

Net Zero Carbon Strategy Quarterly Progress Report (Quarter 3)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

7 March 2022



Synopsis

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 set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy.
2. a more detailed breakdown of individual **strategy commitments with delivery dates that are due before and during Quarter 3 (October - December 2021)**

The progress updates 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



Engaging, Empowering and Partnering



Finance and Investment

Overall summary of progress



Overview of the progress on delivery of commitments set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy since the last report.

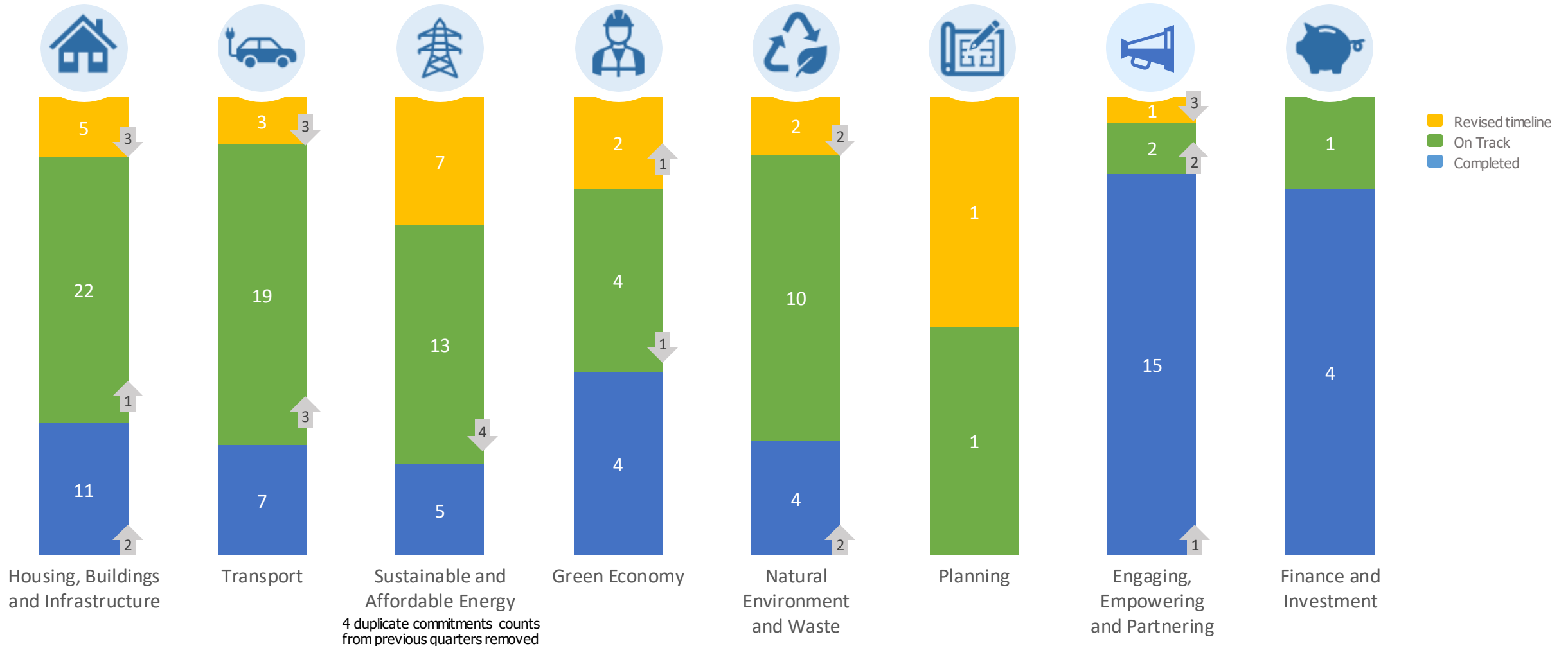
Some key progress highlights

- Successful bid submitted to Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, securing £1.2 million funding to deliver retrofit work across council and housing association residential properties
- Islington's Community Municipal Investment bond launched in October, successfully reached its £1 million target by the end of January.
- Positive feedback received from our Let's Talk about a Greener Future festival in October 2021 now informing future engagement plans. Our Greener Together microsite and pledge tool have gone live.
- Circular Economy grants for small businesses launched
- Letters sent in February to households eligible for solar panel & battery installs under Solar Together 2022 scheme
- Community-led boroughwide green proposals programme 'Islington Greener Together' to launch March 2022.
- GLA development grant agreed for a Local Economy Plan following the submission of a Cally Future Neighbourhoods bid
- York Way cycle lane was made permanent in December 2021 and St Mary's Church LTN trial introduced in February 2022

Performance

Overview of progress to date (December 2021) on the delivery of all commitments, based on the original dates and timescales set out in the Net Zero Carbon strategy or, where they have been reported to Scrutiny Committee, reprofiled timescales. A full review of all action plans is currently underway to ensure they are up-to-date and still accurate/relevant to future delivery.

