



ISLINGTON

# Member review of the Net Zero Carbon Program and Informal Working Group

## DRAFT REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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London Borough of Islington  
February 2022

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee review of the Council's Net Carbon Program is coming to an end. As has the Informal Working Group. Members have been asked to give feedback on these reviews and provide recommendations for the committee to make to the Executive.

## THE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

2. The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee formed an Informal Working Group in order to look at waste, recycling and the renewal of the North London Waste Authority Energy Recovery Facility.
3. The Informal Working held three meetings and considered evidence from a number of witnesses, council officers and members.
  - At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 8 June 2021, Cllr Tricia Clarke, the Chair, announced the formation of an Informal Working Group to look at waste, recycling and the renewal of the North London Waste Authority Energy Recovery Facility.
  - The overall aim of the of the Informal Working Group was to consider the proposals for the North London Heat and Power Project and implications for Islington in terms of reducing waste and increasing recycling in the borough.
  - The Informal Working Group agreed to cover three themes:
    - NLWA Waste Disposal
    - A refreshing and understanding of waste collection by the council
    - Waste Reduction, Minimisation and Reuse
  - Types of evidence that was within scope of the Informal Working Group:
    - Update from Islington's Environment and Commercial Operations Director
    - NLWA representatives on waste disposal and its plans North ondon Heat and Power project
    - Other Local Authorities Action Plan on waste minimisation policy
    - Presentation from Islington's Head of Street Service Operations
    - Presentation from Islington's Waste Strategy Manager
    - Site visit to the Edmonton Energy Recovery Facility
2. The witness evidence and meeting details can be found in **Appendix A** at the end of this report.
3. Islington is preparing a new Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) to follow on from its current plan. This RRP will set out its programme of recycling and waste reduction from April 2023 for at least the next two years and beyond. The evidence and ideas received during the informal review of waste and recycling will be reviewed and assessed with ideas being fed into the new RRP based on their potential impact and cost.

## **NET ZERO CARBON PROGRAM**

4. The Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019, recognising the need to drastically reduce carbon emissions in the borough. A pledge was made to work towards being a net zero borough by 2030. In November 2020 the council adopted its Vision 2030 strategy.
5. At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2020, member resolved that they would consider the Net Zero 2030 Carbon Strategy at future meetings.
6. There have been ten items so far for the Net Zero Carbon review:
  - Overview of the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon Programme
  - Planning for Zero Carbon
  - The Green Economy Work Stream
  - Transport
  - Engagement and Communication
  - Housing (council, private owner occupied and rented housing)
  - Buildings (commercial and infrastructure)
  - Natural environment
  - Waste reduction and recycling & circular economy
  - Finance and investment
7. At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 7 March 2022, members will consider the final item of the Net Zero Carbon review, on Sustainable and Affordable Energy.
8. The member discussions around each of the Net Zero Topics can be found in **Appendix B** at the end of this report.

## **QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS TO CONSIDER:**

9. The following questions are for members to consider when reflecting on the Informal Working Group and the Net Zero Carbon Program so far:
  - How do we get more residents to use our recycling services more effectively? What measures should we consider where residents do not engage in recycling services? Do we rely on engagement and encouragement, or should we consider firmer 'nudges' such as restricting people's capacity to throw away as much as they want through changing collection frequencies or enforcement measures?
  - Recycling more is important, but reducing consumption and carbon emissions is the ultimate aim. How do we balance these priorities?
  - Residents in flats above shops currently put their waste and recycling in sacks on the pavement for collection but have no food waste collections. Would good quality, communal food waste recycling bins at intervals along pavements on main roads be a way of providing a food waste recycling service for these residents?

- We are investing in improvements to recycling sites on estates, but what else can we do to encourage residents on estates to recycle more? Is the presence of refuse chutes in some estate buildings a barrier to higher recycling rates?
- Only a small proportion of homes in Islington have gardens and generate garden waste, while those with larger gardens generate more. Would it be fair to charge for those garden waste collections in order to invest in better recycling services?
- How can we better engage with residents and other organisations on the net zero carbon programme and encourage their participation.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

10. Based on member discussion, a full report of recommendations will be presented to a future meeting of the Executive. Approval of the final report and recommendations will be delegated to the Chair, following consultation with members.

## **APPENDIX A: INFORMAL WORKING GROUP**

### **1. MEETING 1**

- 1.1. The first meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 20 June 2021 on the theme of North London Waste Authority Incinerator. Full notes of this meeting can be found on the agenda of the 14 September 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2. Members of the Informal Working group made a site visit to the of North London Waste Authority incinerator plant, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, were unable to view the recycling facilities.
- 1.3. Dr. Rembrandt Koppelaar, EcoWise, made a presentation during which the following points were highlighted:
  - The three main areas of relevance for members to consider , the collection service within LBI, noting that his responses had been sent by e mail as to how this could be improved, in particular on what level of improvements that the 7 boroughs could implement, the prevention of plastic waste and how the NLWA plant rebuild fits into the waste strategy
  - The Government's commitment to a 65% recycling target by 2035 is extremely challenging especially for densely populated boroughs such as Islington. Wales has already achieved this target though. The NLWA incinerator would not be finished until 2027 with the likelihood that it would only be viable for a further 25/30 years. The Government's recycling target would have implications at a local level
  - There is a need to move towards net zero carbon and importantly there is an urgent need to reduce the use of plastics and to look at a separate plastic recycling facility, which has been developed in other countries. It was noted that NLWA are working towards this is recognised that most of the unwanted carbon emissions arose from plastic, and the cost of plastic per tonne would make this financially viable
  - At the local level, Islington could employ more digital technology to get more information on waste disposal, that there is need for political knowledge on how waste is disposed. Streets could be identified and targeted for action to make it easier to recycle for residents
  - The renaming of NLWA as NLW Zero Carbon authority would be beneficial, as it would have a big impact. It was noted that NLWA has done some good work around waste reduction and reuse over the years, and a campaign had been developed in conjunction with London Boroughs.
  - Dr Koppelaar also expressed the view that it was important that authorities request from NLWA the current costs/Levy for incinerating waste, prior to 2026/27 before the new incinerator comes into operation for comparison reason so as to assess its impact on its residents. It was noted that there is likely to be spare incineration capacity, that this could reduce incentives to recycle waste, especially given the proposals for new incineration plants across the country.

1.4. Jeremy Corbyn MP referred to the fact that when he was a Councillor at L.B. Haringey he was involved in the construction of the original NLWA Edmonton incinerator and then it was felt that this was more sustainable than landfill option in addition that it will generate electricity. Meeting was advised that a number of people were now of the view that incineration of waste is unacceptable, that plastic waste needed to be reduced and that effort that is more concerted be made in approaching both businesses and residents to address this issue.

