finalise governance structures for the Network.



Looking Ahead 2023-24

- Co-ordinated work placement programme for schools
 - Information event on how SMEs can use apprenticeship levy funding
 - Jobs Fair or similar
- Page 96
- Launch of construction directory of local suppliers
 - Review of retrofit/decarbonisation plans to identify opportunities to work together e.g., on joint procurement.



7. Social and Economic Infrastructure

Page 67

Progressive, Affordable, Enabling



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Affordable Workspace

- Islington now has four operational workspaces which delivered £1,287,085 in social value in 2022/23, surpassing the £500k annual target.
- From this total figure, £630,829 was delivered specifically in Skills Training & Employment. Highlights include:
- Fashion Enter have been delivering more training and career support. Their courses continue to grow in popularity in the community.
- Fashion Enter are also collaborating with big fashion companies such as Net-a-Porter and N Brown to deliver workshops such as 'How to start a Micro Business,' 'Sewing & Upcycling' and a Level 3 Diploma in Creative Practice.
- Outlandish have taken on 40 apprentices undertaking a Level 4 Apprenticeship in Software Development through Founders & Coders at Space 4.
- Outlandish have recently introduced 2 masterclasses – Tech start-up and Circular Economy in order to support people into employment in the tech industry. These have proven to be popular already and are expected to continue to grow at Space 4.



AWS and LIFT – Engaging with Communities

Community lunches hosted at coworking spaces bring residents into affordable workspaces and give them the opportunity to network with startups.

This has led to startups creating job and internship roles for local people.

Hispanic organisation, have co-designed LIFT sessions with local employers including Google and London Bioscience Innovation Centre. One participant is now working as a graphic designer, and others are taking tech training courses.



Looking Ahead: Affordable Workspace Plans for 2023/24

- The program continues to grow with our first net zero building in Regents Wharf due to open next year.

Page 100

- Over the next year, the AWS team will also be opening a further two sites:
- Bingfield Garages
 - 250 City Road
-
- Garrett Street is scheduled for opening in 2025.

8. Net Zero Economy

Page 101

Innovating, Embedding, Normalising



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Net Zero Economy

- 40 Energising Small Business grants approved resulting in £77,319 of measures installed and 32,281kg of annual carbon savings
- 19 new organisations signed up to Islington Sustainability Network (ISN)
- ISN one of nine London business networks chosen to partake in the GLA's Business Climate Challenge – currently offering an energy efficiency programme worth ~ £6000 for 32 local sites, working to 10% energy reduction targets
- Following a successful bid for £25K from the GLA's Licensing and Regulation Fund, supported and monitored a project that saw the expansion of the Wings ethical food delivery project into new areas of Islington with a business model that benefits businesses financially and reputationally
- Input to the Islington Food Strategy 2023-2028 and supported the Islington Food Partnership's relationship with local businesses
- Worked with the council's Transport Strategy team, GLA, TfL and Cross River Partnership (CRP) to improve understanding of the potential for micro-consolidation hubs to help switch freight from vans onto cargo bikes and to identify potential Islington sites
- Secured funding from CRP's Clean Air Logistics for London (CALL) project for two additional shared use cargo bikes (OurBikes) and finalised an agreement with Peddle My Wheels as a delivery partner
- Arranged for two new businesses to host the bikes in Highbury Barn and Blackstock Road.
- Compiled and promoted a list of the borough's gift shops to support the council's Shop Local campaign and produced guidance to encourage local shop vouchers to be used when awarding prizes and incentives, e.g. for completion of surveys and work competitions.



Green Social Value

- Two new apprenticeships were secured as part of the new highways contract with Marlborough Highways and will be starting in September 2023.
- We have developed a green Social Value framework for commissioning processes. Guidance has been created to support potential suppliers in understanding the council's progressive procurement policy, including circular economy principles. Efforts are being made to embed the need for green skills and jobs in council contracts and S106 agreements.

Page 103
As part of the new highways contract with Marlborough Highways, a number of training and workshop sessions have been secured for schools and communities. Additionally, the availability of employers offering Green Skills/Sustainability options on the World of Work menu for schools has been extended to include North London Heat and Power Project, Curtins, BDP, and Lendlease

- We are also developing a new, two tiered social value framework for future contracts with a list of 'required' and 'additional' green social value asks.

