

## Resident Impact Assessment

**Title of policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision: Net Zero Carbon Strategy**

**Service Area: Public Realm**

### 1. What are the intended outcomes of this policy, function etc?

The main objectives are to reduce energy consumption, residents' energy bills and carbon emissions. Secondary objectives include ensuring residents are able to heat their home properly.

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### 2. Resident Profile

Who is going to be impacted by this change i.e. residents/service users/tenants? Please complete data for your service users. If your data does not fit into the categories in this table, please copy and paste your own table in the space below. Please refer to **section 3.3** of the guidance for more information.

The proposals in the Net Zero Carbon Strategy effectively cover all residents of the borough in some form.

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### 3. Equality impacts

With reference to the [guidance](#), please describe what are the equality and socio-economic impacts for residents and what are the opportunities to challenge prejudice or promote understanding?

The main objective of the Net Zero Carbon Strategy is to reduce energy consumption in order to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. This strategy has five key priorities:

1. **Residential buildings, Commercial & Industrial buildings and Infrastructure:**  
Eliminating emissions from buildings by switching away from gas heating where feasible and making buildings more energy efficient by improving insulation.
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Achieving these goals should improve thermal comfort, reduce heating bills and eliminate NOx emissions from boilers, improving residents' finances and health.

There are three main potentially negative impacts in this area of work:

- Replacing gas boilers with heat pumps or other forms of electric heating in uninsulated properties could lead to bill increases or residents not using their heating to avoid increased costs, which would have a particularly negative impact on the elderly and very young, people with certain health conditions and pregnant women. It is important to ensure that the heating system is only changed when it will not lead to a rise in heating costs – e.g. by installing insulation at the same time.
- Cases where inappropriate insulation is used – particularly internal wall insulation – may increase the risk of overheating, which would adversely impact the elderly or people with certain health conditions. This needs to be considered when identifying the most appropriate form of insulation for a building.
- Improper installation of insulation can lead to condensation and mould issues if not done properly (i.e. if cold bridges are left), which may particularly impact people with certain health conditions. It is therefore important that any insulation schemes are properly designed and carried out to avoid cold bridges.

2. **Transport:** Eliminating vehicle and plant-related emissions by encouraging a modal shift away from cars towards public transport and cycling/walking or a shift to electric vehicles and plant/equipment. The main aims are to encourage the use of active travel and to reduce emissions (which will improve air quality), both of which will improve the health of all Islington residents, particularly benefitting those with respiratory conditions.

However, Islington's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods/People Friendly Streets are designed to allow access to all areas, with only the routes available to do so changing. Any changes to streetscapes, such as the installation of vehicle charging points, will also have to be done in a way that does not negatively impact people with mobility issues (for example, by making pavements too narrow). Some potential schemes, such as a Workplace Parking Levy, may also affect people with mobility issues who are unable to access public transport and have to drive to work. This should be borne in mind during the development of such schemes.

3. **Sustainable and Affordable Energy Generation and Supply:** Expanding heat networks and solar power generation in the borough and working to help residents suffering from fuel poverty.

Expanding heat networks and solar power should reduce heating and electricity bills and emissions from boilers, improving residents' finances and health. It is unlikely that the growth of heat networks or solar power would negatively impact anyone except during the construction phase (which will lead to noise and possibly access restrictions being in place). Heat networks will increase energy security and lessen

the risk of residents suffering a loss of heating during the winter. However, it will be important to ensure that the heat tariff remains at an affordable level.

The fuel poverty reduction work through the SHINE scheme will have a positive impact for the vulnerable residents it is aimed at helping. Encouraging more residents to sign up to Angelic Energy, which is designed for people who rarely switch, is aimed at helping those residents save money on their energy bills. It will be important to ensure that the Angelic standard tariff remains competitive to avoid pushing customers into fuel poverty.

4. **The Green Economy & Planning:** Ambitions to green the local economy and ensure the planning system promotes energy efficiency and low or zero carbon development. It is unlikely that any proposals in this section would have a negative impact on residents. Ensuring that new developments are energy efficient will reduce the risk of residents of these properties suffering from fuel poverty in the future.
5. **The Natural Environment, Waste Reduction & Recycling and Carbon Offsetting:** Ambitions to increase Islington's tree cover and improve recycling rates. Planting more trees in the borough is likely to have a positive impact in terms of air quality, as well as providing benefits such as summer shading or winter windbreaks. However, it will be important to ensure that trees are planted in locations that do not cause problems for people with limited mobility. It is unlikely that the waste-related proposals will have a negative impact for any residents.

Several potential negative impacts have been identified above. As this is only a strategy, any implementation of measures will be done through individual projects, at which point the specific impacts will be reviewed in more detail.

Addressing the three aims of Public Sector Equality Duty:

1. **Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation:** Unlikely to be applicable.
2. **Advancing equality of opportunity:** Reducing fuel poverty and improving thermal comfort of residents homes should improve economic equality if the issues identified above are avoided. Transport-related improvements and tree planting will need to be carefully managed to avoid impacting on those with limited mobility.
3. **Fostering good relations:** Unlikely to be applicable.

With regards to the nine protected characteristics, impacts have been identified that will affect certain people based on their age, disability and pregnancy/maternity status. It is unlikely that there will be any impacts that will affect people based on their gender reassignment status, marriage and civil partnership status, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

## 4. Safeguarding and Human Rights impacts

### a) Safeguarding risks and Human Rights breaches

Please describe any safeguarding risks for children or vulnerable adults AND any potential human rights breaches that may occur as a result of the proposal? Please refer to **section 4.8** of the [guidance](#) for more information.

There are no safeguarding risks or human rights breaches related to the strategy.

**If potential safeguarding and human rights risks are identified then please contact [equalities@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@islington.gov.uk) to discuss further:**

## 5. Action

How will you respond to the impacts that you have identified in sections 3 and 4, or address any gaps in data or information?

For more information on identifying actions that will limit the negative impact of the policy for protected groups see the [guidance](#).

Action	Responsible person or team	Deadline
Ensure that changes of heating system will not lead to significant bill increases through proper cost modelling of new systems.	Energy Services	Ongoing
Ensure that insulation installation does not lead to overheating or condensation/mould issues through proper design and installation.	Energy Services	Ongoing
Ensure that vehicle restrictions, changes to streetscapes (including the installation of EV charging points and tree planting) do not negatively impact people with limited mobility	Transport Planning / Tree Service	Ongoing
Ensure that the Angelic Energy standard tariff remains competitive to avoid higher-than-necessary bills for residents.	Energy Services	Ongoing

Please send the completed RIA to [equalites@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalites@islington.gov.uk) and also make it publicly available online along with the relevant policy or service change.

**This Resident Impact Assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance and using appropriate evidence.**

**Staff member completing this form:**

**Head of Service or higher:**

Signed: Francis Ugboma

Signed: 

Date: 09/11/2020

Date: 01/11/2020