## **2. MEETING 2**

2.1. The Second meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 14 September 2021 on the theme of How Council manages its Waste and Recycling. Full notes of this meeting can be found on the agenda of the 30 November 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

2.2. Cathy Cook of Re London made a presentation during which the following points were highlighted:

- Work had been undertaken with LBI on the development of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, the overall waste strategy and circular economy plans
- LBI were also assisting Re;London in a project to look at recycling in 2 new flats
- It was noted that energy from NLWA would increase costs; that LBI waste reduction and recycling plan is committed to reducing the level of household waste, and a commitment to expand food waste collection. In addition it was noted that there is a need to expand food waste collection especially with flats above shops
- Government consultation on Residual Waste services is the biggest undertaken in 25 years, and extends producer responsibility, introduces consistency in Housing and Business recycling, and introduces a deposit return scheme. LBI current service meets the requirements of the current proposals on recycling, food waste, residual waste and garden waste, however the proposal of removal of waste from flats above shops will present a challenge
- Opportunities for Islington were outlined including installation of drinking fountains, water refill stations, information on waste being available on the website, support to residents to remove bulky waste items, real nappy scheme etc.
- Biggest opportunity is to reduce residual waste by reducing capacity of containers, frequency of collections etc. Flat recycling package leading to increase in recycling rate
- Re:London resource support includes resource bank free service for London, Flat pack recycling package, involvement in innovation of knowledge projects, targeted London recycling campaign, individual support provided at cost
- In relation to a question as to whether the scheme introduced in Wales to recycle disposable nappies, it was stated that no real work had been done on

this in London and the logistics and costs made this difficult, however encouragement was being given to residents to use real nappies

- In response to a question it was stated that incineration would take place in London for the foreseeable future due to the lack of landfill
- Noted that LBI did have a waste reduction and recycling plan in place and scrutiny committee recommendations had assisted in this and move in the right direction on increasing recycling

2.3. Matthew Homer, Street Scene Strategy Manager, made a presentation during which the following main points were made:

- Waste reduction and recycling plan 2018-22 – recycling rate of 33% by 2022, 36% by 2025. Set up and achieve LA collection of waste recycling targets
- The Council had a number of objectives – Reduce single use plastic, reduce food waste, circular economy, encourage reuse, work with NLWA. Also to maximise recycling by recycling from flats and estates, recycling on the go, expansion of food waste recycling, increase commercial waste. Also to reduce the environmental impact of waste ULEZ and zero emissions fleet. Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces by responsible recycling, redevelopment of the energy from waste facility at Edmonton by 2026, and household reuse and recycling. Noted that food collection from flats above shops would be a challenge but solutions would have to be found if it was Government regulation
- Although £100000 is the budget for waste recycling and reduction however other funding sources are being investigated. It was also noted that some ward partnerships had contributed funds
- It was stated that the use S106 of SIL monies on estates, such as the recent scheme on the Andover Estate should be looked at. It was stated that on new builds, recycling chutes were being built into the design of the building but this was often very difficult to do retrospectively

2.4. Jon Mootealoo, Head of Street Environment Services made a presentation during which the following points were made:

- LBI has the second lowest rate of flytipping in London whereas LB Camden has the highest
- Islington bulky waste collection – 3 items £30, 10 items £100
- Noted prosecutions and fines issued for flytipping
- Education and encouragement – noted CSI tapes scheme introduced at 5 locations in the north of the borough
- Working with Partners – Keep Britain Tidy, and colleagues in Housing, compliance teams and CCTV
- It was stated that consideration should be given to planters being put in in areas of constant flytipping to discourage flytippers and show the Council cared about the area.

### **3. MEETING 3**

- 3.1. The second meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 13 January 2022 on the theme of How Council manages its Waste and Recycling. Full notes of this meeting can be found on the agenda of the 1 February 2022 pm of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2. Dr Christian Reynolds, Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London made a presentation during which the following points were highlighted:
- Idea 1 – Measures to reduce food waste: Convince people and organisations that action is needed, e.g. creating a business case. Understand what is effective at preventing or diverting FLW Target action to where it is needed: types of food, parts of a supply chain / process, destinations. Demonstrate that progress has been made and is sufficient to hit targets. Supply chain: \$1 companies invested to reduce food loss and waste, they saved \$14 in operating costs.
  - Idea 2 – Make moments of change, moments to reduce food waste Multiple synergies between HSE and FW Integrate Healthy Eating and Food Waste education Welsh pilot (Low income communities) 53% increase in Fruit and Vegetable Consumption 7% food waste reduction Hospitality and food service sector can be “champions” of message (and have major wins themselves). Portions and Pack size can have an effect. 9% reduction in avoidable food waste generated per household per week (kg/hh/ wk) between 2017 and 2019. The amount generated fell from 1.59 kg/hh/week to 1.44 kg/hh/week. No change in the weight of unavoidable food waste per household recycled via the caddy. On the other hand, there was a 14% increase in the amount of avoidable food waste recycled. 15% increase in Londoners demonstrating knowledge of and reporting taking action on healthy sustainable eating, according to the project evaluation survey
  - Idea 3 – Scale your solution to reduce food waste – let’s go local! The city/municipal level is the right place to combat Food Waste. FLW action can be at multiple government levels. Prevention Diversion Redistribution (Food Security)
- 3.3. Tony Ralph, Director of Environment & Commercial Operations, reiterated that the Council continues to promote among its residents it’s policy the need to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. He welcomed suggestions from Dr Reynolds, noting that officers are willing to work with him going forward. Tony Ralph acknowledged that the Council has just retrofitted some of its older vehicles which fits into the Council’s Circular Economy agenda instead of purchasing.
- 3.4. Caz Royds, Islington Environmental Emergency Alliance, said that people living above shops are keen to recycle, that FLW matters enormously and she is involved in a measuring food waste project with Octopus. Islington Environmental Emergency Alliance took part in a food waste stall and so many people said that they didn’t have any food waste. 5% England’s waste is cat litter. The council is seen as a trusted friend to residents and the council can change food waste policies.
- 3.5. 1/3 of food produced never reaches a human stomach. Food production causes 26% of green house emissions and food waste produces 6% of emission.

