

Executive Member for Environment, Transport and Air Quality - Annual Performance Report

E&R Scrutiny Committee

3rd October 2022

Fuel Poverty and Seasonal Health Interventions Network - SHINE

- Across 2021-22:
 - our **Energy Doctors** supported 951 Islington households and **saving them an estimated £87k on bills and 360 tonnes of carbon.**
 - our **Energy Advice** line processed **1,265 Warm Home discount** applications saving vulnerable households an additional **£177k and £13k through debt relief.**
 - The SHINE service received 3,200 **unique household referrals** and delivered 12,000 interventions.
- **Demand for the service has doubled** during Covid and now the cost-of-living crisis and higher energy bills.
- We retained all our pan-London advice contracts with EDF, the GLA and UKPN and several other boroughs have approached us to enquire about running SHINE schemes tailored to them.
- Work done to improve **referrals from other council services** (care leavers, blue badge, free school meals)
- SHINE is liaising with We Are Islington, Resident Support Scheme, Income Maximisation Team, and others on a **coordinated cost of living response.**

Energy Services

- 2021/22 **CO₂ emissions from fleet vehicles** were 15% ahead of target at 2,397 tonnes, and very similar to the previous years when there was depressed lockdown activity.
- 2021/22 **CO₂ emissions from council buildings** of 2,269 tonnes were 46% lower than the previous year, mainly due to switching corporate buildings to green electricity tariffs.
- Outline business case for **GreenSCIES** underway: GreenSCIES is a revolutionary smart local energy system that aims to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty across the borough.
- Successful bids were made to the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)** for works at the WRC and New River College, including replacing gas heating systems with heat pumps and installing solar panels.
- **Feasibility studies** have been carried out at 20 schools and 10 council buildings to prepare for future bids
- **Solar panel arrays** being installed at four other council sites funded by Islington's Carbon Offset Fund.
- A successful bid was made to the **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund** to install energy efficiency measures at 32 council properties (raising them to an EPC C rating) and 66 Peabody properties.
- **Energising Small Business** funding has been awarded to 114 applicants to date, delivering annual savings of 147 tonnes of CO₂ and an average saving to businesses of nearly £800 a year.

Net Zero Carbon Programme

- **Net Zero Carbon Programme governance** structures now in place, including dedicated team
- **£45.7m NZC Capital Programme** approved in March 2022, including £11.6m of external funding
- London's first **Community Municipal Investment** launched in October 2021 **raising £1m** by January 2022
- By 31 March 2021 the Islington Council's **pension fund had decarbonised by 33%**
- Conducted **engagement workshops** in the summer of 2021, focused on three priority external audiences: housing providers, community groups and businesses to help shape our engagement strategy
- Delivered our '**Let's Talk about a Greener Future**' festival in October 2021, which involved around 100 council and community-led events over the two weeks prior to COP26.
- Launched a **carbon calculator and pledge tool** for residents and businesses and developed a **network of Anchor Institutions** in the borough to jointly agree KPIs and how to take commitments forward
- Secured funding to carry out **feasibility studies** to produce a Heat Decarbonisation Plan for sixty corporate buildings with gas heating and pilot feasibility studies at 20 schools.
- Partnered with University College London to complete an **analysis of retrofitting and energy change** options for existing **council housing stock** and developed a **decarbonising new homes strategy**.

Air Quality

- Worked with the GLA on the **Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion** that now covers the whole of Islington. We are now supporting the GLA and other boroughs on a further proposed expansion.
- Implemented the first ever visitor mooring **electric charging points** along the Islington canal network
- Working with Imperial College London to **investigate wood burning impacts** in the borough
- Expanding the **nitrogen oxides monitoring network** to all care homes in the borough
- Islington led on the 16-borough **Healthy Streets Everyday project** to encourage streetscape improvements, traffic regulations, car free events etc.
- Working with Global Action Plan to **train Islington GPs** on health effects of Air Pollution on residents.
- Working with **Care Homes and Schools** to raise awareness of Air Pollution.
- Working with Groundwork and UEL to monitor the impact of intermittent road cleaning on local air pollution levels, particularly the effect on the resuspension of particulate matter.
- Working across London on reducing **pollution from construction** equipment.
- Supporting transport, inclusive economy and housing projects across the borough with **pollution monitoring**.