Embedding Net Zero- supporting business modal shift

- The council's shared use e-cargo bike scheme currently has four bikes, in Caledonian Road, Exmouth Market, Highbury Barn and Blackstock Road – and two more are to follow for Holloway Road.
- Each bike is hosted by a different community-minded business and can be hired by businesses, workers and residents through Peddle My Wheels' 'OurBike' platform. New businesses get three free hours to start, with others getting one free hour, and then the cost of using the scheme is £0.75 per 15 minutes.
- The OurBikes help businesses overcome congestion and traffic restrictions and demonstrate how bulky buys, heavy goods and even people and pets can be transported punctually and sustainably, saving time and running costs - hence paving the way for greener, healthier neighbourhoods.
- The bikes also open new opportunities for deliveries and customer engagement and have helped businesses increase their presence in the community and secure positive publicity.
- A wide range of businesses have used the bikes, from a pottery studio and dry cleaners to cafes and grocery shops - and a food waste collection business described the bikes as fundamental to their journey, considerably building capacity and saving time.



Page 104



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Business Support for Environmental Gain

- The Briki Greek Café and delicatessen in Exmouth Market were supported with an Energy Relief Grant in 2023, one of 130 Islington businesses benefitting from the scheme.
- A new relationship has developed with the Inclusive Economy team resulting in the café hosting electric cargo bikes for local deliveries and employing local residents



Looking Ahead 2023/24

- Ambitions to extend and expand free Islington Sustainability Network (ISN) sustainability business mentoring programme
- Deliver on Business Climate Challenge audit recommendations and support those climate challenge businesses who are committed to meeting their 10% energy efficiency targets
- Host the ISN annual AGM/sustainability conference
- Work with Cross River Partnership (CRP) on the delivery of their new Smarter Greener Logistics project with the location of an additional two shared use cargo bikes (OurBikes) along the A1 Holloway Road air quality focus area, between Highbury and Archway
- Deliver a promotions strategy for the shared use cargo bikes and to encourage modal shift for business deliveries.
- Continue to work with partners, including CRP, the GLA and TfL, to identify potential Islington sites for the location of micro-consolidation hubs and support the development of the Islington Freight Strategy
- Activate a shared use electric car scheme in Archway to benefit all town centre group businesses
- Work with Islington Council's Commercial Waste services to increase the number of businesses recycling their food waste
- Further promote the council's Shop Local campaign, including delivery of at least one new local economy loyalty card scheme to support local businesses and reduce residents carbon footprints



9. Challenging Inequalities in Employment and Business

Page 107

Targeting, Enterprising, Rebalancing



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Challenging inequalities in Employment and Business

Over the past year we have:

- Funded the Enterprise Support Programme (ESP) and the Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programme (IEP) both of which were delivered by Action for Race Equality.
- Worked with London Met University to better understand disability pay inequity in Islington, including recommendations on how disabled people can be better supported to find work.
- Began to implement the recommendations of the 2022 London Met University research report on how to tailor employment support in particular for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities.
- Supported 35 people from underrepresented backgrounds into paid employment in tech, creative and sciences including jobs, apprenticeships and paid placements via the LIFT programme. Job roles have included software engineer, full stack developer and graphic designer.



Supporting people from underrepresented communities to develop employment skills

- I moved into Islington about five years ago, I was always at home sometimes helping doing volunteering for my local church. Being a single mum of two I wanted to ensure I could help my children.
- I met Selina at Choices – a community advice project in Archway - where Selina does outreach work once a week. Selina introduced herself and told me about the different courses I could access and my employment opportunities. I was excited and we signed up to the ACL courses.
- I did my assessments for Maths and English and my results were better than expected, so I started at English level 1 and Maths entry 1. I passed my English exam in March and have started Level 2.
- I also joined the community sewing class, which I have now completed and made two skirts. I am making a shirt this term and thoroughly enjoying it. I completed a 4-week digital skills course for beginners, and I am currently doing a drop-in session for a computer skills gadget workshop.
- By doing all these courses I am upskilling myself and this is building back my confidence. Selina has helped me in more ways than I can express, and she is always at the end of the phone if I need to talk to her. She has been a great help.”



Selina, Outreach Worker @ Choices



Looking Ahead 2023-24

- A 'Community Unionism' project will map workplace harms in Islington, and identify opportunities for unionisation to address these issues, supported by local communities
- A university-led evaluation of our approach to allocating resources for employment support in Islington
- Implementing the recommendations from LMU's research report on supporting residents with disabilities into work.

Environment and Climate Change
Town Hall, Upper Street, N1

Joint Report of: Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport,
Corporate Director of Community Wealth Building and Corporate Director of
Homes and Neighbourhoods.