## **APPENDIX B: NET ZERO CARBON REVIEW**

### **1. OVERVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S 2030 NET ZERO CARBON PROGRAMME**

1.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 16 November 2020 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

1.2. Keith Townsend, Director of Environment and Regeneration, presented the Overview of the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon Programme:

- Climate change is clear the level of global warming related to the amount of Carbon Dioxide that human activities add to the atmosphere
- The Climate Change Act 2008 has set the UK to achieve net zero carbon borough by 2030
- Islington declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019 net zero carbon borough by 2030, and a draft strategy published February 2020. Special meeting held of E&R in February 2020. Consultation process from April to end July 2020 and Executive report in November 2020
- What does this mean for Islington – developing a net Zero Carbon strategy for Islington, 4% of Islington's carbon emissions are from our operations and buildings and 9% of gas boilers in council-owned homes are included. There are 679,600 tonnes of emissions in the borough
- The strategy at a glance – residential buildings, Commercial and industrial buildings and infrastructure – improve the energy efficiency and reduce the level of carbon emissions of all buildings and infrastructure. Transport – reduce emissions in the borough for transport. Sustainable and affordable energy generation and supply – increase local generation of renewable heat and electricity, increase the update of affordable and renewable energy tariffs and mitigate fuel poverty. The Green Economy and Planning – deliver on net zero carbon target whilst assuring the economic success and vitality of the borough by working closely with the 18800 businesses in the borough, most of them small or micro sized. The natural environment and waste reduction and recycling – integrate ongoing activities in recycling and reducing waste and managing our natural environment
- Our approach – identified short, medium and long term commitments and actions, and there is a need to work with partners, consult and engage extensively, have cross- Council working to support the commitments and action plan, significant development of a programme with workstreams and detailed workplans, how to engage with residents, businesses and organisations
- Governance model in place
- How progress can be measured – Pilot of ClimateView software – used by both Newcastle and Nottingham City Councils, visualise challenges and targets, setting targets link related ongoing or planned actions, access and adapt – for each transition target the listed actions are sufficient, insufficient or unrealistic
- In response to a question as to whether electric boilers would be installed at the Holloway Prison development with Peabody Trust it was stated that if the member of the public wished to write to the Executive Member Housing, Councillor Ward he would respond thereon

- In response to a question as to supplementary planning guidance changes in relation to the Net Zero Carbon strategy, it was stated that this was under consideration and being developed
- It was stated that in relation to the ClimateView proposal that work progress would be reported back to the Committee in approximately 6 months. However, behavioural change would be needed in a number of areas, and there would need to be engagement with the community, through a communications strategy, and applying the recommendations of the recent Scrutiny Review on Behavioural Change
- Key risks and next steps – Lack of direct control, dependency on other parties such as Government, GLA, businesses, Borough partners, residents.
- Creating organisation momentum and capacity to deliver the programme, financial resources investment and benefits not clearly defined, developing a detailed scope and plan for each workstream in order to be clear about what we will do directly, what we could do, and what we will do to influence and work with others
- Net Zero Carbon strategy approval – November report to Executive recommending additional capital investment, and revenue funding, required to deliver strategy, note detailed proposals for borough partner and anchor institution engagement, note role of E&R scrutiny Committee, approve officers to work on pan-London basis as part of the London Climate Change programme. Also note further work is underway to develop the scope and detail in relation to resident engagement, including a net zero carbon themed Citizens Assembly and to adopt a Net Zero Carbon strategy and Action Plan
- Scrutiny work – 18 month E&R programme to allow for detailed scrutiny of key chapters of the strategy, regular programme update, opportunity to meet with delivery teams and detailed understanding of the workstreams to shape future scrutiny programme and have guest speakers an external experts
- Scrutiny Work Programme – 4 February – Green Economy and Planning commitments, 8 March – Transport and Sustainable and affordable energy generation and supply commitments, 27 April – Residential Buildings, Commercial and Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure and the Natural Environment and Waste Reduction and Recycling commitments. This will support the Committee to determine its work programme for 2021/22
- Noted that work is taking place with London Councils, and the Mayor of London to develop a climate change programme for London, and Islington will be the lead authority on energy
- A Member stated that there is a need to ensure water conservation is included in any strategy, and a focus on solar panels to heat water. It was stated that planning policy was being looked in order to include water usage and conservation
- A Member expressed the view that community experts should be involved, and consulted on proposals, and there is a need to consider how to engage them in future. It was stated that there would be engagement in this regard, and that the special meeting to be held with stakeholders in February/March will seek to build on this
- A Member stated that there is a need for the planning process to complement the Net Zero Carbon strategy, and it was stated that there were opportunities through the Local Plan, and supplementary planning guidance to influence this
- In response to a question about the need to engage TfL, it was stated that the Government bailout of TfL, and the Department of Transport had given a block

funding grant to TfL and it was hoped that this would assist in developing local schemes

## **2. PLANNING FOR ZERO CARBON**

2.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 4 February 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

2.2. Sakiba Gurda, Head of Planning Policy and Karen Sullivan, Service Director Planning and Development were present and made a presentation to the Committee:

- Planning plays an important role in ensuring that developments minimise their contributions towards climate change as well as adapt to and be more resilient to its impacts. Islington has implemented ambitious and robust planning policies over recent years to minimise the contribution of development to climate change
- Current local plan – Developments required to minimise their carbon emissions on site, including through energy efficiency. One of the first Councils to require carbon offset payments, as part of net zero carbon approach which is then used to fund projects that reduce carbon emissions. Planning policies to promote and develop decentralised energy networks. One of the first to implement a car free policy for all new developments
- New Local Plan – approach to net zero emissions - commits the Council to ensuring all buildings in Islington will be net Zero Carbon by 2050, consistent with the London Plan. The Council has declared a climate and environment emergency and will strive to achieve net carbon zero by 2030, ahead of the 2050 target. Planning policy plays a critically important role as part of moving towards net zero carbon emissions from buildings in the borough. Planning is however only part of meeting the net zero carbon target. The Council's planning policies can only reduce carbon emissions through the design and construction of new and refurbished buildings that require planning permission. The ambitious planning policies in the Local Plan must be accompanied by a range of other interventions, as set out in the Council's net zero carbon strategy
- Trajectory to net zero – achieving net zero carbon from all buildings in Islington will require significant retrofitting of existing building stock to ensure that it meets the highest possible energy efficiency standards. Decarbonisation of the electricity grid and a move away from gas boilers is also required. This is outside the current scope of the planning system and would require significant changes to national policy and legislation
- All developments of 1 unit or more must be zero carbon, ensure development proposals reduce energy demand through energy efficiency, reducing emissions through low carbon energy sources and renewables, approach requires compliance with Fabric Energy Efficiency statement. Major development proposals should calculate and demonstrate actions to reduce whole life-cycle carbon emissions
- New Local Plan Energy infrastructure – selection of heat sources in line with the policy will ensure developments prioritise low and zero carbon heating options, major developments required to have communal low temperature heating system, heat sources for communal systems selected in accordance with heating hierarchy, and connection to heat networks prioritised. The new local plan and the zero carbon and energy policies are supported by other policies which are important in building climate resilience. These include policies on thermal comfort, integrated approach to

water management, requirement for site specific flood risk assessments, continue commitment to reducing car use and promoting walking and cycling

