



Together we can make  
Islington net zero carbon  
by 2030



ISLINGTON

# **Net Zero Carbon Strategy**

## **Quarterly progress report (Quarter 4)**

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee  
8 June 2021



- The progress against the delivery of commitments in the Net Zero Carbon 2030 strategy will be reported on a quarterly basis through the Council's Scrutiny function. The aim is to provide reporting of progress that is transparent, easily accessible to the community and ensures accountability to residents.
- This report is split into two sections:
  1. an up-to-date **overall summary of progress** and **performance** on the delivery of commitments based on the dates set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy.
  2. a more detailed breakdown of individual **strategy commitments that are due before and up to March 2021 (year end 2020/21)**.
- The progress update on commitments are organised according to the eight different programme workstreams that are responsible for the delivery of actions. These work streams are:
  - Buildings, Housing, Commercial and Infrastructure
  - Transport
  - Sustainable and affordable energy
  - Natural environment, waste reduction and recycling
  - Green Economy
  - Planning
  - Finance and Investment
  - Engagement and Communications

Summary position on the progress being made on the delivery of commitments set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy.

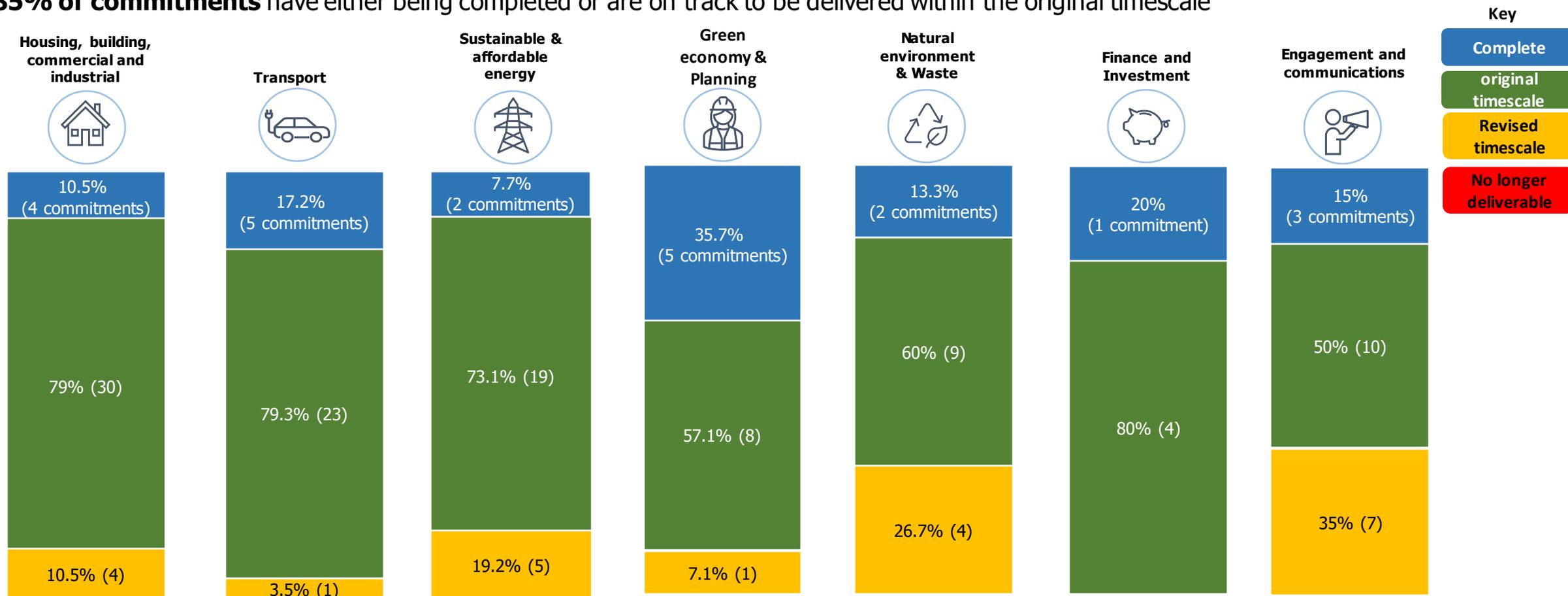
### Some key progress highlights

- **Budget of c.£700k pa secured** to support the delivery of the Net Zero Carbon Programme over the next three years
  - In the process of **securing c.£3m of additional programme funding through carbon offset fund**
  - **Secured the budget for engagement and communications** - enabled the recruitment of a dedicated communications officer and will help us progress priority activity, including behaviour change work
  - Completed first phase of work with University College London to **develop a road map for how we achieve net zero carbon with our housing stock**
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- In the process of securing approval for a key strategy document on **decarbonising our new build housing development**
  - Delivering on major transport priority areas including **increasing the number of electric vehicles within the council's fleet.**
  - **Seven Low Traffic Neighbourhoods** have also been completed as trials, and we now have **35 school streets covering 36 schools**
  - **Identifying and developing opportunities for green jobs and skills**, including training courses for green skills and pipeline for green jobs within construction
  - **Good progress on the new local plan** that will strengthen our existing policies to reduce carbon for all development proposals.
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Up to date (end of May) overview of progress being made on the delivery of all commitments based on the original dates and timescales set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy.

**85% of commitments** have either being completed or are on track to be delivered within the original timescale



The following pages provide a more detailed breakdown of, and commentary on individual **strategy commitments that are due before and up to March 2021 (year end 2020/21)**

## Buildings, Housing, Commercial and Infrastructure

Workstream	Owner	Commitments	Due dates	Revised date