Strategic Transport

- The first **Islington Transport Strategy annual monitoring report**, which tracks progress against targets and commitments, published in September 2022.
- **Removal of roundabouts** – Works continue at Old Street to install segregated cycle lanes and signal-controlled pedestrian crossings. Estimated completion for highways improvements by winter 2022. Final works to be complete by spring 2023 (new station entrance, lift and public realm improvements).
- **396 Electric Vehicle Charging Points** have been installed to date with the end of 22/23 target being 500.
- **407 on-street bike hangars** have been installed to date, with the capacity for over 2,400 bicycles. There are an additional **95 on estates**. Target of 500 on-street hangars by the end of 22/23, with commitment to meet demand and cut costs for lower-income households. The borough also has 2,847 Sheffield stands.
- People killed or seriously injured' in **road traffic collisions** in Islington in 2021 was 96, slightly up on 84 in 2020 but in part likely due to increase in traffic volumes with release of lockdown. This compares to 111 in 2019 and 141 in 2018. In 2021, there were no fatalities as compared to two each in the two previous years.
- Commitment to reduce the number of **privately owned cars** in the borough by 6.9% from a 2016 baseline of 37,372 by 2041. Current figure is 35,665 (4.6% down), with 22/23 target of 35,582.
- Also 90% of trips to be made by **active, efficient and sustainable modes** (public transport, walking and cycling) by 2041. Most recent figure (2020) is 85%.

Transport Projects and people-friendly streets

- The St Mary's Church **low traffic neighbourhood (LTN)** has been implemented as an 18-month trial.
- The Clerkenwell Green LTN has been **made permanent**, with trials extended in the remaining LTNs and final decisions to be taken from October 2022. All LTNs now have **exemptions for Blue Badge holders**.
- **Liveable Neighbourhood (LN)** plans are being developed for Mildmay East, The Cally, Barnsbury St Mary's, Highbury New Park.
- Working with City of London to deliver a joint LN in Bunhill/Barbican area – Beech Street zero emissions
- There are now 34 traffic restricted **School Streets** in Islington, covering 35 schools, of which 30 have been made permanent after consultation. Three more locations are proposed to be added by 2024.
- Two **School Streets on main roads** have been delivered, with three more to be delivered in the next year.
- **Cycleways** implemented as trials since 2020 have now been made permanent after consultation: Cycleway 38 South, York Way and Green Lanes. Improvements are planned for the first two of these.
- The **Old Street / Clerkenwell Road** and **Regents Canal to Highgate** cycle routes are in design phase.
- **Cycleway 50** is being implemented by TfL, with an estimated start date of January 2023.
- **Public realm scheme** at Clerkenwell Green will be delivered in early 2023. Consultation on St Johns South also in 2023.

Waste and Recycling

- Islington's **recycling rate for 2021/22 confirmed as 30.1%** compared to 31.3% in 20/21. Residual waste was 368kg per household as compared to 349kg in the previous year, still very low for inner London.
- 2nd Reduction and Recycling Plan draft for GLA review, setting new recycling commitment of 40% by 2030.
- **Electrification of the fleet** continues, now with 80 fully electric vehicles ranging from cars and vans to refuse vehicles. Four award winning **retrofit refuse collection vehicles** on order, adding to the existing two.
- The introduction of additional **ebikes & e-cargo bikes** within Environmental Services, replacing fleet vehicles
- Installation of additional **power and charging infrastructure** at Cottage Road will be completed this month.
- **£500k estate investment in improved recycling infrastructure**. Three projects completed, eighteen commissioned and more under development.
- **Expansion of the food waste recycling service** to remaining purpose-built blocks of flats. Current coverage is 47% of estate households, with target of 90% by March 2023 and 100% by March 2024.
- Trial of **food waste for flats above shops** (first in country) starting in October in Holloway Road.
- **Circular Economy Action Plan** approved by Exec in February.
- Islington's first **Library of Things** opened in the Bright Sparks shop in Finsbury Park opened in November.