Meeting of: Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17 October 2023

Ward(s): All

Subject: 23/24 Quarter 1 Performance Report: Environment and Transport

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. The council has in place a suite of corporate performance indicators to help monitor progress in delivering the outcomes set out in the council's Corporate Plan. Progress on key performance measures are reported through the council's Scrutiny Committees on a quarterly basis to ensure accountability to residents and to enable challenge where necessary.
- 1.2. This report sets out Q1 2023/24 progress against targets for those performance indicators that mainly fall within the Place and Environment outcome area, for which the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has responsibility. To align with the Islington Together 2030 Plan, some additional new measures are proposed that in the main will be reported from Q2 onwards.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note performance against targets as at the end of Q1 2023/24.
- 2.2. To note the additional proposed new measures that align with the Islington Together 2030 Plan

3. Background

- 3.1. A suite of corporate performance indicators has been agreed which help track progress in delivering the seven priorities set out in the Council’s Corporate Plan - Building a Fairer Islington. Targets are set on an annual basis and performance is monitored internally, through Departmental Management Teams, Corporate Management Board, and externally through the Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.2. The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is responsible for monitoring and challenging performance for the Place and Environment outcome area of making Islington a welcoming and attractive borough and creating a healthier environment for all as well as measures relating to helping residents cope with the cost of living.
- 3.3. **Quarter 1 performance update – Keep the streets clean and promote recycling.**

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	23/24 Target	Q1 23/24 or latest	On target?	Q1 or same period last year	Direction of travel
E1	Percentage of household waste recycled and composted (Q in arrears)	31.3% in 20/21	30.1% in 21/22	33% 22/23 & 34% 23/24	27.7% (22/23)	No	30.1% (21/22)	Poorer
E11	Number missed waste collections - domestic and commercial (average per calendar month)	262	265	275	236 (Q1)	Yes	273	Better
n/a	Number of reported flytips (all land types)	1,404	1,292	n/a	348 (Q1)	n/a	255	Poorer
E6	Cleanliness surveys - Litter (% sites above acceptable standard)	96.6%	98.5%	97%	98.5% (Q1)	Yes	98.5% (22/23)	Same

E7	Cleanliness surveys – Detritus (% sites above acceptable standard)	92.4%	96.5%	95%	95.9% (Q1)	Yes	96.5% (22/23)	Same
E8	Cleanliness surveys –Graffiti (% sites above acceptable standard)	99.0%	99.7%	99%	99.1% (Q1)	Yes	99.0% (21/22)	Same
E9	Cleanliness surveys – Flyposting (% sites above acceptable standard)	99.2%	99.7%	99%	98.8% (Q1)	Yes	99.2% (21/22)	Same

3.3.1. **Residual (non-recycled) total waste:** Residual waste per household in 22/23 was 350kg compared to compared to 367.5kg in 21/22. This 4.8% drop means that nearly two thousand tonnes fewer tonnes of waste was produced and disposed of in 22/23, lowering carbon emissions relating to the production, transport and disposal of this material. The lowest figure this has ever been for Islington was 345.7kg in 20/21 (40% lower than the then NLWA average figure) and the current figure is our second lowest ever level and one of the very lowest in London.

3.3.2. **Recycling rate:** Audited quarterly recycling rate data from Waste Data Flow (the national waste and recycling performance database) usually comes in around three months after the end of the quarter. The 22/23 recycling rate is now confirmed as 27.7% compared to last year’s rate of 30.1% and the 22/23 target of 33.0%. The figure of 27.7% is the lowest rate since 2007/8 when it was 26.3%. Over the period since then, the highest rate was 32.8% in 2014/15.

Although full 22/23 data for other NLWA boroughs is not yet available, an analysis of all seven boroughs comparing their 21/22 rates with the 22/23 position as at Q3, indicates that most other partner boroughs have seen a very similar drop as Islington, with only Enfield showing an increase. Enfield’s improvement is attributed to them tackling very high contamination rates which Islington hasn’t had. The only other borough not seeing a similar drop is Waltham Forest who have changed their way of dealing with fly-tipping tonnages to align with what Islington and other boroughs are already doing. The recent downward trend in recycling rates is attributed to the economic downturn with shifting patterns of discretionary household spend and consumption.