Buildings, Housing, Commercial and Infrastructure	Simon Kwong	Undertaken a comprehensive study to determine how the delivery of new homes through the council's new build programme can be further decarbonised and assess alternatives to gas fuelled systems	Dec-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Identify 'quick wins' - measures that can be implemented within a short timeframe (<6months). i.e. engage with energy specialists for all new build feasibility assessments	Dec-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Produce draft decarbonising homes strategy with recommendations for internal stakeholder review	Jan -21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Finalise decarbonising new homes strategy with agreed implementation plan, including phasing out installation of individual gas boilers with no new development schemes being submitted for planning approval	Feb-21	June 21
		Enforcement of Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for privately rented housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Plan for 2020/21</li> <li>• Analyse data</li> <li>• Warning letters to non-compliant landlords</li> <li>• Follow up enforcement action (ongoing activity)</li> </ul>	Jan-21 <b>Complete</b>	
Existing council stock	Emerging low carbon heating technologies - Overview assessment (University College London work)	April 21 <b>Complete</b>		

### Progress update

- Work with University College London to design a roadmap towards how we achieve Net Zero Carbon with our existing council stock is progressing well. Overview assessment presentation made to inform priorities and options for how we significantly reduce carbon in our council stock.
- **The draft decarbonisation homes strategy** - The strategy was drafted last year and shared for full internal stakeholder review and recommendations. A formal draft with recommendations from the stakeholder review was published in January 2021. Due to the wide-reaching implications of the strategy, the strategy is currently in the process of going through all relevant governance for finalisation which has resulted in a slightly longer timeframe. Where possible, key recommendations from the strategy are already being rolled out across our pipeline programme. These are being monitored closely to test the strategy.

## Transport

Workstream	Owner	Commitments	Due dates	Revised date
Transport	Martijn Cooijmans	Installed initial smart chargers to existing power supply at the Waste Recycling Centres - Smart chargers have also been installed at Laycock Centre and Randels Road ahead of plan	Dec-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Agreed a transition plan to move all existing suppliers of public EV infrastructure to renewable sources	Oct -20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Camera enforced "School's streets" delivered to all primary schools that are not on main roads, where this was feasible (delivered at 36 schools)	Dec-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Increase the number of electric vehicles within our fleet - 10% of fleet electric	Apr-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Deliver 8 low traffic Neighbourhoods ( <i>including Mayton Street area scheme</i> )	June 21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Install electric charging bollards across all Regents Canal moorings in Islington	Nov 20	July 21

### Progress update

- The electrification of council vehicles is on track with more than 10% of our fleet now electric
- The rollout of electric vehicle charging points is also on track to deliver 400 points by April 2022
- The seven Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) have been completed as trials, including Mayton St traffic filtering area (similar to LTN)
- People-friendly streets and cycleway programme continues as planned (small delay on School Streets)
- **Install electric charging bollards across all Regents Canal moorings in Islington** - Half of the bollards have now been installed along the canal. However, there have been some delays across the project due to UK Power Networks and the impact of COVID. The project is now expected to be completed by July 2021

