



ISLINGTON

Executive Member for Environment and Transport - Annual Performance Report

E&R Scrutiny Committee

14th September 2021



Fuel Poverty

- In 2020-21 our **Energy Doctors** supported over 2,000 households in London with our COVID safe service. 96% of residents surveyed rated the service 8/10 or higher.
- Over 1,100 of these contactless visits were delivered in Islington, **saving our residents an estimated £164k on bills and 1,110 tonnes of carbon.**
- In 2020-21, our **Energy Advice** line supported just under 7,000 Londoners, over 3,000 in Islington. We saved Islington residents over **£230k** through **Warm Home Discount** applications and the most vulnerable residents, **£10k** through **debt relief**.

Seasonal Health Interventions Network - SHINE

- 2020/21 saw the **highest ever number of SHINE referrals** and interventions due to pandemic related need, increased home energy use and decreased incomes.
- We have retained all of our **pan-London advice contracts**, and have recommenced safe home visits. All vacancies have been filled and all agency staff moved to council contracts.
- We have trained our Energy Doctor staff to conduct **EPC (Energy Performance) assessments** and produce certificates, deploying this capability to support other Energy Services projects like Green Home Grant. All of our advisors also trained to conduct complex Energy Company Obligation eligibility assessments (ECO-flex), and will soon be able to charge private contractors for these.

Energy Services

- **Net Zero Carbon strategy** adopted by Executive in November 2020.
- 2020/21 **CO2 emissions** from all council buildings down by 8.1% and fleet emissions down by 16.3% compared to previous year, both decreases influenced by lockdown impacts on activity.
- Practical completion on the **Bunhill District Heat Network** expansion in August 2021 with first year of full operation now underway.
- Detailed design of **GreenSCIES** is underway (completion scheduled June 2022). Subject to progress approval and securing funding, the procurement process for a construction contract will then begin.
- Resident PV (Photovoltaic) buying scheme '**Solar Together London**' – 43 new arrays have been installed in the two completed rounds to date, representing a 13% increase in domestic solar arrays in the borough.
- **Energising Small Business fund** – funding has been awarded to 82 applicants to date, delivering annual savings of 122 tonnes of CO2 and an average saving to businesses of over £700 a year.
- Successful bid for **Green Homes Grant** for funding to deliver energy efficiency improvements to council, social and private housing as part of this new government scheme. 54 properties treated to date.
- 46 projects have so far been funded from the **Islington Community Energy Fund**, with annual savings of around 143 tonnes of CO2.

Air Quality

- Working with Global Action Plan to **train Islington GPs** on health effects of Air Pollution on residents.
- Working with the GLA on promoting the **Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion** that will cover the whole of Islington from 21 October. This will operate 24/7 (apart from Christmas Day) and all residents and visitors should check their vehicles meet the required emissions standards.
- Implementing **electric charging points** along the Islington canal network (on top of the on-street vehicle charging network highlighted in the next slide)
- Working with Imperial College London to **investigate wood burning impacts** in the borough
- Expanding the **nitrogen oxides monitoring network** to support the roll out of People Friendly Streets
- Cooperating with boroughs across London on an **anti-idling campaign**
- Working with Filmfixer to **reduce emissions from generators** in the film industry
- Islington is leading on the 16-borough **Healthy Streets Everyday project** to encourage streetscape improvements, traffic regulations, car free events etc.
- Working with Schools to raise awareness of Air Pollution

Strategic Transport

- The **Islington Transport Strategy 2019-2041** was adopted by Executive in November 2020.
- **Removal of roundabouts** – Archway was completed in June 2017, Highbury Corner in October 2019 and Old Street construction has recommenced (TfL's new estimated completion date is Autumn 2022).
- **New cycleways** now completed:
 - Permanent: Finsbury Park to Highbury Fields (part of Cycleway 38), Balls Pond Road (part of Cycle Superhighway 1)
 - Trials (pop-up): Pentonville Road to Holloway Road (part of Cycleway 38), York Way (with Camden), Green Lanes (with Hackney)
 - 'Quietways': King's Cross Road to Southgate Road cycle route (Cycleway 27) delivered through delivery of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods at Amwell, St Peters and Canonbury East.
- 284 **new Electric Vehicle Charging Points** had been installed in the three years to end 20/21 with the end of year 21/22 target being 400.
- 222 **bike hangars** had been installed over the same three years and having the capacity for over 1,300 bicycles. Target of over 400 hangars by the end of 21/22.
- People 'Killed or Seriously Injured' (KSI) in **road traffic collisions** in Islington in 2020 was down to 84, in part likely due to lockdown reductions in traffic volumes. This compares to 111 in 2019 and 141 in 2018.