85% (previously 81%) of commitments have either been completed or are on track.



Buildings, Housing, Commercial & Infrastructure

Workstream Owner: Matt West



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

Residential – council owned

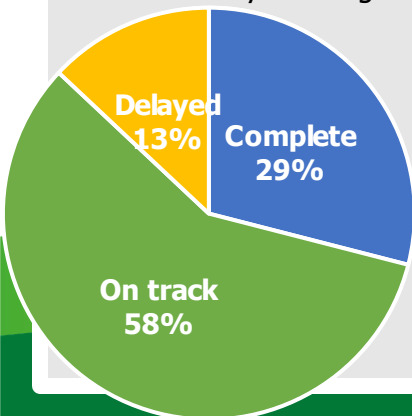
- **Harvist Estate** pilot to install wall insulation and cladding at four blocks is being reprofiled. A project manager has been appointed to take this project forward.
- Successful Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) wave 1 bid of £372,600 to be match funded by LBI to raise 32 homes to an EPC category C rating through our street properties pilot scheme.
- Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Funding (GHG LAD 1a) scheme completed including provision of energy efficiency measures to 53 homes with an EPC-rating of E or below
- Received draft report on the UCL detailed review of high-rise buildings outlining options for prioritising retrofit work (Feb 2022)

Residential – housing associations

- Planning presentation delivered to housing association meeting in December – positive conversation focusing on planning's role in supporting housing associations in their ambition to deliver NZC homes.
- Peabody housing successful in securing £800,000 for work

Residential – private landlords and tenants

- GHG LAD 1a lessons report completed with key insights on issues and successes relating to owner occupied and private rented properties
- Introductory meetings with service providers to discuss opportunities within the able-to-pay market



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Seek approval to continue with insulation/cladding schemes as part of Hard-to-insulate programme at four blocks (Harvist Estate)	Revised Dec 21

Next steps



Residential – council owned

- Harvist Estate Pilot - appoint consultant, carry out survey and site assessments
- Set out leaseholder charging approach for NZC related measures
- Identify buildings suitable for SHDF wave 2 bid

Residential – housing associations

- Develop initial housing association carbon emission baseline report
- Current housing association plans for improving energy efficiency and achieving NZC

Residential – private landlords and tenants

- Solar Together launched February 2022 for both residential and non-residential properties.
- Develop carbon baseline and housing stock composition evidence and insight
- Feasibility paper setting out options and recommendations around setting higher EPC standard
- Owner/occupier content for net zero website

Buildings, Housing, Commercial & Infrastructure

Workstream Owner: Matt West



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

New Build

- Tree Mitigation strategy completed now to be incorporated into Greening the Borough Strategy as a policy.
- Decarbonising New Homes Design Guidance complete
- Guide for residents moving into new homes was delayed in order complete the above guidance but is now underway. The guide will help new tenants make environmentally friendly choices and make the most of energy efficiency features in their home

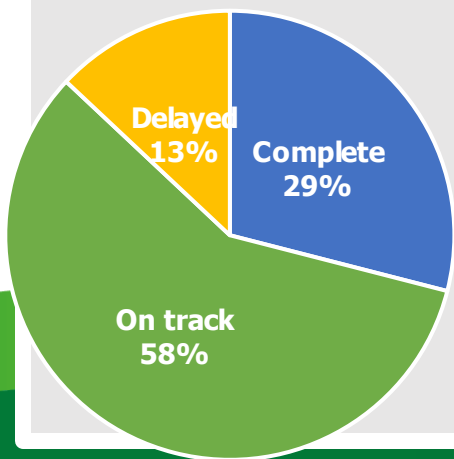
Non-residential council owned

- Funding secured to carry out feasibility studies for 20 schools
- There were delays in agreeing the final list of buildings and procurement arrangements but 60 corporate buildings have now been selected for feasibility studies to assess suitability for gas boiler replacement

