



Report of: Leader of the Council

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Executive	27 May 2021	Caledonian; Barnsbury

Delete as appropriate:	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: WE ARE CALLY COMMUNITY PLAN

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report outlines the development of a community plan for 'the Cally': the area around the Caledonian Road including the Caledonian ward and south Barnsbury. It provides an overview of the structure of the plan and the engagement that has been undertaken with stakeholders to develop the plan. It includes proposals for the future governance and coordination of the plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the We are Cally Community Plan.
- 2.2 To approve the proposed governance arrangements.
- 2.3 To note the intention to identify other areas in the borough where a similar approach could deliver value.

3. Background

3.1 The Area

The area around the Caledonian Road, known colloquially as 'the Cally', is a distinctive part of Islington with a strong sense of community and local pride. A collection of neighbourhoods with Caledonian Road at its core, the area stretches from Kings Cross in the south-west, to Lower Holloway in the north-east. The area that local people consider to be 'the Cally' does not map neatly onto administrative geographies, covering Caledonian Ward but also parts of Barnsbury Ward.

Cally is a collection of neighbourhoods where people of different cultures and backgrounds live and where extremes of material wealth co-exist. For various historic reasons, there is a sense of disempowerment in the local area, with a feeling that projects and services are 'done to' the local community.

3.2 Investment

In December 2018, the council was awarded £350,000 from the Greater London Authority as part of the Good Growth Fund, matched by £1m of council investment. This project, known as the We are Cally Programme and running from 2019 to 2022, is reviewing the use and design of public assets in Cally to support key outcomes for Islington's communities, primarily around employability, skills, confidence, connectedness and cohesion. Improvements to two council buildings in the area, West Library and Jean Stokes Community Centre, will create modern and engaging public spaces that create civic space, encourage connectedness and community engagement, and provide services that residents need.

The council is also making additional investments in Cally, including improvements to Bingfield Park and Barnard Park, measures to make it easier to get around by walking and cycling and reduce pollution, and targeted support to vulnerable young people at risk of long-term unemployment.

3.3 The We are Cally Plan

The We are Cally Plan has been developed to provide a coherent collective vision and action plan for the area for the next three years. It encompasses the projects referenced in 3.2 above, but extends beyond in scope, timescale, and the range partners involved in delivery (i.e. voluntary, community and statutory sector organisations, as well as council services).

The plan lays out shared ambitions for Cally by 2024 and the actions that will be taken to get there across five thematic areas:

- Better opportunities for children, young people and families
- A thriving, connected local economy that works for everyone
- Attractive, well-used public spaces
- Improved health and wellbeing
- A strong community with a sense of belonging

The We are Cally Plan takes the assets and strengths of the community as a starting point. The development and delivery of the plan require cross-sector collaboration: between Islington Council, other public agencies, voluntary and community sector organisations, and residents. This includes sharing local knowledge and insight, practical partnership work aimed at improving outcomes, and working together to make best use of resources.

3.4 Engagement

The We are Cally Plan has been informed by six months of engagement with people living and working in Cally. Online workshops in autumn 2020 brought together elected representatives, council officers, voluntary sector organisations and statutory sector partners, supplemented by roundtable discussions and one-to-one meetings to gather additional insight. In parallel, council officers from the council's Communities team have facilitated resident engagement around the plan, through one-to-one and small group conversations. Residents contributed thoughts and ideas at a ward partnership meeting in November 2020.

3.5 Coordination and Governance

The development of the We are Cally Plan, from spring 2020 to spring 2021, has been overseen by the We are Cally Project Board. This Board will have completed its core tasks by April 2021 and will then disband, handing over ongoing deliverables to BAU teams and a new governance arrangement for the council's various GLA funded activities.