## Sustainable and affordable energy

Workstream	Owner	Commitments	Due dates	Revised date
Sustainable and affordable energy	Martijn Coijmans	Concept design for GreenSCIES project now complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soft market testing responses from potential partners and investors including Ameresco, Vattenfall, Uniper &amp; Vital Energi</li> <li>Outline Business Case now being developed for progression through internal governance process</li> </ul>	Jan-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Connect our communally-heated buildings (council housing estates) to district heat networks where possible - <i>Appoint consultants to complete feasibility studies</i>	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Completed options appraisal for procuring 100% renewable electricity for Housing estates and external clients (leisure centres and schools)	Dec-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Ensure 100% of electricity procured by the council is from certifiable renewable sources and look into procuring 100% renewable electricity for Housing estates and external clients (leisure centres and schools) - <i>Secure funding</i>	Feb-21	May 21
		Investigate opportunities for Islington Council in terms of the energy supply market, including the delivery of competitive green electricity tariffs for residents and businesses, a solar export tariff that encourages solar panel installation, and innovative time-of-use tariffs for all customer types, as well as the possibility of purchasing power generated in Islington by (for example) community energy schemes.	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Define, create and operate a London-wide approach and proposition to deliver net zero carbon and reduce climate change - <i>Develop two-year work plans for workstreams we are participating in or leading on</i>	Jan-21	Dec 21

### Progress update

- The GreenSCIES concept design and soft market testing is complete. The soft market testing has attracted responses from potential partners and investors including Ameresco, Vattenfall, Uniper & Vital Energi
- Feasibility studies are being carried out by consultants and the council's energy team as part of the detailed design work for GreenSCIES. This also includes looking at GreenSCIES connection opportunities into three communally heated council housing estates. The timescales for completing the feasibility studies (March 2022) align with the completion of mechanical design of the GreenSCIES connections
- The options appraisal for **procurement of 100% electricity for the Council's corporate buildings, housing and schools** has been completed. We are now awaiting funding decisions to implement recommendations
- Define, create and operate a London-wide approach and proposition to deliver net zero carbon and reduce climate change** – Islington are the lead authority on the Renewable Power work stream on the London Councils climate change programme. As the lead authority, we can drive, influence and shape London wide thinking and development on renewable power. We are in the process of establishing the governance and working groups to develop the work stream work plans. This is being carried out to reflect re-scoping of work by London Councils and an updated deadline of December 2021

## Green Economy

Workstream	Owner	Deliverables	Due dates	Revised date
Green Economy	Caroline Wilson	- Produce a Progressive Procurement Strategy (2020–2027) that embeds the net zero carbon objective and the use of social value clauses covering environmental impacts in the council’s purchasing decisions, using contract-specific approaches and by actively engaging with suppliers to find solutions.	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Embed the council’s ambition for net zero in contractual arrangements for all council-secured affordable workspace	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Complete the development of a skills strategy that will identify priority areas for ‘green jobs’ and emerging local skills requirements. These could include jobs related to installing insulation, renewable energy and other energy-saving measures, their ongoing maintenance and servicing, sustainable food production and cycle freight	Mar-21	Oct -21

### Progress update

- Embedded the council’s ambition for net zero in contractual arrangements for all council-secured affordable workspace
- As part of emdedding the Progressive Procurement Strategy, we are developing social value guidance for council commissioners on delivering net zero through council contracts
- Working with housing / Kings Cross and K&M Academies to identify green construction opportunities. We are also supporting Adult and Community learning to identify green training courses for their local training offer
- Launched local jobs site, Islington Working and now working to identify opportunities in green economy
- Five Islington Businesses awarded Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) grants for cargo bikes in March 2021 round of awards
- Funded ethical green delivery bike collective to serve N4 restaurants and takeaways
- **Complete the development of a skills strategy that will identify priority areas for ‘green jobs’ and emerging local skills requirements** - We are participating in work being done at the London Council level, including a piece of research being commissioned by Central London Forward (CLF) which will inform local skills planning. This will help us to better understand where the local employment opportunities are and what the skills gaps may be. We expect this to focus on green new deal installation work and the councils own new build and maintenance works in the first instance. The revised completion date is now October 2021

## Natural environment, waste reduction and recycling

Workstream	Owner	Deliverables	Due dates	Revised date	
Natural environment, Waste reduction and recycling	Tony Ralph	Community orchard being planted on the Highbury Quadrant estate (November 2020)	Nov -20 <b>Complete</b>		
		Natural environment	Develop a central tree planting budget	Mar-20 <b>Complete</b>	
		Waste reduction and recycling	Implement online resident tree planting donation process	Dec-20	June 21
		Waste reduction and recycling	Developing a circular economy action plan	Dec-20	Oct 21
		Investigate options and develop a business case for expanding commercial recycling services in the borough	Dec-20	July 21	