Non-residential non-council

- Business audit launched, with 5 applications and 3 audits already complete

Commitments due last quarter	Status
New build – Introduce new measures to ensure that development plans, wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity (Tree Mitigation Strategy)	Complete Dec 21
New build - develop a robust design compliance process to ensure zero carbon strategy is being incorporated across all design and construction the programme	Complete Dec 21
New build - develop a plan and identify resources needed to support occupants of new homes to operate new systems	Revised Mar 22
Non-residential - assess all council buildings to establish most suitable replacement for gas boilers	Revised Sep 22
Non-residential - investigate funding options for Green Deal style loan scheme for private property owners	Revised Mar 22
Non-residential - produce feasibility study for above scheme	Revised Mar 22



Next steps

New Build

- Production of new home user guide
- Establish post-occupancy evaluation model
- Testing Tree Mitigation policy at two developments (Hathersage and Besant Court)

Non-residential council owned

- Consultancy service agreement for the corporate building feasibility studies
- Heat decarbonisation plans for 20 schools (feasibility studies)

Non-residential – non-council

- Solar Together initiative launch
- Feasibility study for potential loan scheme
- Business section on net zero website (awareness, actions, and grants)
- Engagement plan with Anchor institutions

Transport

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- The waste recycling centre grid connection and substation has a **revised completion timescale of September 2022** because of the delayed appointment of the contractor.
- York Way cycle lane has been approved as a permanent scheme following consultation. Liverpool Road scheme consultation analysis underway.
- Public consultation on five low-traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) complete, and underway on Highbury LTNs
- St Mary's Church LTN trial introduced in February 2022 including blue badge exemption
- Continuation of LTNs in St Peter's and Canonbury East with blue badge exemption
- By the end of December 2021, we had delivered 285 electric vehicle charging points, 72% of our target of 400 and are working on delivery of the remaining 115 charging points.

Next steps

Fleet electrification

- Contractors starting works to deliver Waste Recycling Centre grid connection and substation for September 2022.

Vehicles use reduction by residents and local businesses

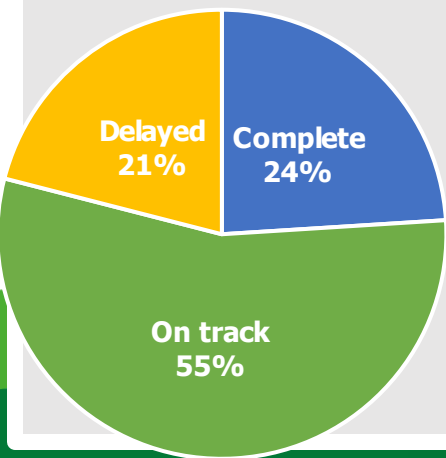
- Liverpool Road cycle lane consultation analysis and decision
- St Mary's low-traffic neighbourhood trial period

Rollout of public EV infrastructure

- Deliver 400 electric vehicle charging points by March 2022

Reduce fossil-fuel based plant usage

- Recruitment is underway for an officer to lead on these commitments



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Waste recycling centre grid connection and substation completed	Revised Sept 22

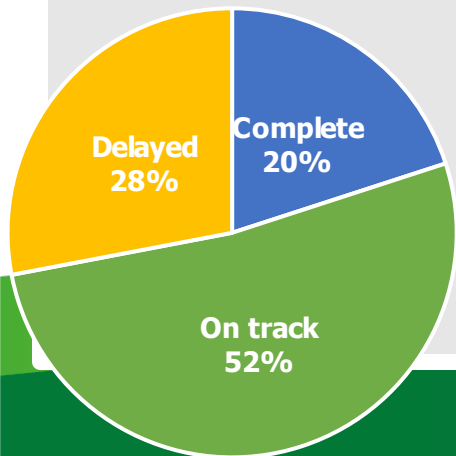
Sustainable and affordable energy

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- **Commercial options appraisal and funding structure options appraisal for GreenSCIES** have **revised completion timescales to June 2022** due to limited team capacity. However, GreenSCIES project manager started in February 2022, which will help with progressing this deliverable.
- **Develop connection offer package and agree funding for Bunhill** is partially completed – work to connect City Forum is ongoing and the connection offer package is pending funding confirmation and formal agreement. However, further work is needed to review potential future connections and impact on network capacity. Completion timescales for the overall commitment are being reviewed.
- **Look at opportunities for ground source heat pumps in parks & housing estates - Options appraisal.** Phase 1 of UCL feasibility study completed in December 2021 covering options appraisal for ground source heat pumps in housing estates. Parks and housing estates to be progressed as separate projects, reprofiling of commitment and completion timescales for parks are being reviewed.
- **Maximise solar power generation: LBI Sites - Complete prioritised solar project report** has a **revised completion timescale to August 2022** due to limited team capacity in Energy Services team. The procurement route for feasibility studies is agreed and the process is underway.
- **Explore self-supply through out of borough renewable generation** – completion of initial feasibility study delayed due to limited team capacity. Completion timescales for the overall deliverable have been **revised to Q4 22/23**