It is proposed that a new We are Cally stakeholders' group is established with responsibility for:

- Co-ordination of the delivery of the We are Cally Plan, to ensure that what has been committed to by the council and voluntary, community and statutory sector organisations, happens.
- Identifying new work that is required to respond to changing local need, determining any changes to actions laid out in the plan, and ordering priorities on an ongoing basis.
- Reporting on progress in each thematic area of the We are Cally Plan to residents and other stakeholders at Ward Partnership meetings, to ensure accountability to residents.
- Receiving periodic updates from ongoing projects in Cally, ensuring they remain on track and joined-up.

The We are Cally group would be chaired by Caledonian and Barnsbury ward councillors, and consist of council officers, other public agencies, voluntary sector representatives, and resident-led community groups responsible for aspects of delivery of the We are Cally Plan.

3.6 Replicability

At the We are Cally Project Board meeting on 22 February 2021, it was agreed that a paper drawing on learning from the We are Cally work, and looking at possible models for place-based approaches in areas in the borough where there are challenges that call for such an approach, should be taken to CMB and then to the Policy Reference Group; with the potential for future recommendations to Executive.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The We are Cally Community Plan has been developed in the context of a wider programme of investment in the area through council budgets, Section 106, Community Infrastructure Levy and a £350,000 Good Growth Fund grant from the Greater London Authority.

The larger capital projects outlined within the plan, including the redevelopment of Bingfield Park, Barnard Park, Jean Stokes Community Centre and West Library, will be governed and managed as individual projects by appropriate service and finance leads.

£100,000 of funding will be provided as grants to voluntary sector organisations and grassroots community groups. This will be funded within the agreed We are Cally project budget, with no further financial implications for the council. Individual projects initiated by voluntary and community sector organisations will be funded through existing grants

programme budgets, including Islington Council's Community Chest programme and Local Initiatives Fund as well as external sources of funding.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council's constitution includes provisions for 15 Ward Partnerships, with a core membership of the three ward councillors.

Their purpose is to provide an opportunity for councillors collectively to discuss and influence Islington Council services, decisions and practices, as they affect the area covered by the Ward Partnership.

The council's constitution enables Ward Partnerships to expand their remit beyond purely council matters to encompass consideration of wider priorities for the area, better co-ordination of services and engagement with partners, residents and other forums. Ward Partnerships may choose to involve other agencies providing services in the area of the Ward Partnership in their activities.

Ward Partnerships do not have power to take decisions on behalf of the council as they are not formal bodies.

The proposed governance arrangements for the We are Cally plan, involving ward partnership meetings and a wider stakeholder group, align with the purpose and remit of Ward Partnerships as provided for within the council's constitution.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

There are no negative environmental implications associated with the specific proposal to establish a community plan for the Cally area.

The We are Cally Community Plan has been informed by wider council policies and strategies including the Islington Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2025 and Islington's Transport Strategy 2020-2041 and includes projects that will help contribute to these strategies.

The objectives and actions outlined in the We are Cally Community Plan, such as community greening and bio-diversity initiatives, enhancement of parks and open spaces, community growing schemes and sustainable travel will all make a positive contribution to the council's ambition to create a Net Zero Carbon Islington by 2030.

Capital initiatives such as the development of Bingfield Park, Barnard Park, Jean Stokes Community Centre and West Library will have environmental impacts that will be considered through the specific project management structures associated with them.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

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.

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

A Resident Impact Assessment was completed on 21 April 2021. The Resident Impact Assessment is appended.

No negative implications were identified. The We are Cally Community Plan has been developed with broad resident and stakeholder engagement. It includes objectives and actions directly intended to improve outcomes for residents with protected characteristics.

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The We are Cally Community Plan provides a coherent collective vision and action plan for the area around the Caledonian Road for the period 2021-24, developed with resident and stakeholder engagement. The plan supports the council's ambitions to build a fairer Islington.
- 5.2 The proposed governance arrangements reflect the place-based approach taken to develop the We are Cally Community Plan and the cross-sector collaboration required to realise its aspirations, and provide opportunity for public scrutiny of delivery.

Appendices

- We are Cally Community Plan 2021-24
- Resident Impact Assessment

Background papers

- None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



13 May 2021

CLlr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Date:

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