

Net Zero Carbon Strategy Progress report (April-Sep 2023)

Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
November 2023

Introduction

- This report covers April to September 2023. The first section provides an overview of the borough's carbon emissions (latest government figures) and our own council emissions. The second section is organised according to the eight different programme workstreams that are responsible for the delivery of actions. These work streams are:
 - Buildings, Housing, Commercial and Infrastructure
 - Transport
 - Sustainable and affordable energy
 - Natural environment, waste reduction and recycling
 - Green Economy
 - Planning
 - Engaging, Empowering and Partnering
 - Finance and Investment
- The workstream updates set out the objectives and expected key outcomes of the priority work areas, activity highlights from the past 6 months and work programme delivery status.
- As well as reducing carbon emissions (primary benefit), we expect the programme to deliver a number of other co-benefits. Some examples of these benefits are given on the following page, and icons are included throughout the report to indicate where an intervention is expected to achieve a particular co-benefit. We are developing our benefits monitoring framework so this will evolve over time.
- The net zero carbon programme is a corporate commitment and as such climate action will be reflected and run through the delivery of the 5 missions within the Corporate Plan:
 - Child-friendly Islington
 - Fairer Together
 - A Safe Place to Call Home
 - Community Wealth Building and
 - Greener, Healthier Islington.

Expected Outcomes



Improved Health and Wellbeing

residents less prone to pollution-related illness and more physically active



Equity & Social Cohesion

ensuring a just transition and bringing communities together to address a common goal



Increased resilience

of our streets and communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of climatic events



Maintain/Increase Biodiversity

protecting species and communities against sudden changes and stresses



Economic Development

emerging sectors bring new jobs and business innovation



Clean and safe streets

an improved environment for residents and communities

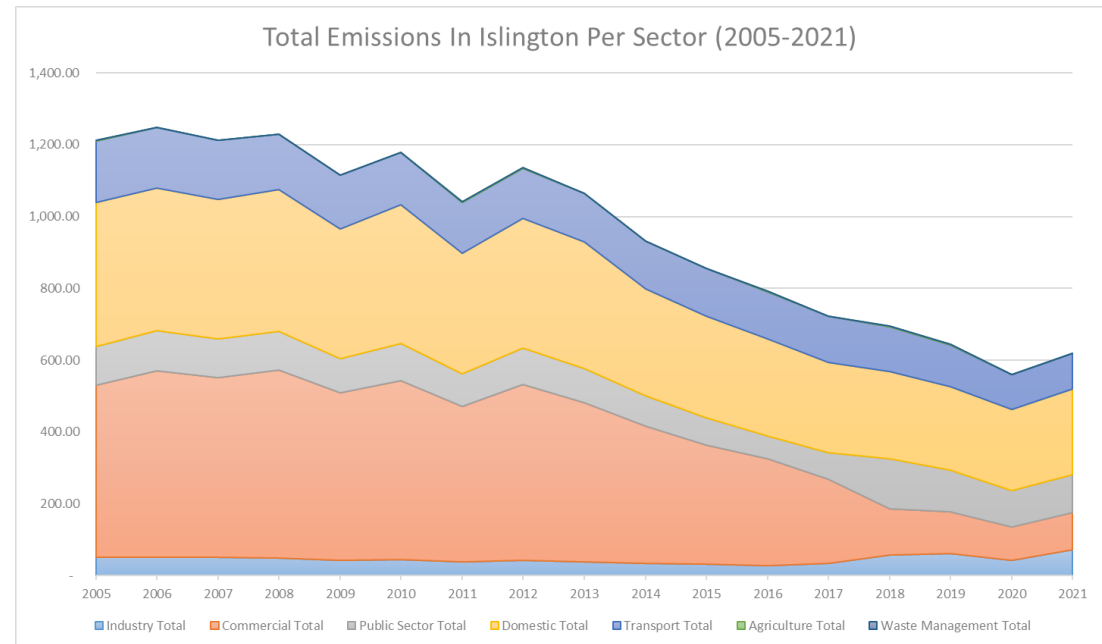
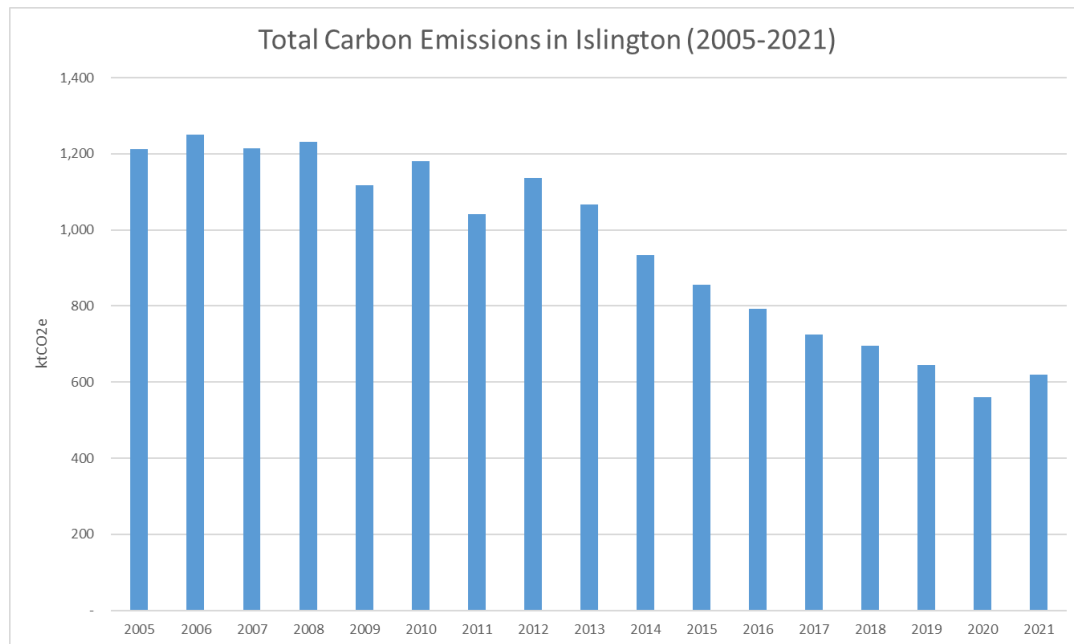