- There is a commitment to delivering a net zero carbon supplementary planning document in the Local Plan and Zero Carbon strategy. This will assist with the implementation of policy and provided practical guidance
- Planning reform – currently undergoing an unprecedented period of planning reform, significant increase in permitted development rights mean planning permission is not required and planning policies cannot be applied. Further significant permitted development rights proposed and this will erode the ability to achieve net zero and further increase costs of retrofit. Due to the deregulation of planning controls the Government will place greater reliance on building control to secure energy efficiency measures
- Reference was made to the need to inform residents of proposals and it was stated that a presentation to residents could take place in the future
- Noted that Government were being lobbied in relation to the proposals in relation to permitted development rights proposals, and the proposals around commercial to residential and how the Council could influence this
- A Member stated that he welcomed the new SDP and that consideration should be given to looking at the current policy in conservation areas and historic buildings, and how this could be tailored to better meet net Zero carbon aims. It was noted that this is an area currently under consideration
- Reference was made to carbon offsetting and it was stated that developers did generally try to comply however in certain developments it was not always possible, and therefore a financial contribution is made

### **3. THE GREEN ECONOMY WORK STREAM**

3.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 8 March 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

3.2. Councillor Asima Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs, and Caroline Wilson, Head of Inclusive Development were present for discussion of this item. During consideration of the report the following main points were made:

- Noted Net Zero carbon programme governance model
- Green Energy ambition – move towards a low carbon, more resource efficient economy that has fewer adverse effects on the environment. Industries need to contribute toward ecological sustainability, need to create a generation of green jobs, and need for innovative ownership structures that promote meaningful employee participation. Residents need to be skilled for these new sectors
- Journey towards a green economy – Definition, research, scanning, scoping and green economy strategic framework and full action plan
- Beginning to define the green economy – work underway collaborating on two pieces of work of pan-London work and research with London Recovery Board and Central London Forward. Initiated discussions with UCL to organise an expert roundtable to interrogate emerging research and application to Islington
- Estimated there could be 6000 low carbon jobs created by 2050 in Islington

- Scanning for early opportunities green jobs and skills – GLA projections for London indicate that new demand for 3400 and a replacement demand for 10300 over the period 2020-24 in the construction sector
- Scoping policy – work underway – need to define policy framework to enable SME's to be green, early stakeholder engagement, coherent policy framework to support local SME's
- Scoping partnerships – work underway included in the new Progressive Procurement strategy as part of the social value requirements. Integrated net zero targets into draft Anchor Institutions Framework
- Next steps – work over next 6 months – strategic - continue to evolve Green Economy strategic framework, appoint dedicated Green Economy officer, launch responsible sector initiative with construction partners to promote social value, continue to support apprenticeships, initiate business development programme for Chapel Market, Investigate circular economy initiatives, commission eco -friendly delivery service, explore 'last mile' delivery hubs, increase awareness of a sharing economy. Develop engagement with commissioners and local supply chains, agree a common ambition across anchor organisations on carbon reductions, develop work with local universities to promote innovation in carbon reduction
- Noted that the NHS had recently published a net Zero carbon strategy and it was stated that work would be taking place with NHS providers and work is taking place with the Whittington Hospital
- In response to a question it was stated that additional funding had been obtained to build on the air quality work recently carried out in Archway on green deliveries and that there would now be a focus on the Nags Head. This could also be linked in to low traffic neighbourhoods
- A Member expressed the view that opportunities of low traffic neighbourhoods to use cargo bikes and e bikes to make deliveries. Councillor Shaikh stated that funding was not available at present but any funding from the GLA would be welcomed
- It was stated that work was taking place with L.B.Camden on sustainable construction
- Discussion took place as to charity shops and any influence that could be leveraged and it was stated that discussions could be held with the Executive Member Community Development in this regard
- Reference was made to the Holloway road site and that there was a need to ensure that the benefits are realised in terms of the green economy, and there is a need to negotiate S106 agreement with Peabody Trust

#### **4. TRANSPORT**

4.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 27 April 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

4.2. The Director of Environment and Regeneration, Keith Townsend and Martin Cooijmans, Interim Director Climate Change and Transport were present for discussion of this item, during consideration of the presentation the following main points were made:

- Transport Scope – The aim is to reduce emissions from all forms of transport in the borough whether private, commercial and public. This workstream aims to reduce emissions from transport in the borough by reducing

emissions from the Council's fleet, reducing vehicle usage, encouraging use of electric vehicles, discouraging fossil fuel based plant usage, influencing Government policy, securing cleaner bus services

- Transport deliverable – reduction in overall vehicle fleet and increase number of electric vehicles, waste recycling centre (WRC) initial smart charger installation to existing power supply, WRC new grid connection and substation, low voltage infrastructure and smart charger installations, smart charger installations at other council premises, increase solar capacity at Council charging sites, enable vehicle to Grid (V2G) at locations with parked vehicles, expanding on Town Hall V2G trial
- Transport deliverable – Fleet replacement programme electrification – reduction in fleet and increase in electric vehicles, WRC smart charger installation, WRC grid connection and substation, low voltage infrastructure and smart charger installations, smart charger installations at other Council premises, increase solar capacity at council charging points, enable vehicle to Grid at locations with parked vehicles, expanding on Town Hall V2G trial.
- Members were advised that so far the Council has delivered over 10% of its fleet is electric, WRC smart chargers have been installed using existing power supply, smart chargers operate at Randels Road and Laycock Centre, V2G trial at Town Hall has commenced. Meeting was advised that over the next 12-18 months, the Council will be procuring new vehicles and EV chargers in line with updated procurement strategy; that its WRC new HV grid connection and substation will be completed, smart chargers will be sited at other Council premises and further scoping will be carried out on additional sites. In addition support will be increased to the energy team to increase solar capacity at council charging sites, and complete Council's VG2 trial
- In terms of vehicle use reduction by residents and local businesses, the Council aims to make active travel the easiest and most enjoyable option. The Council has also implemented low traffic neighbourhoods and liveable neighbourhoods, network of cycle lanes and cycle routes, delivered school streets or similar interventions where possible at all primary schools in the borough. Members were informed of plans to introduce a borough wide lorry control scheme, working towards banning lorries (HGV) from driving through the borough on residential roads. Other initiatives by the council include ensuring that new developments are car free or have restricted on-site parking and access to controlled parking zones; provision of adequate cycling facilities, developing and delivering accessibility plan; walking and cycling action plan, developing a parking strategy, exploring workplace parking levies and working towards a freight consolidation strategy. It was noted that 16% of carbon emissions in the borough are due to transport emissions
- The meeting was advised that so far 7 low traffic neighbourhoods, network of cycle lanes and routes have been delivered, camera installed to enforce schools streets at every primary school not on a main road, STARS travel behaviour change programme, Try before you Bike scheme launched. In the next 12-18 months the council will continue delivery of People Friendly Streets, additional cycle routes, support TfL on Camden to Tottenham Hale cycle route, continue to apply car free policies to new developments, develop cycling/walking action plan,

