

## Special E&R Scrutiny Committee meeting

Wednesday 17 March 2021

### Feedback from break-out groups

#### Workstream priority:

#### Actions to see and behaviours to change

##### The council needs to improve its communication with businesses around net zero carbon actions

- There needs to be more mention of the climate emergency within business fora, e.g. at town centre meetings, and in businesses bulletins
- Targeted communication is especially needed for SMEs
- Businesses need to be told of the implications of climate change and the move to net zero carbon emissions
- Many businesses are currently unaware of the many different things they could do to cut emissions
- The council should support SMEs in carrying out footprint analysis and provide targeted information and advice to different business sectors (e.g. restaurants, offices) and on different issues (e.g. lighting, heating, stoves, waste)
- The council should facilitate knowledge sharing between businesses

##### Businesses need to be incentivised

- Positive case studies should be reported and businesses that have made a positive change promoted.
- Initiatives such as the Low Plastic Zone on Cowcross Street should be promoted and expanded to other areas, e.g. Angel town centre.
- Potential savings and the low cost of many measures should be emphasised, alongside the ability to attract new environmentally-conscious customers.
- We need to explore how funding can be secured and paid through savings

##### Islington Council needs to do all it can to ensure businesses respond appropriately

- Islington Council needs to lead by example
- Islington Council has limited powers over businesses and needs to make full use of all available levers, small and large, soft and hard.
- There is evidence that nudging doesn't always work and that a nuanced approach is not adequate – some sticks are also needed and options should be explored, such as removing businesses' license to operate. Alternatively, businesses that respond well to climate change imperatives could be allowed to do things they wouldn't otherwise be able to do.
- Procurement practices should support net zero emissions targets through social value clauses.
- Council grant schemes can directly support energy reductions

##### Anchor institutions have an important role to play

- We need to clearly identify our Anchor institutions and explain the role they have
- An anchor institution network needs to be developed.

### The green economy needs to be promoted

- The council needs to be explicit about what kind of new businesses are wanted/needed and to promote green jobs.
- Local skills and employment opportunities need to be actively developed

### Planning

- Planning needs to ensure only the best schemes with the highest standards and designs get the go-ahead, especially with major developments (it was felt that some schemes such as Islington Square could have been better)
- Clear guidance on what changes to buildings (solar installations etc) would be acceptable, especially for conservation areas and listed buildings, are need. The proposed Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) on net zero carbon developments should help with this and needs to be completed as soon as possible.
- Planning needs to address emissions as part of the construction process.
- Planning should be punitive and unforgiving where conditions are not met.

### Challenges to achieving those actions and behaviours

- Islington Council has limited powers over businesses
- Lack of funding
- Capacity issues

### Prioritise the actions and behaviours (if time)

- Communications and awareness raising
- Stress local jobs and opportunities
- Be punitive where needed. It can't be all carrots – sticks are also needed.

### Any other points