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Funding structure options appraisal for GreenSCIES	Revised Jun 22
Develop connection offer package and agree funding for Bunhill	Revised - under review
Look at opportunities for ground source heat pumps in parks & housing estates - Options appraisal for ground source heat pumps	Parks timescales under review
Complete prioritised solar project report	Revised Aug 22
Explore self-supply through out of borough renewable generation - Secure funding	Revised Q4 22/23

Next steps



Energy Networks

- Procure contractors to develop the commercial options appraisal for GreenSCIES

Maximise solar power generation

- Procure consultants for prioritised solar photovoltaic (PV) assessment as part of the corporate building net-zero feasibility studies. 60+ council buildings are included in the studies, which will assess the maximum potential solar PV capacity.
- Letters have now been sent out to households that are eligible for solar panel & battery installs under the Solar Together 2022 scheme. There is also a Comms Plan in place to support the scheme for the duration of the registration window

Increase access to fairer energy tariffs

- Detailed feasibility study planned to look at best options for self-supply through out of-borough renewable energy generation

Purchase remaining electricity needs from renewable sources

- Leisure centres will switch to renewable electricity tariff in April 2022

Green Economy

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- **Skills Strategy** – We are participating in London Councils project, associated with Central London Forward research commission, to inform local skills planning. This was delayed therefore we have adjusted our timeline. We have also commissioned further Islington-specific analysis on the back of their research.
- **Affordable workspaces** – due to staff changes we are still reviewing our current portfolio and pipeline to see whether there is scope for a workspace to focus on green innovation and entrepreneurship. Our new Head of Affordable Workspace is now in post to take forward this review.

Other updates

- **Promoting 'green' jobs** - Ongoing discussions with ISEP and LIFT to expand training and apprenticeship opportunities in the knowledge/arts/built environment sector.
- **Business fora and networks** - We have supported Angel.London in establishing the Angel Sustainability Forum for businesses to deliver practical projects.



Next steps

Skills Strategy

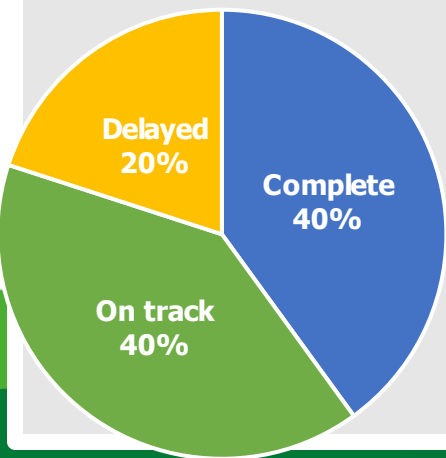
- Draft strategy being reviewed internally pending formal approval – to be included in a wider Community Wealth Building Strategy.

Supporting ISEP

- Setting up a programme of sustainability masterclasses/workshops for SMEs in 2022
- Working with youth progression team to raise awareness about 'green' jobs and careers in schools from the Spring term.

Promoting 'green' jobs

- increasing promotion of green jobs through iWork and developing a stronger outreach offer. Ensure that 4 -19 years old are well informed about green economy issues/green jobs and skills through 100 hours of work programme.



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Complete the development of a skills strategy that will identify priority areas for 'green jobs' and emerging local skills requirements.	Revised Mar 22
Promote and incentivise inclusive innovation through affordable workspaces	Revised Mar 22

Green Economy

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson



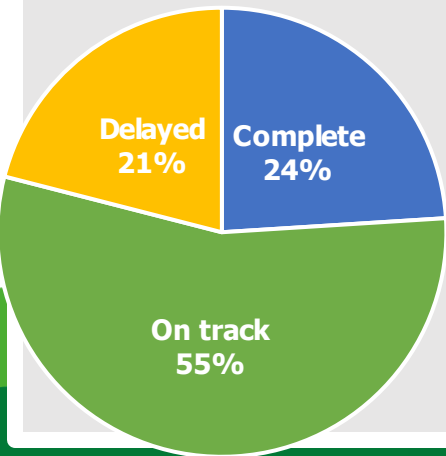
Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- **Sharing economy** - working with ReLondon we have promoted our circular economy grants for small businesses, which was over-subscribed even before officially accepting applications in January.
- **Co-Operative Development Hub Project** - steering group established. Legal clarification being sought around grant defrayal which may impact other schemes
- **Anchor Institutions** – in collaboration with key organisations we have scoped our approach to engaging with Anchor Institutions, including developing a series of KPIs for discussion. Our Anchor Institutions network will launch in February with an inaugural meeting.