- The Council will continue investing in EV charging infrastructure such as lamp columns and rapid chargers, encourage the use of electric taxis, by ensuring Islington has sufficient on street rapid chargers for taxi drivers, support and promote electric car club schemes and carpooling activities, encourage local businesses to switch to zero emissions vehicles or cargo bikes, ensure EV infrastructure is powered by renewable sources
- Members were advised that so far in terms of public EV charging infrastructure, nearly 300 publicly accessible charging points have been rolled out and that all existing suppliers have agreed transition plans to ensure EV infrastructure is powered by renewable sources, continued support to businesses through the Zero Emissions Network. In addition meeting was informed of new incentives, ie to trial local deliveries through the use of cargo bikes.
- Over the next 12-18 months – Communications and engagement plan will be developed to support and promote electric car club schemes and carpooling and in addition the Council aims to deliver 400 EV charging points, continue supporting TfL with delivery of public rapid charging infrastructure
- The Council aims to discourage fossil fuel based plant usage by replacing grounds maintenance equipment with viable electrical alternatives, replace its diesel generators with emission free alternatives and implement UK first Eco Zone at the Regents Canal to provide cleaner power to canal boats that use diesel engines and wood stoves, and build on its success to provide these benefits in other areas with poor air quality. Members were advised that so half the Eco Zone electric bollards for mooring installed along Regents Canal has been delivered and that over the next 12-18 months, the Council will be replacing grounds maintenance equipment with viable electrical alternatives at end of life, and will commence the review of non-road mobile machinery across the Council's operations and complete the Eco Zone at Regents Canal
- On the issue of influencing and engagement, members were advised that the work stream aims to influence departments, local authorities and Government in order for Islington to achieve its net zero target. Meeting was informed of TfL's plans to create a Zero Emission Zone across the expanded ULEZ area by 2030, ensuring that all routes through Islington are served by electric or hydrogen vehicles. The Officer also advised of London wide approaches to parking levies and road charging, acknowledging that additional action and national policies will be required on addressing red diesel policies, changes to road and vehicle taxation, strategic support for local authorities, national diesel scrappage schemes, improvements to charging infrastructure before the ban on new diesel and petrol vehicles
- The Officer advised that in rolling out of the existing initiatives and going forward, the Council has been able to secure funding and have pending funding. Meeting was advised that the bid for funding of £120000 had just been agreed which will deliver 60 lamp column charging points
- Members were advised that work was taking place with the Mayor to reduce car use and the ULEZ scheme. Officer noted concerns regarding the safer school streets in St.George's Ward, of vehicles being diverted onto nearby streets and difficulties experienced around junctions. It was stated that officers meet regularly with TfL who are committed to reducing traffic

speeds. Work is also taking place on additional cycling facilities and looking at improvements in junctions in low traffic neighbourhoods especially in Holloway Road. It was noted that at present, due to discussions with the Government on future funding, TfL were in a difficult position

- With regard to enforcement of the 20mph speed zones, meeting was informed that this is the responsibility of the Police, however discussions are taking place through the LGA to encourage Government to transfer this responsibility to Local Authorities
- In response to a question it was stated that officers were working with local Councillors on the noise of the cameras in St. George's Ward and if necessary new cameras could be installed, as has happened in other areas. Work is also taking place to reduce traffic
- Reference was made to a survey that had taken place in Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN's) about residents views on the changes and this could be circulated to Members
- Discussion took place as to the STARS programme, and it was stated that without TfL funding the programme has been paused, however officers are of the view that the programme would recommence once the TfL funding position has been resolved
- In response to a question, the officer advised that discussion have taken place regarding the freight consolidation scheme and is currently being considered.
- Reference was made to the need to promote the use of cargo bikes to reduce the number of van journeys in the borough. It was stated that this was under consideration, however it was unlikely toilet facilities would be made available
- In response to a question it was stated that work is taking place to roll out electric charging points and to ensure that they were situated in the right places. Reference was also made to the fact that car users should be encouraged to purchase smaller electric vehicles, and that this should be looked at when the parking plan is reviewed
- It was noted that at present in the borough there are 7 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods in existence; that there would be a full public consultation next year, although the Council are committed to LTN's, and additional LTN's are being planned. Work is also taking place to engage with the community and schools. The view was expressed that the ROAMER scheme should be discontinued given that only about 30% of Islington residents had cars. It was noted that there is a need for more bike hangers, and that the Council is committed to roll more of these out and it was planned to have 400 by the end of the year
- In response to a question on school travel plans and the STARS programme it was stated that once TfL funding is reinstated work will take place with schools and that a project manager had been employed to assist in this regard, linking in with LNT's
- In response to a question it was stated that whilst there had been hostility to LTN's and People Friendly Streets there has been a huge level of support as well.

## 5. ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

5.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 8 June 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

5.2. Keith Townsend, Corporate Director, Environment and Regeneration and Timi Ashaye, Net Zero Carbon Programme Lead gave a presentation to the Committee, during consideration of the presentation the following main points were made:

- It was noted that progress would be reported on a quarterly basis
- A budget of £700k pa has been secured to support the delivery of the Net Zero Carbon strategy over the next 3 years. Council is in the process of securing £3m of additional programme funding through Carbon Offset Fund
- Meeting was advised that by securing the budget for engagement and communications, it has been able to recruit a dedicated communications officer. Also council has completed first phase of work with University College of London to develop a road map for how council will achieve net zero carbon emissions on Council's housing stock
- Council is in process of securing approval for key strategy document on decarbonising its New Build Homes. It is delivering on major transport priority areas, increasing the number of electric vehicles within the Council's fleet, trials have been completed on its seven low traffic neighbourhoods and now has 35 school streets covering 36 schools.
- Meeting was advised that it is identifying and developing new opportunities for green jobs and skills, and that the new local SPD will strengthen existing policies to reduce carbon emissions for development proposals
- Generally in terms of performances of the various themes of the strategy, 85% of commitments have either been completed or are on track to be delivered within the original timescale
- Committee noted progress on strategy commitments that are due before and up to March 2021 on buildings, homes and infrastructure, Transport, Sustainable and affordable energy, Green economy, natural environment, waste reduction and recycling, Planning and Engagement and Communications
- Members were informed that opportunities with regards to achieving Net Zero Carbon emission with new housing developments is taking place on the Holloway prison site.
- Reference was made to the details of incentives for use of cargo bikes to businesses and residents and it was stated that this information could be provided to Members
- In response to a question it was stated that resources available for the engagement strategy would be available in July and these could be circulated
- A Member referred to the greenspaces/trees on Council estates and that more work is needed to look at this with housing staff. It was stated that Environment and Regeneration officers were working with their counterparts in Housing in this regard
- Reference was made to work taking place on the walkways at Andover Estate, that excellent work had taken place to ensure appropriate greening by the use of tree canopies and greening.

