



ISLINGTON

Scrutiny Review of the Net Zero Carbon Programme and Working Group on Waste Management

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



**London Borough of Islington
March 2022**

INTRODUCTION

In 2021/22 the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has reviewed the Council's Net Zero Carbon Programme. Members of the Committee also held an Informal Working Group to review the council's waste management arrangements. Members considered the following issues:

- How the council can engage better with residents and other organisations on the Net Zero Carbon Programme and encourage their participation.
- Making our recycling services more effective and recycling more including garden waste.
- How to get residents more engaged in recycling services.
- How to reduce consumption, waste and carbon emissions.
- How to improve recycling by residents who live in flats above shops by introducing food waste collections.
- What else can we do on estates to encourage residents to recycle more.
- What else can the council and the North London Waste Authority do to reduce waste, increase recycling and phase out the incineration of waste.

Members were also asked to consider recommendations for the Committee to make to the Executive.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Residential, commercial and industrial buildings

1. Develop a feasibility / options and funding appraisal for a 'model house' project for a historic council street property. Incorporate and publicise best practice into the Supplementary Planning Document.
2. Ensure the council's Net Zero Carbon building retrofit schemes are developed in tandem with approach to fire safety.
3. Develop a strategy for delivery of carbon reduction improvements for corporate buildings and schools from completed feasibility studies.
4. Deliver the first new build scheme designed to meet Passivhaus level performance.

Transport

5. Develop the council's approach to reducing carbon emissions from freight – e.g. last mile deliveries. This approach to be detailed in the council's Net Zero Carbon Supplementary Planning Document.

Sustainable and Affordable Energy

6. Explore opportunities to address net zero carbon ambitions in the context of the current cost of living and energy security crisis, both of which have emerged since the publication of Vision 2030 (for example through our work on Renewable Power for London).

Green Economy

7. Identify and create a pipeline of carbon reduction jobs through our Housing and Corporate Buildings programmes that can kickstart and provide training and confidence for the supply chain in promoting green skills and local green jobs and suppliers.

Planning

8. Consider how conservation area guidelines and other planning policies could be further amended beyond existing national permitted development rights to encourage the installation of solar panels and other carbon reduction measures.
9. Investigate the options and implications for providing residents with retrofitting and net zero carbon advice as an enabler to encourage owner occupiers and private landlords to install carbon reduction measures.

Natural Environment

10. Deliver a new 'Greening of the Borough' programme with an emphasis on resident engagement and participation and maximise the benefits to ensure it is targeted around residents with greatest need.
11. Incorporate climate adaptation principles into the Greener Together Strategy, for example sustainable drainage, rainwater gardens.
12. All council traffic and engineering projects to incorporate green infrastructure elements where feasible.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

13. A renewed focus on waste management on estates and premises above shops with the objective of increasing the engagement with residents to improve the recycling rate including food waste.
14. Build on the good work being done on the circular economy being delivered by Bright Sparks, the Library of Things and the Hornsey Street waste management and recycling centre.
15. To campaign for a legislative framework that enables local authorities to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. This should include enabling the phasing out of single use plastics in packaging processes.
16. Work with the NLWA to reduce waste, increase recycling rates to enable the eventual phasing out of incineration.
17. Make representations to the NLWA to bring forward as soon as possible the Carbon Capture Facility at the Energy From Waste (ERF) facility in Edmonton.
18. Review the progress on the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review of Household Recycling in Islington, April 2018.

Finance and Investment

19. Develop an options appraisal on the benefits of, and how the council could enter into, joint ventures or other partnerships to attract private finance to meet the significant levels of funding needed for the council to achieve its NZC ambitions.
20. Investigate feasibility and options of a loan scheme similar to the Green Deal that allows property owners easier access to finance for energy efficiency improvements such as installing heat pumps, solid wall insulation or solar panels.