Next steps

Anchor Institutions

- Our Anchor Institutions network will launch in February with an inaugural meeting.



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Collaborate with anchor institutions and networks such as Knowledge Quarter, to reduce carbon emissions including through commissioning and procurement processes	Revised Feb 22

Natural Environment and Waste

Workstream Owner: Tony Ralph



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

Natural Environment

- Community-led boroughwide green proposals programme 'Islington Greener Together' to launch 2 March 2022.
- Octopus Communities selected as lead delivery partner for Greener Together Champions to launch 28 February 2022.
- Submitted application for £100k against 'Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework' to the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) in Feb 2022. The bid incorporates a stub road audit of 1000 sites, green infrastructure project pipeline, new bespoke green investment financing and proposed strategic assessment tools.
- 700 trees planted to date (target 680) as of 24 Feb 2022
- Future Parks Accelerator extension funding application made to establish a nature recovery network and increase access to nature on people's doorsteps.

Waste reduction and recycling

- Completed commercial waste strategy looking at expanding services in the borough
- Completed Circular Economy Action Plan
- Expansion of food waste service and recycling site improvement projects for estates continue.
- Library of Things opened in the Bright Sparks store at Finsbury Park in November 2021

Next steps



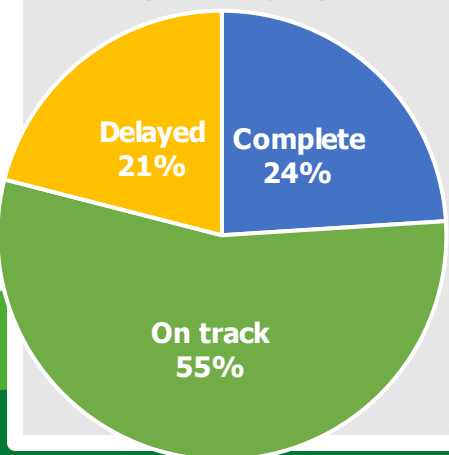
Natural Environment

- Launch of community-led greening programme and Champions network (2 March 2022)

Waste reduction and Recycling

- Deliver a food waste collection service trial for flats above shops (Spring 2022)
- Options appraisal for prioritising recycling and waste reduction interventions
- Expansion of food waste service continues
- Low Plastic Zone engagement work to begin at Cally Road
- Support for national and regional campaigns on food waste, repair and flexible plastics recycling

Commitments due last quarter	Status
Implement online resident tree planting donation process	Revised Mar 22
Introduce principles in the Local Plan to require developers to adopt a circular economy approach to building design and construction (minimise construction waste)	Complete Dec 21
Investigate options and develop a business case for expanding commercial recycling services in the borough	Complete Dec 21



Planning

Workstream Owner: Karen Sullivan



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- The Local Plan remains with the Planning Inspectors. Consultation on further modifications to the Plan are unlikely to be able to start until March 2022.

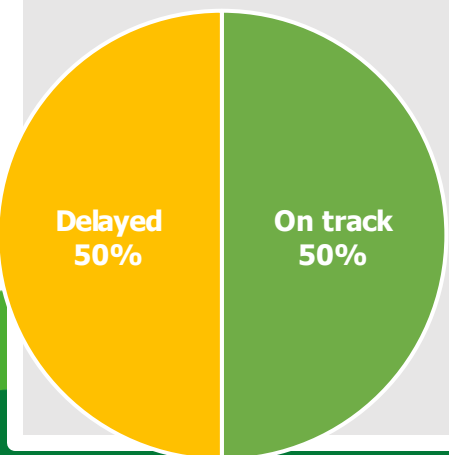
Next steps

Local Plan Adoption

- Planning Inspectors decision and consultation on further modifications

Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document

- Expected start date dependent on above



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Strengthen existing policies through adoption of the new Local Plan	Revised June 22

Engaging, Empowering and Partnering

Workstream Owner: Jane Simmonds



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- The Greener Together microsite and pledge tool were finalised in December, but due to the proximity of Christmas, it was agreed that a launch in January would be more effective. Both were launched publicly on 20 January.
- Officers developed a set of draft KPIs for discussion with the Anchor Institutions network. The network will have its inaugural meeting in February to discuss taking these commitments forward.
- A two year action plan for the Renewable Power for London workstream was finalised and submitted to London Councils in December (as part of the London Council's Climate Change Programme). Islington is the lead borough for this workstream. This marks the start of an ongoing collaboration to deliver the action plan in partnership with councils across London.