- 3.3.3. Total recycling tonnages are down by 14.8%. Within what was recycled, dry recycling tonnages are down by 14.0% whilst organics (food and garden waste) tonnages are down by 17.7%. NLWA have linked this reduction in organics tonnages to the summer 2022 heatwave which surprised garden waste growth, and just this element is responsible for a 1.5 percentage points impact on our overall 22/23 recycling rate. Organics tonnages across the summer just coming to a close are looking stronger and will feed into the outturns for Q1 and Q2 this year.
- 3.3.4. The council has set up a Recycling Data Review Group to more closely scrutinise recycling tonnages and to identify trends and what can be learnt. The recycling rate is calculated from the compilation of complex sets of data from a range of sources. The Group is reviewing each of these data, not only to identify trends but also ensure data integrity. This will enable quicker and more detailed analysis of emerging trends and early identification any anomalies so that urgent follow up with NLWA and action can be taken. Detailed scrutiny of the 22/23 data for potential discrepancies may result in a better understanding of elements of the drop in the recycling rate, alongside the organics drop mentioned above and the lost recycle due to contractor error flagged in the last Q4 report.
- 3.3.5. The deployment of Islington's new Waste Management Back Office system, scheduled for this year will also improve data handling enabling more accurate performance management for collection rounds.
- 3.3.6. The council is working hard to improve recycling performance through a combination of service improvements and encouraging behaviour change. Given that the comparative recycling rates on estates are on average only about 60% of that for street properties, our new Waste Reduction and Recycling plan sets out a substantial new investment programme to transform recycling facilities on our estates. Three Estate Recycling Officers are now in post and currently working on recycling site improvements for 74 sites on Islington estates. A series of consultations are ongoing on a range of recycling facility improvements for estate residents including major planned improvements to recycling facilities on Bemerton (North) Estate, Camden Estate and a handful of other estates. New improvement recycling facilities are being procured for Finsbury Estate, while a consultation process is about to start to support the review and improvement of recycling facilities on the New Orleans Estate.
- 3.3.7. In the short term, our focus continues to be on extending food waste recycling to remaining purpose-built blocks of flats and as at July, service coverage was up from 43% in April 22 to 74% of suitable properties with an extra 15,000 households now receiving this service.

- 3.3.8. We are also continuing the trial of food waste collections from flats above shops along part of Holloway Road and are participating in a funded research project with ReLondon and two other London Local Authorities to identify ways to increase recycling rates for flats above shops and businesses. The funding is worth up to £25k.
- 3.3.9. A series of Repair Events are being delivered, including seven textile upcycling events, two furniture repair and upcycling events, four electrical repair events, three computer repair events and two clothes swap events.
- 3.3.10. Thirty nine new split litter recycling bins are in the process of being deployed across Islington's parks and green spaces to make it easier to recycle while out and about.
- 3.3.11. A range of communications campaigns and waste prevention campaigns are being delivered in partnership with NLWA, including 'Reduce, Reuse, your Cycle', a reusable period product campaign, schools education and engagement (including promoting uniform exchanges), the Together We Recycle campaign which focusses on the great work done by our front line collection crews, and promotion of the London wide 'Eat Like a Londoner' campaign which aims to drive down food waste.
- 3.3.12. From Q2 we intend to report to the Committee performance with bespoke KPIs on quarterly residual waste (the 2030 plan talks of Islington as a 'low waste borough'), commercial recycling rates (2030 target of 75%), and the department will also be more closely monitoring household recycling contamination rates.
- 3.3.13. **Missed Collections:** Average monthly reported missed waste collections in Q1 were 236, matching our best ever performance, ahead of the new 23/24 target of 275 and also a 10% improvement on the 22/23 average of 265. Current performance remains particularly strong across commercial waste collections. There are an average of 2.1 million collections made every month so the current performance represents 0.01% reported missed or only one in every 9,000.
- 3.3.14. **Fly-tipping:** The 'fly-capture' fly-tipping indicator measures the total number of reported fly-tips across all land types and waste types, with the number in Q1 being 348. Whilst this is lower than Q4 figure of 409 it is higher than the same quarter in 22/23 which was 255. This quarter there has been a notable increase in reported flytips of construction and demolition waste compared to the same period last year. Numbers across the whole of 22/23 were 8% down on 21/22 and it is too early in the year to determine any sustained upward trend.

- 3.3.15. **Street cleanliness surveys:** Street Cleanliness surveys in Islington used to be conducted by Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) but are now conducted in-house using the same on-street survey methodology. These are now conducted continuously as opposed to in tranches with survey sites covering all local land types across retail, industrial, housing, highways and recreation etc. All measures are collated to represent the observable amounts of litter, detritus (organic matter and gravel/sand etc), graffiti and flyposting. The results are then analysed, weighted and presented as a single percentage under each category giving the proportion of sites that are at or above a defined acceptable standard (or its inverse). Therefore, in the table above, the higher the figures (closer to 100%) the better.
- 3.3.16. With **litter**, average performance has improved consistently across the last three years with 22/23 overall coming in at a very strong 98.5%, sustained in Q1 and well above the new 23/24 target of 97%. The improvements are attributed to the return of individual sweepers to their substantive rounds.
- 3.3.17. Overall levels of **detritus** have also improved significantly with Q1 coming in 95.9%, comparable to the overall result for 22/23 of 96.5% and much improved on the overall 21/22 result of 92.4%. Aside from sweepers returning to their individual rounds, improvements are a result of using local land-use performance data to target interventions on residential streets which were previously bringing the results down.
- 3.3.18. **Graffiti** levels in Q1 have increased a little on the overall 22/23 performance of 99.7%, but still just ahead of target and will be monitored closely as the year unfolds. The improving position over the last few years is a result of a fully resourced team and the service being much more proactive in removing graffiti from third party infrastructure.
- 3.3.19. **Flyposting** levels appear to have plateaued at a good position. Whilst Q1 has dipped very slightly below the 23/34 target, it is too early to discern any trend and the current performance of 98.8% compares to the 21/22 level of 99.2% and that of 20/21 of 98.5%.
- 3.4. **Quarter 1 performance update - Make sure residents have access to high quality parks, leisure facilities and cultural opportunities**