Engaging, Empowering and Partnering

21. Continue to develop and promote the Net Zero Carbon pledge tool and website.
22. Lead the commissioning of a pan-London behaviour change programme and consider digital innovation to support the delivery of NZC ambitions.
23. Enhanced communications around the benefits of installing solar panels and other retrofitting measures to local businesses and commercial landlords.
24. Create an engagement plan for all NZC workstreams following the Special Scrutiny Meeting in March 2022.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE RECIEVED

NET ZERO CARBON PROGRAMME

1. 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 carbon borough by 2030. In November 2020 the council adopted its Vision 2030 strategy.
2. At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 29 September 2020, members resolved that they would consider the Net Zero 2030 Carbon Strategy at future meetings.
3. The Committee has considered the following themes as part of the Net Zero Carbon review:
 - a. Overview of the Council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon Programme
 - b. Planning for Zero Carbon
 - c. The Green Economy Work Stream
 - d. Transport
 - e. Engagement and Communication
 - f. Housing (council, private owner occupied and rented housing)
 - g. Buildings (commercial and infrastructure)
 - h. Natural environment
 - i. Waste reduction and recycling & circular economy
 - j. Finance and investment

4. At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 7 March 2022, members considered the final item of the Net Zero Carbon review on Sustainable and Affordable Energy.
5. The member discussions around each of the Net Zero Topics can be found in **Appendix A** at the end of this report.

INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. The Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee formed an Informal Working Group in order to look at waste management including the renewal of the North London Waste Authority Incinerator.
2. The Informal Working Group held three meetings and considered evidence from a number of witnesses, council officers and members.
3. At the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 8 June 2021, the Chair announced the formation of an Informal Working Group to look at waste management and the renewal of the North London Waste Authority Incinerator.
4. The overall aim of the of the Informal Working Group was to consider the proposals for the North London Heat and Power Networks and implications for Islington in terms of reducing waste and recycling in the borough.
5. The Informal Working Group agreed to cover three themes:
 - a) NLWA Waste Disposal.
 - b) Looking afresh at reuse, waste reduction and recycling by the council's waste and recycling services.
 - c) Food Waste collection services.
6. Types of evidence that were within the scope of the Informal Working Group:
 - Update from Islington's Environment and Commercial Operations Director.
 - Experts on waste disposal and NLWA's plans with the incinerator.
 - Other Local Authorities Action Plan on waste minimisation policy.
 - Presentation from Islington's Head of Street Environment Service.
 - Presentation from Islington's Street Scene Strategy Manager.
 - Site visit to the Edmonton Incinerator.
7. The witness evidence and meeting details can be found in **Appendix B** at the end of this report. Detailed question responses from Dr Koppelaar can be found in **Appendix C**.
8. Islington is preparing a new Reduction and Recycling Plan (RRP) to improve on its current plans. The evidence and ideas received during the informal working group review of waste management and recycling will be reviewed and assessed with ideas being fed into the new RRP based on their potential impact and cost.

APPENDIX A: 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 net 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, continued 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 Corporate Director of Environment, Keith Townsend, and Martijn Cooijmans, 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 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 programmeEmpowerment, 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
- 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. BUILDINGS (COMMERCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE)

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. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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. 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.

8.3. 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:

8.4. **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.

8.5. **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/

8.6. **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%.

8.7. **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. Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee - 12 October 2021 6
- 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

9. WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING & CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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

9.2. 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:

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

9.4. **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

9.5. Vision 2030 – Scope 1 and 2 emissions, 680,000 tCO₂e each year Total Islington related emissions ~ 2 million tCO₂e each year.

9.6. 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.

9.7. 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.

9.8. **Our objectives:**

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

9.9. **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:

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

APPENDIX B: INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. MEETING 1

- 1.1. The first meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 20 June 2021 on the theme of the North London Waste Authority Incinerator. Full notes of this meeting can be found in the agenda of the 14 September 2021 Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2. Members of the Informal Working group made a site visit to the North London Waste Authority incinerator plant, however due to Covid-19 restrictions, were unable to view the recycling facilities and the incinerator.
- 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 are LBI's waste collection service, the prevention of plastic waste and how the NLWA plant rebuild fits into the waste strategy.
 - The national 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. It is recognised that most of the unwanted carbon emissions arise 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, there is a 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. Officers met separately with Dr Koppelaar to discuss ideas for improving waste management.