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For a more equal future

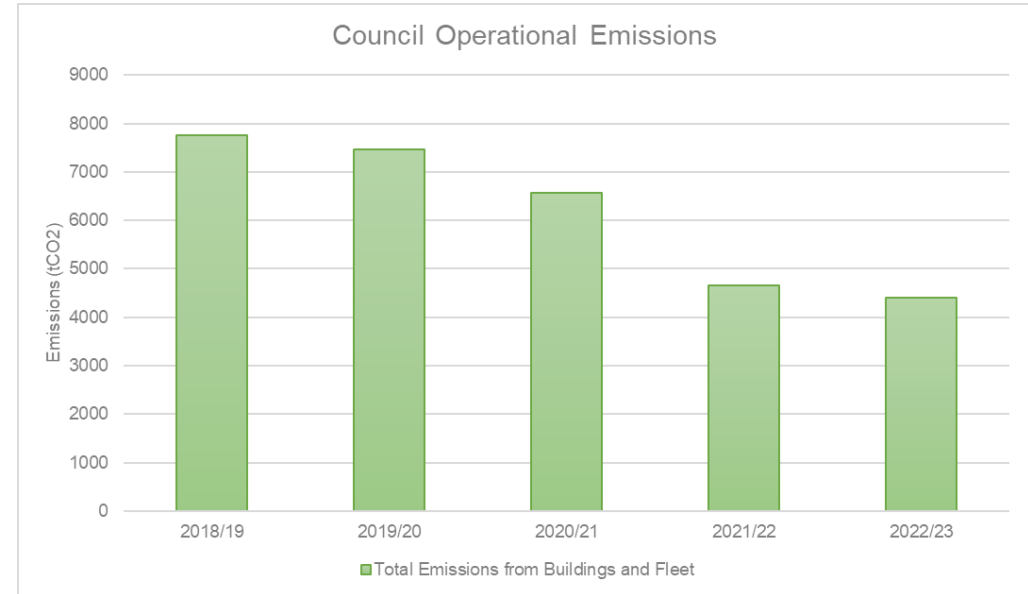
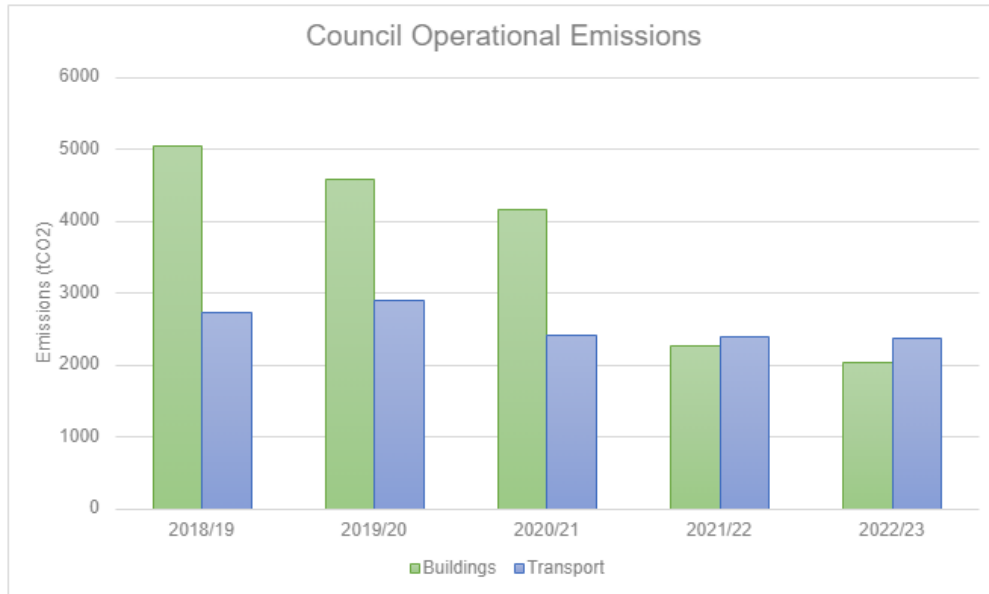
Carbon Data Overview