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 23/24 or latest	On target ?	Same period last year	Direction of travel
E10	Number of Leisure Visits	1.298m	1.629m	1.662m (487.2k for Q1)	374.7k (Q1)	No	477.6k	Poorer

3.4.1. As 22/23 came to a close, cumulative leisure visitor numbers fell below the profiled target primarily as a result of the impacts of the Sobell Leisure Centre flood in August, which negative impact is expected to continue for the remainder of 2023. The targets for 23/24 are based on a 2% uplift on actual monthly visitor numbers in 22/23 and therefore Q1 has come in 23% below the profiled target.

3.4.2. The Ironmonger Row Baths Spa is scheduled to be completed by January 2024 and this is expected to positively impact visitor numbers. The Sobell reinstatement and potential new projects were subject to a delegated decision in early August after a public consultation that attracted over a thousand responses. The council has decided not to reinstate the ice rink but instead to progress an 'active zone' option and invite local people to help create an inclusive programme of activities, particularly reaching out to people typically underrepresented in sport and fitness. It is intended that the range of sports on offer will be greatly increased, alongside expanding and improving existing facilities, including the squash courts, gym, dojo, and boxing studio. The Sobell works are hoped to be complete by April 2024 though some facilities such as the gym and squash courts will come back into use prior to that.

3.5. **Quarter 1 performance update - Provide practical support to help residents cope with the cost of living.**

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 23/24 or latest	On target ?	Same Period last year	Direction of travel
E13	Residents supported through SHINE – unique household referrals	3,233	3,014	3,000 (780 for Q1)	655 (Q1)	No	651	Same

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3.5.1. **Islington SHINE referrals:** The 23/24 unique households referrals target has been set at the same level of 3,000 as in 22/23, despite the challenges caused by the changes to the Government’s Warm Home Discount scheme. Previously people had to apply for this and SHINE helped a large number of clients do so but the rules changed in 2022 to introduce auto-registration, meaning people no longer needed help from SHINE. As all the WHD-only clients have disappeared, most other interventions (assistance with dealing with suppliers, debt relief etc) are more time consuming, but have all increased in volume. For example, debt and complex cases have more than tripled compared to 21/22, up from 102 to 339 in the year. Re-referrals are also at an all-time high, meaning that the same household is calling back repeatedly within the year, but only get counted once for the purpose of the KPI.

3.5.2. On Q1 we had 655 referrals, a very similar number to Q1 in 22/23. Whilst this is somewhat down on the profiled target of 780, the service have been concentrating on debt relief and write-off and are confident of making up the shortfall. Debt relief cases in Q1 are three times what they were in Q1 last year. In the first two quarters of the year, the service focuses on and event promotion and from September onwards, there is a targeted mailout campaign to known vulnerable residents which significantly increases referrals and call volumes to the advice line, with three officers on the phones at all times to keep the wait times on the advice line as low as possible.

3.5.3. The GLA Warmer Homes programme will be opening in late October to November again also triggering high call volumes wanting assistance applying for this grant scheme. Once this grant scheme is active again, we will be sending out a targeted mailout inviting those residents who are likely to be eligible to apply as soon as possible. In October, central government are also going to be sending letters out to lots of residents that are on means-tested benefits to let them know if they are eligible for the Warm Home Discount. This will also trigger high call volumes and requests for EPCs to be carried out and the council are considering how best we can respond to this.

3.6. **Quarter 1 performance update – Make it easier and safer for people to travel through the borough and beyond.**

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 23/24 or latest	On target ?	Q1 or same period last year	Direction of travel
E2	Number of secure cycle parking facilities on streets	401	499	600	500	Yes	401	Better
E3	Number of new electric vehicle charging points across the borough	336	417	600	490	No	356	Better
n/a	Percentage of parking appeals won at the Enforcement and Traffic Tribunal	69% (20/21)	78% (21/22)	78% (22/23)	77% (22/23)	Yes	78% (21/22)	Same
n/a	People killed or seriously injured on our roads	84 (2020)	96 (2021)	n/a	111 (2022)	n/a	96 (2021)	Poorer

3.6.1. **Secure cycle parking:** The council committed to delivering 100 secure cycle parking facilities on our streets each year over a four-year period to 2021/22, making 400 in total. We achieved this target and committed to delivering a further 100 each year going forward. In Q1 we hit the 500 target and have programmed another one hundred to be installed in Q4. Each facility can house six bicycles giving a total current capacity of 3,000.