## **6. HOUSING (COUNCIL, PRIVATE OWNER OCCUPIED AND RENTED HOUSING)**

6.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 15 July 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

6.2. Simon Kwong, Director, Housing Property Services, Councillor O'Sullivan, Chair of Housing Scrutiny Committee, and Professor Linda Clarke, Westminster University were present and made witness submissions to the Committee. During consideration of the submissions the following main points were made:

- Professor Clarke stated that the main issue in terms of achieving net zero carbon in housing was the lack of a trained workforce, that more training needed to be undertaken in order to skill up the future workforce. In addition she noted that as the larger contractors often sub-contracted work out, they were not directly responsible for skilling their workforce.
- More training opportunities at college and also work experience should be made available, noting that the workforce in this industry tended to be more male dominated. Professor Clarke advised that this is an opportunity to look at models in Canada and Europe to ascertain best practice, and was concerned that presently there were not enough trainers to train the numbers of staff required. In addition a number of European staff, who were well trained had left after BREXIT which further exacerbated staffing shortages
- Meeting was advised that Islington should take advantage of its situation especially as it has a directly employed DL workforce, to train them up to broaden expertise and build a multi-skilled workforce. It was noted that workforce capacity in the DL workforce was an issue that was being looked at, in view of the speed of training and costs that this would involve. The current level of qualifications also needed to be raised and there needed to be a better understanding of the requirements of other trades when such workforce was trained
- Reference was made to the GLA construction hubs, that Councils should engage with them, and enter discussions with larger contractors to skill staff up, as well as ensuring that DLO workforces were engaged as well
- It was noted that with regard to retrofitting, London Councils are looking at this and there was a meeting the following week where this could be raised
- It was noted that LBI with its variety of housing stock, which presented a number of challenges, there is a need to balance the requirements of tenants and leaseholders, and the Council were looking at a workforce 'roadmap'
- Noted that work was being undertaken by the Council in terms of employing apprenticeships and that evidence on this could come to the Committee
- Noted the initiative at Glasgow City Council which employs 2200 staff, and trains 60 apprentices, and focusing on building green homes and retrofitting. Also noted that the Holloway Prison site where discussions were taking place with the GLA. It was felt that the Council could start a pilot to look at a fuel poverty estate and train up the workforce

### 6.3. Presentation by Simon Kwong

- Scope – residential homes, commercial and industrial buildings – commercial and industrial buildings c.323k tonnes of CO2 – 48% of all emissions. Residential homes c,246 tonnes of CO2 36% of all emissions, and new build Council homes, existing Council stock including street properties, Housing Association properties, and privately owned properties
- The Challenge – reducing carbon emissions from residential buildings which consist of 172,324 tonnes from gas 79%, 72434 tonnes from electricity 29%, 1726 tonnes from other fuels 1%. Mitigating fuel poverty – lower energy efficiency of a home drives increase in fuel costs
- Objectives – to reduce carbon emissions from our buildings - have to replace communal gas heating with low carbon alternatives where feasible, maximise energy efficiency of buildings through retrofit of fittings, change the technical standards that we use to design and construct new buildings. Encourage behaviour change from, and provide support to owners of residential homes, to reduce carbon emissions from their properties. As it is unlikely the Council would be able to assist financially for those able to pay, there was a need to have an engagement and communication strategy in place and this was being looked at
- Deliverables – key priority to change the technical standards that are used to design and construct new buildings. Achieved to date - a comprehensive review of how our new build programme can meet the net zero carbon target, developed a decarbonising new homes strategy with agreed implementation strategy, introduced new measures to ensure that development plans, wherever possible, make a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity and improved carbon absorption
- Deliverables – what we want to achieve in the next 12 months – develop a design compliance process to ensure net zero carbon strategy is being incorporated throughout all stages of build development. Produce technical specifications for incorporation into Islington’s new homes design requirements. Implement a post-construction building performance data management strategy, better support occupants of new homes to ensure they understand new, unfamiliar systems, and to promote/encourage greater energy efficiency
- Deliverables existing Council housing stock – key priorities to replace gas heating with low carbon alternatives, where feasible, and retrofit all domestic buildings to an average level of EPCB where feasible
- What has been achieved so far – worked with UC London to complete an analysis of retrofitting and energy changes to existing Council housing stock. The work sets out a summary overview of existing, and future technologies, in the net zero market, how technologies can help deliver the required emission reductions, alongside the benefits and draw up different options. Also the strategic level of opportunities and costs associated with taking different routes toward net zero carbon. The work assists the formation of the Council strategy to ensure Council homes support the delivery of the 2030 net zero carbon target
- Deliverables – what we want to achieve in the next 12 months – feasibility study into delivering a large scale trial of low carbon heating solutions on a pilot estate. Commission appraisal of building elements, lighting, heating pipework insulation, lifts, to determine most effective areas for retrofit investment. Purchase of a building stock model that identifies the most feasible improvements to residential

properties in order to eliminate emissions. Ongoing feasibility studies for minimising the carbon footprint of larger housing estates

- Deliverables – Privately owned homes – emerging offer funding support for eligible property owners, support for able to pay private property owners, access to borrowing/loan schemes, compliance and enforcement. Activity in this area includes – delivery of green homes grant, ECO flex scheme to identify households to qualify for grants under the Warmer Homes schemes, development of a realistic offer for able to pay private occupiers, loan schemes, working with landlords of privately rented homes to ensure that their properties are compliant with Minimum energy efficiency standards. Investigating the possibility of setting a higher energy efficiency standard for licensed rented housing, and delivery of a landlord awareness/engagement programme. Empowerment, engaging and influencing others to achieve net zero carbon – 4% of the borough's carbon emissions are generated by the Council, 9% are generated by other activity. Residents, businesses community groups and borough partner organisations must all play their part, with the Council leading by example. Other priority activities for engaging and influencing – stakeholder engagement plan with a priority focus on residential homes and commercial businesses, Islington Climate Change emergency festival, London Council climate change programme (Retrofit), COP 26 opportunities
- Other opportunities included – green jobs and skills e.g. retrofitting, Green SCIES and Bunhill 2 e.g. connection opportunities, greening the borough, adoption of the new local plan
- A Member referred to the greening of Andover Estate and that this had made considerable improvements and assisted in reducing carbon at a relatively low cost. It was stated that work is taking place on a number of schemes, and Public Realm were also looking at ways to green the borough. However work is also taking place to reduce carbon in housing by looking at the use of heat pumps, and replacing individual gas boilers. However there was a need to balance the costs involved for the HRA and for tenants and leaseholders and achieve an equitable balance
- Reference was made to the UCL report, that this should be made available to Members when finalised
- In response to a question it was stated that it was not possible that every property could be retrofitted, that it is essential initially to retrofit properties with the most impact on carbon reduction
- It was noted that although most properties could achieve ECPB status, however it might not be economically viable to achieve this status in some properties
- The Council needs clear guidance from the Government as to what funding opportunities would be made available
- The Chair of Housing Scrutiny Committee stated that in his view the first thing that should be considered was insulation of properties, and other possibilities included double/triple glazing, underfloor heating, thermostatic valves on radiators, storage heaters, metering, solar panels, thermometer valves, and that most of these technologies were well advanced. He added that at present there is a lack of knowledge and training for the workforce in the construction industry. In his view the most important measure to introduce with the most impact in

reducing carbon emissions quickly was installation of insulation. Some of these solutions can be done quickly and relatively inexpensively