2. MEETING 2

2.1. The Second meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 14 September 2021 on the theme of How the 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 ReLondon 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 LBI's 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
- The 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.
- Opportunities for Islington were outlined including the installation of drinking fountains, water refill stations, information on waste management being available on the website, support to residents to remove bulky waste items and the real nappy scheme.
- 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.
- On the question of recycling 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 amount of waste.
- It was noted that LBI does have a waste reduction and recycling plan in place and 2018 scrutiny committee recommendations had assisted in this and LBI is moving 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.
- The Council had a number of objectives – reduce single use plastic, reduce food waste, develop the circular economy, encourage reuse, work with NLWA, maximise recycling on estates, maximise recycling on the go, the expansion of food waste recycling. Reduce the environmental impact of waste, ULEZ and zero emissions fleet. Maximise local waste sites and ensure London has the infrastructure to manage all the waste it produces by responsible recycling, redevelopment of the energy from waste facility at Edmonton by 2026. It was noted that food waste collection from flats above shops would be a challenge but solutions would have to be found if it became Government legislation.
- £100,000 is the budget for waste recycling and reduction in Islington and other funding sources are being investigated.
- It was stated that the use of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies on estates, such as the bin shed 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 that a scheme was 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 located in areas of constant flytipping to discourage flytippers and show the Council cared about the area.

3. MEETING 3

3.1. The third meeting of the Informal Working Group was held on 13 January 2022 looked at Food Waste. 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: for every £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 Health and Safety Executive and Food waste. Integrate Healthy Eating and Food Waste education, a Welsh pilot project in low income communities showed a 53% increase in Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, 7% food waste reduction. The hospitality and food service sector can be “champions” of this message (and have major wins themselves). Portions and Pack size can have an effect. A 9% reduction in avoidable food waste generated per household per week 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.

3.3. Tony Ralph, Director of Environment & Commercial Operations, reiterated that the Council continues to promote it’s policy on 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 fitting in with the Council’s Circular Economy agenda instead of purchasing new vehicles.

3.4. A representative of Islington Environmental Emergency Alliance said that people living above shops are keen to recycle, that Food Loss and Waste (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% of 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 globally never reaches a human stomach. Food production causes 8-10% of greenhouse gases.

3.6. Officers met separately with Dr Christian Reynolds to discuss ways of improving FLW and food waste collection in Islington.

APPENDIX C: ABRIDGED SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT PROVIDED BY DR. REMBRANDT KOPPELAAR, DATE: 20-07-2021

Disclaimer: All views are personal views of Dr Koppelaar provided as part of civic duties to the members. Due to the short turnaround time the document has not been copy edited.

I am interested in waste reduction and what modelling has been done on current and future waste streams and any assumptions re volumes of waste and whether there are targets for waste reduction.

It was commented that there is a need for information on current and future waste streams. Unfortunately, there is very limited publicly available modelling. DEFRA is working on a new analysis on expected future levels of municipal residual waste and infrastructure needs, which based on recent correspondence from 14 July 2021 will be published over the coming months.

A key instrument for waste reduction has been proposed by DEFRA under the Environment Bill is a statutory instrument: a residual waste reduction target. The statutory instruments setting out environmental targets must be laid before parliament by 31 October 2022 for the Environment Bill. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/august-2020-environment-bill-environmental-targets>

There are significant ongoing government and industry efforts that will result in a change in future waste streams. Their effects and impacts on residual waste and recycling have not yet been quantified to my understanding. A few of these include:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes extensions
- Deposit return schemes for bottles
- Uniform collection schemes in England
- Mandatory food waste recycling in England
- Significant sorting technology innovations. One key example is industry wide adoption of digital watermarks for brand level packaging and materials recognition (Holy Grail 2 project).

This will enable Materials Recovery Facilities to feed back to industries at brand level which packaging ends up in non-recyclable wastes. It will also enable governments to introduce fines for non-compliant packaging producers under EPR schemes.