3.6.2. Currently, the occupancy rate across the whole storage capacity stands at 86%, up from 81% in Q4 and 71% in January. This figure includes 76% who have paid and have a key and 10% which are under offer to a resident. Occupancy rates fluctuate depending on when new hangars are installed, especially when in large batches. We are continuing to work on a digital platform which will simplify the way we offer and monitor bike hangar spaces which will make running an accurate occupancy figure more straightforward and more accurate. The launch for this has been delayed until late November, partly as the supplier has had to carry out further development work. The resident waiting list for bike hangar space which was reduced from 2,500 in January to 1,270 in Q4, is currently standing at just over 1,400.

- 3.6.3. **Electric vehicle charging points:** The Council has also committed to installing 400 new electric vehicle charging points (EVCPs) over the same four-year period and a further 100 each year after that. In 21/22 we added 52 and a further 81 in 22/23 taking the total to 417, 83 short of the 500 22/23 target. Several factors have contributed to the programme delays with the current issues arising from technical suitability issues after site assessments.
- 3.6.4. As at the end of Q1 we have added a further 73 and taking the total to 490 with an end of year target of 600. Delivery is being held up by negotiations with the supplier around costs and procurement framework issues. However, we have recently completed public consultation on a further 117 lamp column charging points, delivery of which will begin in January 2024. In benchmarking terms as at July 2023, the provision of EVCPs in Islington remained as ranking 9th per head of population across all 33 London Boroughs.
- 3.6.5. **Parking appeals:** The percentage of parking appeals won by the council at the Enforcement and Traffic Tribunal is an annual measure reflecting the quality of our parking service. Although marginally short of our very ambitious target, the new data for 22/23 gives a very positive picture with Islington at the very top of the London parking authorities league table with 77% of all appeals won. This is up from 52% in 19/20, 69% in 20/21, and a very similar 78% last year. In benchmarking terms over the same period, we have moved up from 18th through 3rd, 2nd, and now top. The London average figure in 22/23 was 54%, down from 57% in 21/22. Islington's 'Did not contest' (DNC) cases were only 12% (compared to 14% last year) whilst the London average stayed the same at 22%.
- 3.6.6. This much stronger position is as a result of better quality assurance for new CCTV schemes, improved on-street signage and working collaboratively with the adjudicators on the specific reasons for previous cases lost. We have also reintroduced an 'evidence request letter' early in the appeals process which has reduced cancellations on the basis of subsequent new evidence.
- 3.6.7. **Road traffic collisions:** The ambitious Islington Transport Strategy 2019-2041 contains a commitment to achieving 'Vision Zero' by 2041, eliminating all transport related deaths and serious injuries in Islington over the next 20 years.
- 3.6.8. The newly released 2022 figure of 111 casualties shows an increase on the levels seen in 2021 (96) and 2020 (84), though these were both lockdown years with significantly lower levels of traffic. The figure for 2019 was the same as for 2022 with both Hackney and Camden showing very similar trends. There were two fatalities, one cyclist and one car passenger, with the overall figure breaking down

as 34 pedestrians, 46 cyclists, 21 motorbike/moped rider or pillion, 6 car occupants, and 4 other.

3.6.9. The 111 casualties in 2022 split between 61 on the borough roads and 50 on the Transport for London road network (TLRN), with one fatality on each. Comparing pre-pandemic data (2017-19) with the post-pandemic data of 2022 appears to depict a downward trend, though more so with regards to the number of slightly injured casualties. With seriously injured casualties overall, Islington is now showing a trajectory of a 35% reduction compared to the 2005/9 baseline.

3.7. Quarter 1 performance update – Working towards a net zero carbon Islington by 2030.

PI No.	Indicator	2021/22 Actual	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Target	Q1 2023/24 or latest	On target ?	Same period last year	Direction of travel
E4	Carbon emissions for Council buildings (Q in arrears and tonnes CO2)	2,269	2,029	2,127	2,029 (22/23 – target 2,431)	Yes	2,269	Better
E5	Carbon emissions from Council Transport fleet (tonnes CO2)	2,397	2,379	1,733	595 (Q1 target 414)	No	593	Same

3.7.1. **Carbon emissions from council buildings:** In June 2019, the Council declared an Environment and Climate Change Emergency and the Carbon Zero Strategy 2030 was adopted by the Executive in November 2020. We are monitoring the Council’s own internal progress with quarterly measures of the CO2 emissions for Council operational buildings (within the Borough) and those from the Council’s transport fleet. The former is reported a quarter in arrears in order to minimise billing estimates.