- The latest data on Boroughwide carbon emissions is shown below for years 2005-2021. This is correct at July 2023 and shows an overall 10% increase in emissions from 2020 to 2021, which can be mainly attributed to the easing of nationwide lockdowns post COVID-19. Emissions in 2021 are still 3.9% lower in Islington than in 2019. For further analysis please review the [full report made available by DESNZ](#).



Carbon Data Overview

- The latest data on the council's own direct carbon emissions is shown below. This is calculated from fuel billing data correct at end of FY 2022/23 and shows an **overall 6% reduction** in the council's operational emissions (buildings and transport) between FY 21/22 and 22/23, and a 43% reduction within the last five years.
- This shows the council's performance in reducing emissions. It should be noted that the council switched the electricity supply of most of its corporate buildings to a renewable tariff in 2021, resulting in the electricity-related emissions of those buildings reducing to zero.



Workstreams



**BUILDINGS, HOUSING,
COMMERCIAL AND
INDUSTRIAL**



**TRANSPORT AND
ACTIVE TRAVEL**



**SUSTAINABLE AND
AFFORDABLE ENERGY**



GREEN ECONOMY



**NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT, WASTE
REDUCTION AND
RECYCLING**



PLANNING



**ENGAGING,
EMPOWERING,
PARTNERING**



**FINANCE AND
INVESTMENT**



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WS1: Buildings, Housing, Commercial and Infrastructure

To improve the energy efficiency and reduce the level of carbon emissions of buildings and infrastructure in Islington.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
22	4	14	3	2

Expected outcomes



Decarbonising Council Buildings

Workstream Owner: Director of Housing, Matt West

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Develop a corporate buildings decarbonisation strategy informed by Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs) and other evidence sources
- Develop a plan to optimise the implementation of retrofit and low carbon technologies whilst taking account of no cost or low-cost behavioural change methods
- Develop a dynamic means of monitoring and evaluating progress in the plan towards achieving the goals of the strategy
- Secure all government grant funding available and grasp opportunities to maximise social value in implementing the strategy.

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Secured over £1.2 millions of funding
- Completed upgrade of Building Management System (BMS) for corporate buildings
- Out of 196 buildings identified, 56 Heat Decarbonisation Plans have been completed to date, and 32 more are due to be completed by the end of 2024
- Installed solar panels on five of our corporate buildings
- Installed ground source heat pump at New River College
- Produced a new procurement framework to make future delivery easier