People Friendly Streets

- Following the Executive decision in June 2020 to launch the people-friendly streets programme, the council has delivered **Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and School Streets**.
- Since July 2020, **7 LTNs** have been implemented as 18 month trials: St Peter's, Canonbury East, Clerkenwell Green, Amwell, Canonbury West, Highbury Fields and Highbury West.
- In the Autumn of 2021, the council aims to deliver a further two LTNs at St Mary's Church and the Cally.
- Proposed additional LTN in Barnsbury / St Mary's with engagement planned from Autumn 2021.
- Two **Liveable Neighbourhoods** which deliver additional public realm benefits are planned to start this financial year for Mildmay and Highbury New Park.
- Pre-covid, the Council delivered 13 School Streets. Since Covid, we have accelerated that delivery to implement an additional **22 School Streets** at primary schools as part of phase 1 and phase 2, and we are planning to deliver another 3 School Streets this year as part of phase 3.
- Plans are progressing to deliver **School Streets on main roads**.

Waste and Recycling

- Islington's **recycling rate** increased from 29.6% in 2019/20 to 31.3% in 2020/21, our highest figure since 2016/17. This is partly due to an improved process for sorting contamination.
- Corresponding '**Residual (non-recycled) waste per household**' figure dropped further from 353kg to 348.5kg, an historically low level and one of the very lowest across London.
- Waste and recycling collection services largely maintained throughout pandemic despite staffing challenges, and with ongoing improvements in reported monthly **missed collections** from averaging 318 in 19/20 to 289 in 20/21 and 236 in the first three months of 21/22, our lowest ever quarterly figure.
- **Electrification of the fleet** continues with two new electric Refuse Collection Vehicles, a range of smaller electric vehicles, ebikes and commencement of installation of charging infrastructure at Cottage Road.
- The **Circular Economy Action Plan** has been developed and is due for approval by the Executive in October.
- Grant funding approved for Islington's first **Library of Things** in Finsbury Park, due to open in November.
- Significant **communications campaign** delivered to support food waste reduction and recycling, reuse, repair and recycling
- The **expansion of the food waste recycling service** to remaining purpose built blocks of flats is now underway

SES Cleansing Operational Performance

- Across 20/21 reported **fly-tip numbers** on the public highway are down 35% on 19/20 with the proportion being removed within 24 hours at over 90%.
- Periodic 'Local Environmental Quality Surveys' (LEQS) have shown that **Litter** across the borough in 20/21 was at its lowest level for many years with 93.5% of surveyed 'transects' at or above a pre-defined acceptable standard. The figure for the previous years London benchmark was 91.1%.
- Levels of **Flyposting** also remained comparatively very good, though **Detritus** (debris) and **Graffiti** less strong compared to the previous year, though increases in Graffiti were reported as a national trend.
- The main challenge with clearing Detritus is parked cars on residential streets whilst graffiti levels have improved since April as a result of a now fully resourced team and our becoming more pro-active in removing it from third-party infrastructure.
- We are supporting the governments **Kickstart Scheme** with a number of recruits to be working within our street cleansing service.
- Increased training offered to front-line staff, including in the use of the **council's internal social media channel 'Yammer'**, has helped engagement and communications during the pandemic.

- **Camden and Islington Parks for Health Project** continues to progress well and has successfully passed the mid-point review with ongoing embedding of the new ways of working.
- In **London in Bloom**, Islington retained its Gold Award for the borough and Gillespie Park won Gold in the Conservation Area Category. Individual awards were also received for Caledonian Park and Duncan Terrace in the 'Large Park; and 'Our Community' categories respectively.
- We have been awarded three new **Green Flags** for Caledonian Park, Highbury Fields and Landseer Gardens, doubling the total achieving this standard of excellence to six.
- Completion of the **St Mary Church Garden Project** and the replacement of three water play features.
- **Islington in Bloom** successfully moved to virtual platform in response to covid-19 with 130 entries
- Significant increase in the number **Friends of Parks groups**, 53 now having signed up to the Friends of Parks Charter.
- During the second lockdown, **Parks Service staff** were again redeployed to support waste and recycling services, grave digging, enhanced cleaning of facilities and management of social distancing in parks.
- Around four hundred **trees** have been planted in Islington in the 2020/21 planting season.

Cemeteries

- The Islington and Camden Cemetery Service (ICCS) has sadly seen a significant increase in demand due to the **number of excess deaths** during the pandemic, meaning it's focus has been on the provision of core services throughout this last year.
- During the last year the service has completed 2,344 funerals (1037 burials and 1307 cremations), representing a 19% increase overall.
- Key projects around **Burial Ground development** and **Cremated Remains Memorial schemes** have still been delivered.
- Key projects moving forward include a **Reclamation Strategy** (delivering around 9,000 burial plots), **Grounds and Infrastructure improvements**, and **Crematorium NOx Filter system** removing the majority of such emissions produced.