3.7.2. New Green Electricity tariffs drove very significant reductions in building’s emissions in 21/22 and we now remain well ahead of target across 22/23, with emissions down a further 11% on the previous year. This has been driven by the Corporate Energy Savings Programme implemented due to the energy crisis and specifically more efficient use of heating. While we may expect some degree of rebound in 23/24, we will also benefit from more sites being moved to renewable

electricity tariffs, which should reduce emissions by around a further 60 tonnes and a drop-off in the WRC gas consumption (9% of the total) towards the end of the year as the current decarbonisation works are completed.

- 3.7.3. The Energy Services team are continuing to compile a list of all council owned or leased sites to identify which ones require decarbonisation works. This will be used to ensure that all buildings that require works to eliminate emissions from gas boilers have feasibility studies carried out. It will also provide the basis for prioritising funding applications and also consider all opportunities to build works into scheduled refurbishments. We are also in the process of procuring a contractor to speed up future decarbonisation works.
- 3.7.4. **Carbon emissions from council vehicle fleet:** Whilst council fleet carbon emissions across 22/23 came in 3% ahead of the annual target on a trajectory that takes us net zero over ten years, further progress has stalled in Q1 with emissions from the council's fleet vehicles being very similar to Q1 last year and 44% below the profiled target. This is because of the increase in vehicle numbers, up overall from 502 to 545 in the last twelve months and mainly in housing repair which has an additional (mainly diesel) 47 hire vehicles for damp/mould related works. These new hired vehicles are currently effectively offsetting the improvements arising from the electrification of the fleet, an additional eight electric vehicles having been acquired since the beginning of April.
- 3.7.5. The Environment and Housing departments are working closely together to meet the net zero fleet emission reductions and a council vehicle reduction strategy is being drafted. There will be a new annual PI on progress with fleet electrification, currently standing at 19.2% of the owned fleet and 15.9% of the whole fleet. The 2030 target is 100%.
- 3.7.6. Infrastructure delivered in Q1 included completion of the WRC infrastructure project that increased the building electrical capacity from 1,250kVA to 3,250kVA. Alongside this increase to the high voltage infrastructure we have installed low voltage infrastructure across the WRC site allowing EVCPs to be added iteratively as required, including installation of 24 across the basement in Q1. Also completed is a 200kw increase at Fairbridge Road depot including the installation of four EVCPs to support highways operations working from that site.

3.8. **New PIs for 23/24**

In order to align this performance report better with the Islington Together 2030 Plan, and in addition to the new quarterly PIs mentioned above on residual waste per household, commercial recycling rate and fleet electrification, it is proposed to

also add the following measures to the suite currently explicitly reported to the committee:

- A new quarterly corporate PI on dockless bike parking spaces, a member priority and picking up on Net Zero, Independent lives and 'confident to walk' themes in the 2030 plan.
- A new quarterly corporate PI on pothole repair turnaround as it is both a public safety issue and a managing resources issue.
- A new annual PI on 'net new council owned trees' as increasing canopy cover is also a 2030 plan ambition.
- An annual PI on 'new green space' as a target of 1.5 hectares of repurposed public realm by 2030 is explicit in the Islington Together plan.

Implications

3.9. Financial Implications

- 3.9.1. The cost of providing resources to monitor performance is met from within each service's core budget

3.10. Legal Implications

- 3.10.1. There are no legal duties upon local authorities to set targets or monitor performance. However, these enable us to strive for continuous improvement

3.11. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 3.11.1. There are no environmental impacts from monitoring.

3.12. Equalities Impact Assessment

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

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. The council's Corporate Plan sets out a clear set of priorities, underpinned by a set of firm commitments and actions that we will take to work towards our vision of a

Fairer Islington. The revised corporate performance indicators are one of a number of tools that enable us to ensure that we are making progress in delivering key priorities whilst maintaining good quality services for residents.

Appendices: none.

Background papers: none.