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Develop council non-residential buildings retrofit implementation plan	Scoping/investigation	On Track	2021	2023	
Deliver decarbonisation measures at New River College	Delivery	On Track	2022	2024	
Deliver decarbonisation measures at Drayton Park School	Initiation	On Track	2022	2024	
Deliver decarbonisation measures at Archway Leisure Centre	Initiation	On Track	2023	2025	
Deliver decarbonisation measures at King Henry's Walk	Initiation	On Track	2023	2025	
Deliver decarbonisation measures at the Waste and Recycling Centre	Delivery	On Track	2022	2023	
Install solar PV at the Islington Ecology Centre	Complete	Completed	2022	2023	
Install solar PV at Laycock Centre	Complete	Completed	2022	2023	
Install solar PV at Fairbridge Depot	Complete	Completed	2022	2023	
Install solar PV at Dowham Road Depot	Complete	Completed	2022	2023	

Decarbonising Social Housing

Workstream Owner: Director of Housing, Matt West

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- To minimise carbon emissions across our council housing stock.
- To capture learning from our pilot projects (and the UCL study) to inform development of an effective decarbonisation programme.
- To reduce fuel poverty in our worst performing housing stock.
- To integrate climate adaptation measures into our projects where possible
- To work alongside LBI's Housing Associations, share best practice, and ensure that low carbon solutions are part of their priority

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Planning permission secured for Ground Source Heat Pump at Bevin Court, works now out to tender.
- Feasibility studies completed for Harvist estate retrofit pilot project.
- Surveys started for Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 properties
- New Bunhill connection made to Telfer House.
- Islington Social Housing providers briefed on Net Zero Carbon opportunities emerging in the new Supplementary Planning Document on June 19th.

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Deliver Highbury Quadrant Low Carbon Exemplar Home	Development		2022	2024	Increased cost of delivering to full Passivhaus certification currently being reviewed
Deliver Vorley Road Passivhaus Pilot	Planning		2020	2026	Subject to re-design to anticipate new fire safety requirements
Redbrick estate monitoring and metering	Delivery		2022	2023	Took longer than anticipated to engage residents
Develop housing stock retrofit implementation plan	Development		2021	2023	Work is ongoing as part of 10 yr investment plan, but taking longer than expected due to complexity and financial considerations
Deliver low carbon retrofit at Harvist Estate in Arsenal Ward	Planning		2021	2025	
Deliver low carbon retrofit at Bevin Court and Holford House in Clerkenwell Ward	Detailed design		2021	2025	
Deliver low carbon retrofit at Newbury house in Canonbury Ward	Planning		2021	2025	
Deliver low carbon retrofit at Harry Weston Estate	Planning		2021	2025	
Housing Retrofit Wave 1 (32 street and low rise properties)	Delivery		Q4 21/22	Q3 23/24	
Housing Retrofit Wave 2 (371 properties)	Delivery		Q1 22/23	Q1 25/26	

Decarbonising Corporate Buildings in Action

Solar panels have been installed on four corporate buildings: the Ecology Centre, Downham Road, Laycock Centre & Fairbridge Road

the new panels will save approximately **18 tons of carbon dioxide** per year

The panels will generate more than **70,000 kilowatt hours of electricity** annually, and are expected to save the council approximately **£20,000 per year**



Decarbonising Private Buildings

Workstream Owner: Director of Housing, Matt West

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Understand the net zero carbon potential of different types of private housing and commercial stock
- Understand the different types of messages preferred by different audiences to promote net zero retrofit technologies amongst Islington residents, businesses, and landlords
- Share appropriate information on funding opportunities and measures for owners of homes and commercial buildings to reduce energy consumption
- Enforce MEES restrictions on all private properties
- Exploit new opportunities to promote net zero carbon measures afforded by the Supplementary Planning Document
- Investigate the feasibility of employing a retrofit co-ordinator to engage private residential owners, landlords and tenants in implementing retrofit technologies.

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Developed an expression of interest for inclusion in 3ci's Net Zero Neighbourhood pitchbook, building case for place based decarbonisation and investment
- Working with Planning to draw upon their research on private residential typologies , private owner segmentation, and tailored interventions and use this to engage owners, landlords and tenants in implementing retrofit measures.
- 21 Energising Small Business approvals; £39,682 of measures installed, 18,564kg of carbon saving
- MEES letter sent to all private residential landlords whose properties are below an EPC C, and to private business landlords whose properties are below an EPC E

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Develop retrofit offer and deliver engagement activities for private building owners, landlords and tenants	Planning		2022	2024	Developing scope and focus of offer and role for an officer to be appointed to lead this. Paused to respond to Net Zero Neighbourhood opportunity, now resumed.
Enforce MEES restrictions on all private sector buildings	Planning		2020	2025	

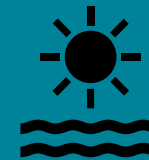
WS2: Transport

To reduce emissions in the borough from transport:

- Reduce the number of KM driven by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport
- transform our streets
- secure better cleaner and more accessible public transport services
- improve air quality for residents
- Reduce and electrify our fleet
- Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the borough

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
18	2	13	3	0

Expected benefits



Reducing Vehicle Use in Islington

Workstream Owner: Martijn Coolijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Objectives

- Reduce the number of KM driven by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport
- Transform our streets
- Improve air quality for residents.