Street Services Cleansing Operational Performance

- Waste and recycling collections showing year-on-year improvement in reported monthly **missed collections** averaging 262 across 21/22 compared to 289 in the previous year.
- There are an average of 2.1 million collections made every month so the above performance represents 0.012% reported missed or only one in every 8,000.
- Across 21/22 reported **fly-tip numbers across all land types** were down from 1,982 the previous year to 1,404, the proportion on the public highway being removed within 24 hours being over 90%.
- On-street cleanliness surveys (LEQS) showed that **Litter levels** across the borough had improved from 93.5% (20/21) to 96.6% (21/22) of surveyed 'transects' at or above a pre-defined acceptable standard.
- 21/22 Levels of **Flyposting, Detritus (debris) and particularly Graffiti**, also improved on 20/21.
- The main challenge with clearing Detritus is parked cars on residential streets ,whilst graffiti levels have improved markedly as a result of being more pro-active in removing it from third-party infrastructure.
- There are **seven apprenticeships** starting within the service
- Increased training offered to front-line staff, including in the use of the council's internal social media channel 'Yammer', has **helped engagement and communications for front line staff.**

Parks and Trees

- The Parks for Health project has been completed and the Council formally adopted a new **Parks for Health Strategy** which details how we plan to ensure our public parks and green spaces are used, enjoyed, and maintained as health assets for the whole community.
- In **London in Bloom**, Islington retained its Gold Award and was joint category winner. Gillespie Park won Gold and Conservation Area of the Year. Individual awards were also received for Caledonian Park, Duncan Terrace, Rosemary Gardens and Myddleton Square.
- We have been awarded one new **Green Flag** for Kings Square Gardens and retained our nine other Parks Green Flags. In addition, we now have five **Green Flag Community Awards**.
- **Islington in Bloom** applications continue to grow after Covid with 187 applications plus 42 poster competition applications being received.
- Continued strong community participation in our parks with **53 Friends of Parks groups** signed up to the Friends of Parks Charter and over 13,000 volunteer hours delivered across 21/22.
- **We planted 700 trees in 21/22**, exceeding our target of 400 and also the average annual tree planting for the last 5 years
- 500th **Tree Preservation Order** (TPO) served by Tree Officers in Planning **response**.

Greening the Borough

- Programme awarded **capital funding of £1.5m** over three years
- **Islington Greener Together** – Community led greening programme launched in March 2022, with nearly 100 applications already received. Recently approved 38 urban greening projects across the borough, with 15 due to be complete by Spring next year
- Successful **Greener Healthier Streets** programme awarded funding of £265k to be spent on the public realm as part of Cultivating Cally
- Successful Future Parks funding bid '**Nature On Your Doorstep**', £280k funded through the National Heritage Lottery programme and The National Trust. This programme is set to develop innovative ways of using land to provide access to nature and green infrastructure benefits to address inequality, improve quality of life and support vital ecosystem services.
- Successful DEFRA funded Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund bid of £100k research and development of **Green Finance for 'Islington Pocket Park Framework'**. The project will provide a framework for borough wide delivery of pocket parks with a new private green financing model and huge investment potential of over £25m.
- First phase **planters off New North Road** installed by the end of September.

Cemeteries

- The Islington and Camden Cemetery Service (ICCS) has seen a significant increase in demand due to the **number of excess deaths** during the pandemic, meaning it's focus has been on the provision of core services throughout this last year.
- During the last year the service provided 2,344 funerals (1,037 burials and 1,307 cremations), representing a 19% increase overall on the previous year.
- Key projects around **Burial Ground development** and **Cremated Remains Memorial schemes** have been delivered.
- Key projects moving forward include a **Reclamation Strategy** (delivering around new 9,000 burial plots), **Grounds and Infrastructure improvements**, and **Crematorium NOx Filter system** removing the majority of such emissions.