- Reference was made to the fact that every effort should be made for easy installation of solar panels, however it was noted that issues existed around its impact in conservation areas, installation problems and maintenance issues, however it was noted that solar roof tiles are now available

6.4. With regards to installation of solar panels on schools, meeting was advised this had been done in some cases, however the Council were looking at all options such as using railway embankments, and schools to maximise solar power

## **7. HOUSING (COUNCIL, PRIVATE OWNER OCCUPIED AND RENTED HOUSING)**

7.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 14 September 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

7.2. Matt West, Director of Housing Services and James Wilson, Energy Sustainability and Consulting Manager gave a presentation, with the following points highlighted:

- Priority is to reduce carbon emissions from commercial, industrial and public sector buildings, which consist of 158,822tonnes from electricity (54%)
- 124,080tonnes from gas (42%), 9,892tonnes from 'other' fuels (3%) 166tonnes from large industrial installations and agriculture (0.06%)
- Presently 33% of borough emissions emanate from commercial buildings, 7% from public sector buildings and 6% from industrial buildings.
- It was noted that emissions from gas in commercial buildings is one of the few areas where there has been no emission reduction since 2005, in fact it has noticeably increased by 4%.
- With regards to Council owned buildings, reduction in carbon emissions will be achieved by replacing gas heating with zero carbon alternatives, maximise energy efficiency of buildings through insulation and retrofit, maximise on-site renewables and purchase where possible any remaining electricity needs from renewable sources
- In the case of reducing carbon emissions from other commercial/industrial/public sector buildings, the Council will not only continue to raise awareness of the need for businesses to make changes as climate change is a big issue, but encourage local organisations to act and provide support for local organisations to act.
- The Council have identified buildings in scope for feasibility studies—all non-Housing and non-school sites, developed a specification for feasibility studies to assess buildings. The Council will be identifying the most cost-effective zero carbon heating system to replace gas boilers, including possible connection to or creation of new district heating networks. Other proposed measure will include identifying and introducing energy efficiency improvements, such as insulation, glazing, heating controls, lighting upgrades, passive cooling measures.
- Members were advised of Council's unsuccessful application for a grant from the Low Carbon Skills Fund which would have enabled the Council carry out the feasibility studies to produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for 57 corporate buildings with gas heating.

- Over the next 12 months, meeting was advised that the Council will procure and complete the feasibility studies, prioritise buildings for work and create a retrofit programme. It will also identify and try and secure funding to start deliver
- With regards schools, the officer advised that so far the Council has successfully applied to the Low Carbon Skills Fund (Nov 2020) for project development funding for pilot feasibility studies at three schools (Beacon High, Drayton Park Primary, New River College), this will provide funding to decarbonise buildings as it becomes available.
- In addition, the Council recently applied to the Low Carbon Skills Fund to carry out feasibility studies on 20 additional schools, however this was unsuccessful due to an oversubscription of the fund, but there is another opportunity to apply on 13 September. A Schools page is being planned for net zero information website with ideas for teachers and students
- In terms of commercial and industrial buildings, the Council has launched the Energising Small Business Fund, offering grants to small businesses for energy efficiency improvements. In addition the Islington Community Energy Fund, will offers grants to organisation for innovative energy projects, which include energy efficiency measures for buildings.
- Council continues to promote the Solar Together scheme to encourage small businesses to install solar PV and it continues to support the Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership (ISEP), which brings together organisations in the borough that are interested in sustainability.
- With regards to Residential Homes, Commercial and Industrial buildings, the officer advised that in September the Council will start a business audit scheme for small businesses, launch a new net zero information website in November with a section dedicated to businesses, which his will include information on what organisations can do and how they can do it.
- In November, the Council aims to get organisations to pledge action using a pledge tool being developed for the net zero website, refocus ISEP to the net zero agenda and make it more targeted towards smaller businesses.
- On whether ventilation measures were being considered as one of the proposed energy improvement efficiency improvements, the Director of Housing Property Services, acknowledged that this is taken into consideration in all the council's new build right from conception and not as an afterthought.
- Meeting was advised that staff have a role to play in ensuring the Council meets it's carbon emissions target, that the Council has a staff communication plan, that training modules have been developed which will be delivered via e training and the Council will be appointing recycling champions amongst staff to help promote the council's vision 2030
- On the question of whether the Council could take advantage of the Solar Togetherness Scheme, meeting was advised that the eligibility criteria was only suitable for small firms and not corporate organisations like the Council. The Solar Togetherness Scheme is promoted via Newsletters and also a communication plan exist for small firms to apply and that the Council will be using it's tried and tested channels/forums to signpost firms for such schemes
- On timescales with regards to the proposed feasibility assessment to be carried on whether council housing stock would be suitable for solar panels, the officer advised

that an external consultant is to be commissioned so it will be completed within the year so that the Council can then move onto the next phase.

- On what options exists for replacing the heating system at the Council Town Hall, officers advised that no decision had been taken and that any technology employed or introduced will have been tried and tested . Members were also reminded about the importance of the Enable Vehicle 2 Grid 1 trial in the town hall.

## **8. BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

8.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 12 October 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

8.2. Matt West, Director of Housing Services and James Wilson, Energy Sustainability and Consulting Manager gave a presentation, with the following points highlighted:

- Priority is to reduce carbon emissions from commercial, industrial and public sector buildings, which consist of 158,822tonnes from electricity (54%)
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- Members were advised of Council's unsuccessful application for a grant from the Low Carbon Skills Fund which would have enabled the Council carry out the feasibility studies to produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for 57 corporate buildings with gas heating.
- Over the next 12 months, meeting was advised that the Council will procure and complete the feasibility studies, prioritise buildings for work and create a

retrofit programme. It will also identify and try and secure funding to start delivery

- With regards schools, the officer advised that so far the Council has successfully applied to the Low Carbon Skills Fund (Nov 2020) for project development funding for pilot feasibility studies at three schools (Beacon High, Drayton Park Primary, New River College), this will provide funding to decarbonise buildings as it becomes available.
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- On timescales with regards to the proposed feasibility assessment to be carried on whether council housing stock would be suitable for solar panels,

the officer advised that an external consultant is to be commissioned so it will be completed within the year so that the Council can then move onto the next phase.