Final report clearance:

Approved by:

Corporate Director of Community Wealth Building

Date: 6.10.23

Corporate Director of Homes and Neighbourhoods

Date: 6.10.23

Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Date: 6.10.23

Report Author: Steve Wills, Environment Business and Performance Officer

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Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Workplan 2023/24

4 July 2023

Membership, Terms of Reference, and Dates of Meetings
Select New Scrutiny Topic for 2023-24
Environment & Transport – Q4 Performance Report
Employment & Skills – Q4 Performance Report
Libraries and Heritage – Q4 Performance Report
Net Zero Carbon Programme – Q4 Performance Report
Agree work plan for 2023-24

12 September 2023

Employment & Skills – Q1 Performance Report

17 October 2023

Scrutiny Topic – Scrutiny Initiation Document
Scrutiny Topic – Islington Pensioners Forum – Evidence Session
Scrutiny Report: Net Zero Carbon Review 2022-23
Libraries and Heritage – Q1 Performance Report
Environment & Transport – Q1 Performance Report
Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs – Annual Report

23 November 2023

Scrutiny Topic – Witness Evidence (*Active Travel?*)
Environment & Transport – Q2 Performance Report
Net Zero Carbon Programme – Q1/Q2 Performance Report
Report back on Behavioural Change Scrutiny (2021-22)
Executive Member for Environment and Transport – Annual Report

25 January 2024

Scrutiny Topic – Witness Evidence (*Active Travel?*)
Libraries and Heritage – Q2 Performance Report
Employment & Skills – Q2 Performance Report

7 March 2024

Scrutiny Topic – Witness Evidence (*SPD?*)
Annual Update from North London Waste Authority
Environment & Transport – Q3 Performance Report

25 March 2024 – Special Climate Emergency Public Meeting

16 April 2024

Scrutiny Topic – Witness Evidence (*Green Skills?*)

Scrutiny Review: Draft Recommendations

Libraries and Heritage – Q3 Performance Report

Employment & Skills – Q3 Performance Report

NLWA – Joint Waste Strategy Consultation Draft Document.

First Meeting of the next year:

Net Zero Carbon Programme – Q3/Q4 Performance Report

Agree Scrutiny Topic

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Inclusive Economy – Task and Finish Goup

Terms of Reference

The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is responsible for carrying out the functions of an overview and scrutiny committee in respect of matters relating to the Environment Directorate, including the regeneration function originally located within the directorate. The council has recently established a Community Wealth Building directorate which includes responsibility for both physical regeneration and economic development. The responsibility for oversight of this work currently remains with the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Community Wealth Building is one of the 'Five Missions' in the Islington Together 2030 plan and is therefore of strategic importance to the Council. The primary purpose of the Task and Finish Group is to expand the committee's knowledge of the recent work being done to promote an inclusive economy and to consider if there is scope for proposing some ideas to the Executive, or the development of a full Scrutiny Review in future years.

Membership:

Membership of the Task and Finish Group will be drawn from the members of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. Relevant officers and representatives of some external organisations will be invited to present to the Task and Finish Group about the work they do and the challenges they are seeking to address.

Meetings:

The following meetings are proposed, these will be organised by the Chair as virtual meetings, lasting approximately one hour each and will take place shortly before the next three meetings of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

Meeting 1: Green jobs

Focus on creating employment - suggested speakers to include an officer from the Inclusive Economy and Jobs teams to speak apprenticeships at the Holloway prison site and a speaker from the Greener Jobs Alliance.

Meeting 2: Affordable workspaces

Focus on encouraging start ups and support for small local businesses - suggested speakers to be representatives of organisations currently operating Affordable Workspaces.

Meeting 3: The Reuse Economy

Focus on reuse and it's economic benefits / sustainability including progress with Bright Sparks and the library of things – suggested speaker from Waltham Forest Council to talk about the success of their reuse shop.

A Democratic Services officer will attend each meeting to take notes.

Outcome:

The Chair will verbally update the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee under the Chairs Report agenda item at the meeting following each Task and Finish Group meeting.

At the conclusion of the three task and finish group meetings, the notes taken will be summarised in a short report by Democratic Services. The report will be submitted to a formal meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the committee will determine whether or not:

- a) there is sufficient evidence to inform meaningful recommendations to the Executive
- b) if the report should just be noted,
- c) or if the report will be used to form the basis of a full Scrutiny Review to be undertaken by the committee in a future year.

If the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee considers there is sufficient evidence to make meaningful recommendations to the Executive, the draft outline of these recommendations will be agreed at the committee meeting and Democratic Services will draft a short recommendation report. The report will include legal and financial implications and be submitted to a future meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for approval to submit the report to the Executive.

Timeline:

The Task and Finish Group meetings are intended to be held ahead of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meetings scheduled to take place on the following dates:

17 October 2023

23 November 2023

25 January 2024

It is anticipated that the initial report back will be scheduled for consideration at the next Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7 March 2024.

If, following consideration of the initial report back, it is the Committee's view that some recommendations should be formally made to the Executive, Democratic Services will draft a recommendation report to be submitted to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for approval at the meeting on 16 April 2024.

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