

Report of: Executive Member for Environment and Transport

| Meeting of: | Date: | Ward(s): |
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| Executive | 13 January 2022 | All |

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SUBJECT: Circular Economy Action Plan
1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The report presents Islington’s Circular Economy Action Plan for approval. This is a commitment from our Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan and our Vision 2030 Strategy and sets out how Islington can start to move towards a circular economy as part of its objective of becoming net zero carbon by 2030.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the Circular Economy Action Plan in Appendix 1.

3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2019, the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, which commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. In October 2019, Islington agreed a Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) which sets out actions and targets for increasing levels of recycling and reducing overall levels of waste and the environmental impact of waste activities in Islington.
- 3.2 A key commitment of the RRP and of Vision 2030 (Islington’s Net Zero carbon strategy) is the development of a Circular Economy Action Plan.
- 3.3 The Vision 2030 strategy is focussed primarily on reducing direct emissions from burning fossil fuels such as gas, diesel or petrol (scope 1 emissions), and those caused by generating electricity used in Islington (scope 2 emissions). However, the strategy also

acknowledges that we must reduce our indirect emissions caused by consumption (scope 3), both in terms of the upstream emissions created by the production of goods and the downstream emissions associated with their disposal. Around two thirds of our total CO2 emissions are from the food, products and materials that we consume every day. A move towards a circular economy will help us to focus on reducing emissions arising outside of Islington, but as a direct result of our own consumption and behaviour.

3.4 The draft Circular Economy Action Plan for Islington is attached in Appendix 1.

3.5 **Circular economy action plan**

3.6 The RRP commits Islington to developing a Circular Economy Action Plan.

A circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (take, make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources in use for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life. It involves things being designed to last longer, to be repaired and to be effectively repurposed, refurbished and recycled or composted only at the end of their useful life. It is one where supply chains are more local and utilise materials already in circulation.

45% of global CO2 emissions come from the food, materials and products that we make, use and consume every day. A move towards a circular economy is a central part of our move towards a net zero carbon and more resource efficient Islington.

3.7 Whilst this is Islington's first Circular Economy Action Plan, Islington is already progressing a range of policies and initiatives that underpin a circular economy. For example:

- We are opening a 'library of things' at the Bright Sparks shop in Finsbury Park.
- We are launching a business support grant to support SME's with circular economy initiatives
- The draft new Local Plan includes circular specific economy policies
- The Progressive Procurement Policy references circular economy principles
- The NLWA are working to ensure collected recycling is processed in the UK where possible and with maximum transparency of end markets
- Many independent businesses in Islington already operate along Circular Economy principles
- We actively support reuse initiatives, such as Bright Sparks, food sharing apps, bulky reuse services, swap events and real nappies

3.8 Islington Council has already made progress in a number of initiatives to support the circular economy, including action on transport, Islington's fleet, local business support, and waste, recycling and reuse. These action are set out in the 'what we're already doing' section of the Plan.

This Action Plan builds on this activity by setting out what more we can do to support a circular economy in Islington. The actions we are already taking, and the additional actions we are committing to, together focus on the priority areas which can contribute most towards a circular economy and reducing carbon emissions.

- Policies and strategies
- Buildings
- Transport
- Sustainable and affordable energy
- Local Economy
- Planning
- Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling
- Communications and engagement

The development of the plan has involved engagement with every Directorate and a wide range of teams and individuals. As part of the process, external organisations and individuals were invited to contribute suggestions and ideas and where appropriate, these have been fed into the plan.

However, this plan should be regarded as a living document, with a commitment to regularly review and update the actions in the Plan, including the publishing of an updated Plan by April 2024.

The Plan will be monitored as part of the existing Vision 2030 governance programme with Vision 2030 work stream owners owning the various actions. The overall lead for Circular Economy will sit with the Recycling Team in the Environment Directorate.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

This report does not have any direct financial implications but significant financial resources will be required to achieve the goals of Vision 2030 which will be considered as part of the medium term financial planning process.

4.2 Legal Implications:

Islington Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency in 2019 which commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The Council has developed a net zero carbon strategy with the objective of focusing changes across the whole Council to reduce carbon emissions. In October 2019, Islington agreed a Reduction and Recycling Plan which includes targets for increasing recycling and reducing waste.

The Circular Economy Action Plan is an important part of the Council's commitment to achieving its environmental goals.

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

A Circular Economy is a more resource efficient, lower carbon economy. The actions set out in our Circular Economy Action Plan aim to reduce resource usage and waste generation and increase the use of renewable energy, all of which will have a positive impact on carbon emissions.

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.

A Resident Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2. No adverse impacts were identified.

5. Conclusion

5.1 A move towards a circular economy is a central part of our move towards a net zero carbon and more resource efficient Islington.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Circular Economy Action Plan
- Appendix 2: Resident Impact Assessment

Signed by:



5 January 2022

Executive Member for Environment and
Transport

Date

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