- Advances in mechanical recycling technologies for all types of plastics in the UK and abroad.
- The UK and the European plastics pacts, both developed by WRAP (The European plastic pact will have spill-over effects in the UK due to industry players being active in both markets)

The impacts of such developments it not known at present, beyond that it will have a positive impact in waste prevention, residual waste reduction, and greater recycling.

Further significant positive impacts on future waste streams would be possible if the UK would put in place an anti-waste law, similar to the French law adopted in 2020 (Loi n° 2020-105 relative à la lutte contre le gaspillage et à l'économie circulaire (Law No. 2020-105 Regarding a Circular Economy and the Fight Against Waste) .

France's anti-waste law contains over 150 individual waste prevention measures. The law establishes some concrete goals, such as a 15% decrease in household waste per inhabitant by 2030 and a 5% decrease in waste from economic activity. The law also sets the goal of recycling 100% of plastics by 2025, and the end of single-use plastic packaging by 2040.

A particularly contemporary topic is related to the recent destruction of un-sold stock from Amazon warehouses in the UK.

<https://www.itv.com/news/2021-06-21/amazon-destroying-millions-of-items-of-unsold-stock-in-one-of-its-uk-warehouses-every-year-itv-news-investigation-finds>

The French anti-waste law will make such practices illegal in France: 'Another important measure included in Loi n° 2020-105 du 10 février 2020 is the prohibition on the destruction of unsold non-food inventory, such as clothing, shoes, beauty products, books, or consumer electronics. Manufacturers, distributors, and stores with unsold inventory will be required to donate or recycle it instead of incinerating it or dumping it in landfills.'

Note that there are also significant likely future instruments and legislation at the European level which will likely have an impact on the UK. For example, mandated manufacturer lifespan information on product labelling that is being proposed under the EU green deal package of legislation. Many more such instruments and legislation are under development under the EU new green deal that will if required to be adopted by manufacturers will also have an effect in the UK. Whilst the UK has left the EU, the size of the EU market combined with globally the highest level quality of setting regulatory legislation, means that multinational manufacturers will adopt their practices to the EU regulatory standards, and not to the UK regulatory standards.

Members noted that there will always be residual waste that cannot be recycled. This line of thinking requires in my perspective refinement. There will for the foreseeable future be residual waste that cannot be recycled, yet the amounts will shrink over time. It is possible for society to work towards a vision of a future with 100% of waste materials sent for recycling. In my perspective this is feasible within three decades by 2045.

Accepting this vision means that the long-term strategy would be to phase out both landfill and phase out energy from waste incineration, and to then contextualise the waste disposal planning within this strategy. Note that what is sent for recycling to a facility from the council is different than what is actually recycled at the facility. This as the latter is outside of the control of the council and there will be quality losses. Currently the council measures what is sent for recycling as recycling, similar to standard practice in England

Achieving a future with 100% of waste materials sent for recycling will require concerted effort across the board based on behavioural change, improved council instruments/tools to focus and cost optimise efforts, industry product/packaging adjustments to enhance recycling (such as the on-going UK plastics pact), recycling technology innovations (such as increasingly advanced sorting and lower cost recycling technologies), and national system/regulatory changes in England (including extended producer responsibility, deposit return schemes, mandatory food waste collections).

Note past successes and their timeframe:

- England went from a recycling rate of 11% in 2001 to 45% in 2016, in a 15-year period.
- Wales went from a recycling rate of 8% in 2000 to 65% in 2019/20 in a 20-year period

Islington has a low recycling rate of 20% in 2019/20 in Islington based on DEFRA figures using WasteDataFlow data from the council. Whilst Islington is not directly comparable to Wales or England as a whole given the very high population density, there is substantial room for improvement to reduce residual wastes.

The key for the council to work on improved recycling in my view is to work on improved council instruments/tools to focus and cost optimise efforts of council waste and recycling services, and to extend these services to re-use and repair. Since the waste and recycling services are in-house the council has ample opportunity to deliver.