- On what options exists for replacing the heating system at the Council Town Hall, officers advised that no decision had been taken and that any technology employed or introduced will have been tried and tested . Members were also reminded about the importance of the Enable Vehicle 2 Grid 1 trial in the town hall.

## 9. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

9.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 12 October 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

9.2. Sally Oldfield, Nature Conservation Manager, and Andrew Bedford, Head of Greenspace and Leisure Services was present, together with Barry Emmerson Park and Open Spaces Manager for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved

9.3. The **scope, challenge, objective and deliverables** of what the council wants to achieve across the natural environment in the next twelve months were reported. The following points were highlighted:

- On **Scope**, the whole borough is in scope. The council needs to look at how we can create greening opportunities and developments across every part of the borough. This included parks, Highways, housing (private and council owned) and commercial land.
- On **Challenges**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) , 9th August issued "code red for humanity" Without deep carbon pollution cuts now, the 1.5°C goal will fall quickly out of reach. Climate Vulnerability Mapping produced City Hall and Bloomberg Associates, Bloomberg Philanthropies' pro-bono consultancy for cities, shows that six London boroughs are at particularly high risk from the effects of climate change. Islington is identified as one of those boroughs at high risk. Greening the borough will cool microclimates, absorb carbon and aid in flood risk mitigation as well as offering up many more benefits
- On **Objectives**, the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was highlighted, along with the need to identify new opportunities to increase the amount of green infrastructure on all council public realm developments. And the increase tree canopy cover in Islington from 25% to 30%.
- On **Deliverables**, the following achievements were noted:
  - Launched consultation of the new BAP in spring 2020, receiving 175 responses.
  - Published final BAP September 2020.
  - Provided opportunities for local residents to learn about and enjoy nature, through events, volunteering and education, e.g. 6,500 children benefitted from activities provided by The Garden Classroom during the past year.

- Seek to maximise benefits for biodiversity through the emerging Greening the Borough Programme.
- Engage with new audiences to ensure equal access to nature for all, e.g. through a new programme of activities aimed at improving mental health.
- Work with Bright Lives to deliver environmental education activities for under fives plus a training programme to skill up the Bright Start team with accredited forest school training.
- Planning applications are carefully scrutinised for their biodiversity impacts and developers are challenged to improve their contributions to the natural environment.
- Proper consideration for tree protection and tree mitigation through the planning process, with a dedicated tree officer commenting on planning applications and strong tree protection policies in the Local plan.
- The adoption of the new Local Plan will include clearer and more robust biodiversity requirements for developers.
- New legislation on Biodiversity Net Gain comes into force in 2023 and the Council will provide guidance to developers on how to comply with this.
- Set up a Greening the Borough Task Group to develop an action plan with the aim of accelerating the delivery of greening the borough.
- Completed a review of Community Gardening and Food Growing in the borough which will support the development of the Greening the Borough Action Plan.
  - Secured funding and appointed a new dedicated Project Greening the Borough Programme Manager.
- Secured funding to develop a master plan of greening opportunities on the public highways.
- Secured an addition £140K per year to invest in greening improvements on the highways.
- Identify and deliver training programs for current staff to support the delivery of more green infrastructure in Public Realm Projects.
- Complete the Master Plan of greening opportunities in the public realm.
- Secured £150K of funding for a new Housing Community Gardening Team to improve the planting/biodiversity on estates and supporting/develop community gardening.
- Commissioned reports to understand the baseline tree data and allow for focused tree planting
- Secured a central tree planting budget to enable a minimum of 430+ trees annually to be planted on public land via Capital Programme.
- Continued tree mitigation for tree loss to development.
- 161 trees planted in conjunction with Forest of Change and Islington Clean Air Parents
  - 680+ trees planted in the 21-22 tree planting season
- Implement online tree planting donation process
- Develop a tree warden scheme to encourage resident engagement and promote private tree planting
- Seminars on tree management and tree walks delivered for the climate festival

## 10. WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

10.1. Full notes of this item can be found in the minutes of the 30 November 2021 of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

10.2. Matthew Homer, Street Scene Strategy Manager was present, together with Keith Townsend, Corporate Director Environment and Regeneration, for discussion of this item and made a presentation to the Committee, copy interleaved. The following points were highlighted:

**Scope:** Islington's Waste Reduction and Recycling Action Plan, including the draft Circular Economy Action Plan update.

**The Challenge – Why is this important:** In June 2019 the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency, which commits Islington to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. Reducing waste and recycling and moving towards a more circular economy is a key part of achieving this.

- 60,000 tonnes household waste per annum
- 31% is recycled, composted or reused

Vision 2030 – Scope 1 and 2 emissions, 680,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year Total Islington related emissions ~ 2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e each year.

Net zero carbon target for Islington does not include emissions outside Islington related to the production and disposal of goods and food consumed in the borough. These are emissions that we – the council, residents and businesses – still have control over through our consumption.

As well as reducing waste and increasing recycling, we need a focus on reducing emissions arising outside of Islington, as a direct result of our own consumption and behaviour.

### **Our objectives:**

1. Reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging.
2. Maximise recycling rates.
3. Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities (greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants).
4. Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces.

### **Deliverables:**

Objective 1: Reduce waste focusing on food waste and single use packaging

Key priorities:

- Take action to reduce single use plastic
  - Take action to reduce food waste
  - Increase reuse • Deliver waste minimisation and recycling communications campaigns
  - Develop a Circular Economy Action Plan
- Objective 2: Maximise recycling rates

Key priorities:

- Household recycling target of 33% by 2022 and 36% by 2025
- Expand food waste collections to all remaining purpose-built blocks of flats and trial the service for flats above shops
- Improve service standards for recycling container deliveries and make recycling sacks easier to access
- Develop a new business waste recycling plan

Objective 3: Reduce the environmental impact of waste activities

Key priorities:

- Comply with the ULEZ and transition the recycling and waste fleet to low/zero emission vehicles

Objective 4: Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has sufficient infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces

Key priorities:

- London to manage net 100% of all the waste it produces by 2026

Circular Economy Action Plan Draft

- An alternative to a linear 'take, make, dispose' economy, based on three principles: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials, and regenerate nature
- Targets consumption based 'scope 3' emissions.
- Supports Vision 2030 objectives

Interventions at various points in the cycle for example:

- Procurement strategy – drive out waste from procured goods
- Home design guide – design homes to minimise impact
- Library of Things & Dress for Success – reuse consumer goods
- Repair Cafes – repair consumer goods
- Recycle – locally and into new products
- Recover – EfW