### Progress update

#### Natural environment

- 375 tree planted ( Nov 2020 – April 2021) on public land
- The date for securing the central tree planting budget should have been March 2021. This commitment has now been delivered, with a three year capital budget now secured
- **Implement online resident tree planting donation process** - The development of the online tree planting donation is now with the Web team and will undergo trialling next. The delay to completion of this action was due to prioritisation of resources towards the completion of the current tree planting season. The expected completion date is now June 2021

#### Waste reduction and recycling

- Food Waste Action week communications campaign delivered in March. Detailed communications forward plan with stakeholders now in place.
- Islington's Reduction and Recycling Plan update report approved
- **Developing a circular economy action plan** – The development of the Circular Economy Action Plan development is well underway. The Council is working with ReLondon (London Waste and Recycling Board) to develop priority actions and steps for the Plan. The revised date of delivery is now October 2021
- **Investigate options and develop a business case for expanding commercial recycling services in the borough** - Timescales impacted significantly by pandemic, with officers focused on maintaining and recovering services to those businesses that still require the service. Food waste sack service launched, but currently limited in the businesses it is offered to. Work is ongoing in partnership with ReLondon to develop a short, medium and longer term business plan (Strategy), which will consider business viability of a food waste service. This review is expected to be completed in July 2021.

## Planning

Workstream	Owner	Deliverables	Due dates	Revised date
Planning	Karen Sullivan	Strengthen existing policies through adoption of the new Local Plan.	Dec 21 original timescale	

### Progress update

Number of key milestones have been achieved as part of work to adopt the new Local Plan. This includes:

- Changes to local plan approved at Full Council in Feb 2021
- Consultation on the Local Plan launched on the 19th March. This finished on the 9th of May.

## Finance and Investment

Workstream	Owner	Deliverables	Due dates	Revised date
Finance and Investment	Paul Clarke	Capital Programme & Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Feb '21 Complete	

### Progress update

- Inclusion of significant revenue and capital growth within the Council's MTFS to enable the programme to move into delivery phase
- Corporate Management Board (CMB) approval of revenue allocation (including additional funding to bridge shortfall), and endorsement of Community Municipal Investment approach
- Significant allocation (£3m+ of Carbon Offset Funding) currently going through a process of endorsement from Corporate Management Board, Borough Investment Panel and Executive to support programme delivery
- Engagement with Abundance to identify candidate projects for Community Municipal Investment, members briefed on this, initial engagement with communications & legal colleagues

## Engagement and Communications

Workstream	Owner	Deliverables	Due dates	Revised dates
Engagement and Communications	Seth Brooks	Set up a web portal for residents to make their own climate emergency declarations - <i>Develop requirement</i>	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Set up an Energy Hub - <i>Agree purpose, content and design</i>	Mar-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Refresh the focus of ISEP towards our borough-wide zero carbon partnership efforts - <i>Meet with ISEP committee to set out the agenda for the refresh (Mar 2021)</i>	Mar 21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Engage existing and new partners, including ISEP, Affordable Energy Board and the net zero carbon working group	Jan-21 <b>Complete</b>	
		Hold a Net Zero Carbon-themed Citizens' Assembly - <i>Agree approach and scope</i>	Mar-21	July 21
		Investigate setting up residential and business audit schemes to advise residents and local businesses - <i>Produce options and funding paper</i>	Mar-21	June 21

### Progress update

- Really positive progress made in relation to developing our requirements for an online portal and energy hub for Islington residents and businesses
- There has been ongoing engagement with new and existing partners, including productive meetings with some of our key borough partners e.g. Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership (ISEP) and the Fairer Together Partnership.
- **Hold a Net Zero Carbon-themed Citizens' Assembly** – The draft proposal setting out the purpose, scope and approach for engaging with residents and businesses has been developed for review and comment by the relevant governance boards. The revised timescale for finalising the approach is now the end of July 2021.
- **Investigate setting up residential and business audit schemes to advise residents and local businesses** - The work on this is progressing with a draft options paper now complete for review and comment by the relevant council teams. The revised completion date for this work is now end of June 2021. There will be links developed between this work and the delivery of what is being offered through the online portal and energy hub.