Next steps



Greener together website and pledge tool

- Ongoing monitoring of the use of the website and pledge tool.
- Regular updates for those who make a pledge to keep them motivated.
- Follow up to evaluate the efficacy of the tool in stimulating behaviour change.

Renewable Power for London (London Councils)

- Regular meetings with working groups have been scheduled to take forward the action plan.

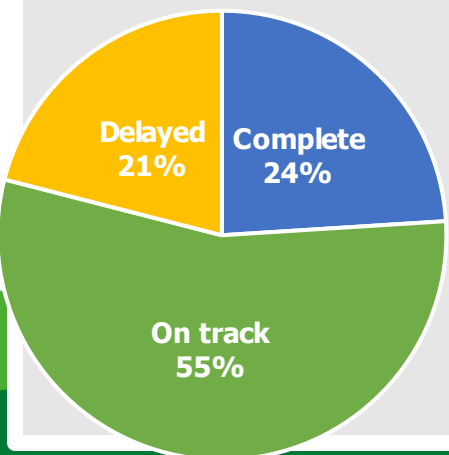
Anchor Institutions Network

- Launch of the network in February
- Ongoing collaboration and development of the network

Stakeholder engagement

- Work is underway to scope the annual Special Scrutiny meeting in March which will give local people the opportunity to help shape next steps in our engagement strategy

Commitments due last quarter	Status
Launch Energy Hub site	Revised Jan 22
Launch online resource for climate emergency declarations	Revised Jan 22
Integration of net zero carbon commitments into upcoming Anchor Institution Strategy	Due Dec 21
Develop Two Year work plan as part of partnership work through London Council's Climate Change Programme	Dec 21



Finance and Investment

Workstream Owner: Paul Clarke



Progress highlights on delivering commitments

- Islington launched its Community Municipal Investment on the final day of the Let's Talk about a Greener Future festival in October 2021 and was 80% funded at the end of December 2021.
- The latest capital programme will be considered by Executive on 13 January which includes £48m of investment in Net Zero Carbon including additional investment for GreenSCIES + Retrofitting (£18m).
- Finance has been reviewing government policy issued by BEIS and HMT in October 2021 and is actively monitoring c. 25 funding opportunities with workstream leads and Strategic Business Managers.
- Finance & Investment gave a full update on Deliverables at Executive Board in December 2021 and will give a presentation to Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in February 2022.

Next steps



Community Municipal Investment

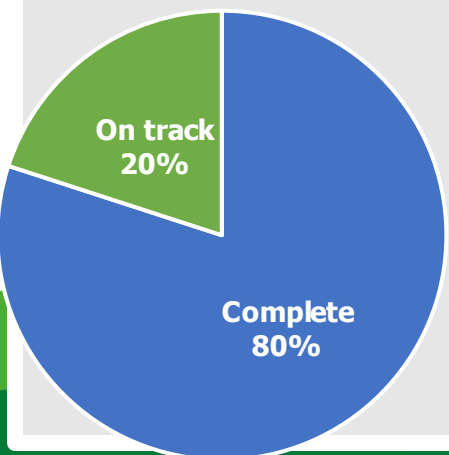
- Provide investor updates to individuals supporting the investment
- Consider future CMI opportunities as part of our financial strategy for the Net Zero Carbon programme

NZC Financial Strategy

- Support capital programme approval at Executive (Jan)/Council (Mar) and support creation of benefit realization plans in departments
- Further work with workstream delivery groups to establish full cost of delivering NZC and target emerging funding opportunities
- Further work on alternative funding mechanisms including as Joint Ventures and ESCOs
- Develop financial strategy based on financial/environmental benefits and continue to collaborate with partners + lobby government

Decarbonisation of Pension Fund and Council Investments

- Continue to monitor and review the decarbonisation of Pension Fund and Council Investments
- Further work on Environmental, Social, Governance risks



Commitments due last quarter	Status
Launch CMI if feasible	Oct 21