Human lifestyle and consumption over the last 40-50 years has created this huge environmental problem, which is getting exponentially worse particularly with increased on-line purchases and therefore deliveries. People will have to cease their addiction to purchase "stuff" which they often do not need. This is in my view part of a larger systemic problem that is not possible to properly tackle at the council level without widespread socio-economic systems change. For example, shifting taxation from labour to consumption.

A key instrument of such a change has been proposed by DEFRA under the Environment Bill is a statutory instrument: a residual waste reduction target. The statutory instruments setting out environmental targets must be laid before parliament by 31 October 2022. If adopted and a properly funded England or UK wide programme is setup to support councils in delivering this target, it can have spill over socio-economic effects and can lead to absolute waste reductions.

The evidence is available of such a target alongside a concerted programme involving all local authorities and its effects in the Netherlands. The Dutch government set a target for

household residual waste reduction from 250 kilogram per person in 2014 to 100 kilogram per person in 2020 with 75% kerbside sorting. Under the programme these targets were adopted by local authorities and put into local policies. Overall progress was a reduction of 70 kilogram residual waste by 2018 across all local authorities.

Specific performance figures for densely built cities under this programme that are comparable to Islington include:

- Amsterdam 353 kg per person in 2014 – 275 kg per person in 2018
- Rotterdam 356 kg per person in 2014 – 313 kg per person in 2018
- The Hague 382 kg per person in 2014 – 355 kg per person in 2018
- Utrecht 273 kg per person in 2014 – 218 kg per person in 2018

The spill-over effects on socio-economic waste behaviour are visible in the overall waste arisings of the Netherlands from local authorities based on data from the Dutch statistics office. The data indicates that there has been a stagnant level of total waste arisings despite economic growth.

Details on the Environment Bill statutory instruments:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020/august-2020-environment-bill-environmental-targets>

The extended producer responsibility system will shift the cost of packaging waste disposal from the council to the producers of packaging. It is estimated that currently councils pay 90% of the cost of this under the current scheme. DEFRA calculations estimate that a new EPR scheme across the UK would result in a net transfer of 9.2 billion pounds from producers to local authorities over 10 years, or £900 million per year. Note also that there is significant room in my view for improving effectivity and achieving cost savings of local council services by adopting instruments/tools to focus and cost optimise efforts.

Members asked the crucial question of how the waste that is not recycled will be disposed. I would add from my perspective to this question the context in the transition towards 100% materials sent for recycling. There are three options available:

1. Incineration in the Edmonton incinerator and NLHPP rebuild
2. Incineration in a merchant incinerator (commercially operated with short-term contracts)
3. Landfilling of the wastes

Incineration in the NLHPP rebuild – This is the current strategy the council is pursuing.

Contracting incineration capacity in another EfW incinerator – There are a significant number of incinerators being built across England and there is a very high probability of incineration overcapacity. A total of 80 new EfW incinerators are in the pipeline in England of which 50 have received local or national planning approval, on top of 49 existing EfW incinerators.

New EfW incinerators likely accessible to Islington within a 40-mile radius of the current Edmonton incinerator include:

- Rivenhall in Braintree Essex, 600.000 tonnes, construction has started and this will be operational in 2025
- Basildon in Essex, 250.000 tonnes, this incinerator is in the planning approval phase
- Cory Riverside Energy 2, 805.000 tonnes, Bexley this incinerator has received planning consent and transport across the Thames would be feasible for Islington

Other options potentially include:

- Transport by water (River Thames) to merchant incinerators such as the Boston Alternative Energy Facility (1 million tonnes EfW capacity) currently seeking planning approval. This incinerator will be built if approved to receive wastes from ports all over the UK (<https://www.bostonaef.co.uk/>)
- Export of the wastes to the Netherlands and Sweden, as currently done by the East London Waste Authority, as these countries have excess EfW capacity (about 50% more than needed domestically at present and growing).

Landfilling of wastes - In the context of London from a self-sufficiency perspective landfill is not an option as landfills are nearly full around London.

My perspective on what is the best approach for how to deal with waste that is not recycled: The risk is that the NLWA boroughs including Islington will rebuild a very large 700,000 tonne NLHPP EfW incinerator (also referred to as Energy Recovery Facility ERF) that is not futureproof.

- Current residual waste arisings are around 500,000 tonnes.
- The 7 boroughs together would need a capacity of about 250,000 tonnes by 2035 at a 65% recycling level in 2035 as per England's resource and waste strategy.
- Overcapacity is emerging across England, with a total of 80 new EfW incinerators in the pipeline of which 50 have received local or national planning approval.

The risk of this is financial to the 7 boroughs. The cost of the infrastructure investment will need to be recouped by the NLWA & LondonEnergy via the NLWA levy, which at present is very low because of the current Edmonton incinerator capital costs have been written off. The new NLHPP EfW incinerator will require a significant increase in the NLWA levy to recoup the investment costs.

From my perspective an alternative scenario to the 700.000 tonne NLHPP ERF rebuild for Islington and the other 7 boroughs together with the NLWA has three components:

1. To build a smaller 250,000 ERF as part of a long-term strategy to phase out incineration by 2045
2. To contract out for 4 transition periods of 5 years between 2025 and 2045 excess residual waste in neighbouring incinerators under short-term contracts
3. To work towards 65% waste sent for recycling by 2035 and 100% of waste sent for recycling by 2045.

This alternative scenario is the financially most cost-effective scenario - based on financial modelling work I carried out comparing 16 scenarios as part of a deputation to a Camden Council scrutiny committee meeting.

The estimated cost savings across the NLWA 7 boroughs, assuming a low cost 1.6% interest loan from the Public Works Loan Board now administered by HM Treasury, would be £200 million from 2026 to 2045 if combined with achieving a 65% recycling rate by 2035. This excludes additional financial benefits from increasing waste sent for recycling, and includes the cost for commercial gate fees at other incinerators under short-term contracts, as well as the investment cost of the NLHPP ERF.

The financial risk is significantly higher if the NLHPP ERF investment would need to be commercially financed. The NLWA may be unsuccessful in financing the ERF via the low-interest, 40-year loans of the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), given the more stringent rules imposed by HM Treasury in 2020 for this funding vehicle. Commercial terms will imply a 20-year commercial loan with significantly higher interest rates). There would be a doubling of costs to the councils in 2025–45, as all the costs would be spread out over a 20-year period rather than a 40-year period

The total costs for the period 2025–45 for a 700,000 tonne NLHPP ERF would under such commercial loan terms increase the NLHPP ERF from an estimated £555 million to £790 million to London Energy/NLWA (in net present value terms). These costs would have to be recouped via the NLWA levy.

The alternative scenario of a 250,000 tonne NLHPP ERF combined with contracting out incineration capacity elsewhere in a transition period to 65% recycling, would under a commercial loan scenario provide for a £300 million costs savings between 2026-2045.

How do we increase the recycling of waste in Islington?

The key to increasing recycling and re-use in my view is at three levels:

1. The council level in improving digital tools/instruments for enhanced local collection, recycling and re-use to improve effectivity and focus of both campaigns and infrastructure.
2. The council level in the refinement of existing behavioural change efforts, re-use efforts available to residents, and introduction of new collaborative disruptive approaches working together with residents.
3. The 7 borough / NLWA level by advancing sorting infrastructure including pre-sorting of residual wastes prior to EfW incineration.

Below is a summary on the first two aspects. Note that pre-sorting facilities for residual wastes was not assessed as part of the NLHPP rebuild planning application.

Key digital tools/instruments can include:

1. A digital heat-map tool that identifies total waste generated, % residual waste, and % recycling at street level in a map interface. This would enable the council to identify where to focus at street level in recycling campaigns and efforts. It would

require in-vehicle weighing systems with data analytics. It would enable faster learning on enhancing kerbside sorting

2. A digital street level inventory of existing bin and collection approaches with information of collection system changes trial impacts. This would improve the upkeep of bins. It would also enable the council if combined with 1) above to assess rapidly the effectivity of novel collection approaches and evaluate them for their more widespread roll-out
3. An annual contamination assessment effort by a waste collection crew member who provides a recycling contamination scoring per household based on transparent recycling bag assessments. This would enable the council to reduce contamination and increase the kerbside sorting for recycling that is actually sent to recycling (e.g. if the collected recycling from a vehicle load has 15%+ contamination it is sent to EfW incineration instead).
4. A annual survey among a statistically significant set of residents (+ - 1000) across the borough to identify durable goods purchasing, ownership & use and re-use/recycling/disposal behaviour. This so as to identify local needs per ward for re-use and recycling infrastructure of durable goods (e.g. clothing banks, electronic recycling banks).
5. Improved automated data analytics assessments on the existing love clean streets APP that includes recurrence of issues on particular sites requiring structural changes.

I am working with trialling some of these approaches with local authorities in the BLUEPRINT project led by Essex County Council (<https://projectblueprint.eu/>). This as part of my work at EcoWise Ltd.

All of these measures have potential cost savings of approx. £30 per tonne of waste, since they reduce gate fee costs for EfW incineration by shifting the wastes to recycling. Some of the measure may result in waste prevention, which provides for a combined collection cost reductions and EfW incineration gate fee cost savings. Since these are largely digital tools they will after initial investment provide net cost savings.

Key behavioural change and re-use instruments can include:

1. Work with residents to grow a network of zero-waste 'prosumers' to motivate businesses to recycle more. By leveraging the power of in-office, in-store, and social media recycling feedback to businesses and supervisors, joint prosumer action can transform business habits.
2. Maintain bins and bin housing areas annually. Check that all households have access to high-quality bins; adequate recycling bins are available; all bin lids are easy to open; and signage is up to date and easy to read, on bins and in bin areas
3. Improve reuse and bulk waste collection options. Provide free annual bulk waste collection for each street or street segment and help businesses set up one highly visible reuse donation point for every 10,000 households
4. Improve recycling campaigns and instructions to residents. Supply clearer rules of thumb, develop and implement more effective door-to-door communications ('doorstepping') strategies, make information on council web pages more user friendly, and highlight environmental and economic benefits of recycling in awareness raising programmes

These measures will have added cost implications to the Council to implement. Islington Council may or may not already have some of these behavioural change and re-use instruments in place.

What is the difference in carbon emissions in terms of disposal of waste by incineration as compared with landfill?

Prior to answering the question I need to provide the context in my view the long-term strategy would be to phase out both landfill and phase out energy from waste incineration, as detailed in the prior answer above. More information can be found on landfill and waste incineration emissions in:

- The revised report by Zero Waste Scotland on landfill vs incineration emissions
- The recent report on GHG impacts accounting for waste incineration by UKWIN

There is significant variability in emissions due to the assumptions:

- The degree of landfill gas capture of landfills
- The percentage of plastics in what waste is incinerated
- Whether the methane emissions from burning the captured landfill gas in industry heating systems are accounted for or not (typically they are not as per accounting rules)
- Whether the carbon dioxide emissions from burning biogenic / organic wastes are accounted for (typically they are not as per accounting rules)
- The degree of bio-stabilisation assumed for what is landfilled (meaning no organic rotting and methane emissions)
- The duration of continued landfill emissions over time.

Depending on the assumptions made the answer of terms of which disposal route has the greatest amount of carbon emissions shifts from EfW incineration to landfill and vice versa.

In my perspective the discussion that it is a choice between waste incineration vs landfill is very similar to the historic debates on coal vs gas, where gas was seen as a transition fuel to renewable energy, and renewable energy was for a long time (1970s to early 2000s) not receiving the interest, investment and effort that it needed.

At present we have a debate on landfill vs waste incineration where waste incineration is not even seen as a transition technology to recycling. The discussion is never landfill vs waste incineration vs recycling in the comparisons. As a consequence, recycling is not receiving the attention and effort that it needs to have, and because of this England is stuck at 45% recycling levels.