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- Clerkenwell Green, St.Mary's, Canonbury West and Amwell low traffic neighbourhoods made permanent.
- Engagement for Mildmay, Cally, Barnsbury & Laycock, Bunhill & Golden Lane and Dartmouth Park liveable neighbourhoods.
- Delivered Saddle & Sole festival in Highbury Fields to promote cycling and walking
- School streets
- Cycleway 50 between Camden and Finsbury Park, collaboratively delivered by Islington and Transport for London



Reducing Vehicle Use in Islington

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1	WS3	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
Ensure every area in Islington is a Liveable Neighbourhood, where feasible	Delivery		Current	Q3 30/31	
Deliver alternative “School Street” measures on all primary schools on main roads where feasible	Delivery		Q4 21/22	Q1 25/26	
Deliver final phase of school streets not on main roads, where feasible	Delivery		Q2 22/23	Q4 23/24	
Develop a Walking and Cycling Action Plan and Accessibility action plan	Initiation & Scoping		Current	Q2 23/24	Challenges in staff recruitment has delayed progress
Deliver the ongoing programme of high-quality segregated cycle routes	Delivery		Current	Q3 30/31	
STARS – school cycle engagement program	Delivery		Current	Ongoing	
Cycle Training program	Delivery		Current	Ongoing	
Bike Hangers program	Delivery		Current	Ongoing	
Develop and adopt a parking pricing and availability plan	Initiation & Scoping		Q3 2022	Q4 23/24	
Develop a Freight Action Plan	Development		Current	Q4 22/23	Challenges in staff recruitment has delayed progress

Discouraging the use of Fossil Fuel based plant & machinery

Workstream Owner: Martijn Coojmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1	WS3	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Improve air quality for residents

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- 25 pieces of council owned Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) identified. Business surveys suggest very few other NRMM in the borough. Other fossil fuel-based plants identified are used intermittently and occasionally e.g., back-up generators.
- Funding to replace council equipment still to be identified.
- Eco Zone trial is finishing, and the evaluation report is being finalised.

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
Replace diesel generators with emissions-free alternatives such as battery packs or fuel cells in the council's non-road mobile machinery (NRMM)	Development		Q2 2022	Q4 24/25	
Conduct a trial of the UK's first Eco Zone at the Regent's 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.	Delivery		Q3 2021	Q3 23/24	

Reducing emissions from the council's fleet

Workstream Owner: Martijn Coolijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Reduce and electrify our fleet

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- EV charging
 - Completed WRC project with all EV Charging Points operational (34 new).
 - Completed Central Library works with new EV Charging Points operational.
 - Works on new EVCPs have commenced at Downham Road.
 - Scoping of new site 305 Hornsey Rd has been completed with design work underway
- EV procurement
 - Total EVs on fleet 87 (19% of owned fleet & 15% if including hired vehicles)

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
WRC grid connection & infrastructure installation	Complete		current	Q3 22/23	
Other council sites smart charger installations	Delivery		current	Q3 30/31	Installation of additional council charging points extended for duration of the electrification of the fleet project
Conduct V2G trial	Complete		current	Q1 23/24	
Replace & retrofit fleet to be electric	Delivery		current	Q3 30/31	
Reduce size and use of the fleet	Delivery		current	Q3 30/31	

Encouraging the Use of Electric Vehicles

Workstream Owner: Martijn Coolijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the borough
- Secure better cleaner and more accessible public transport services

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- Installation of the 490th public Electric Vehicle Charging Point in Islington (from 476 in April)
- Consultation completed on 117 potential EVCP locations

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
Complete the delivery of 500 electric charging points	Delivery		Current	Q4 22/23	Target was 500 by March 2023, updated to 600 by March 2024. Recruiting a second officer to work on the borough's expanding EV program and completion of extended consultation on new sites will accelerate progress. Improved reporting of risk via the monthly Climate Change and Transport project board (CCT) will closely monitor progress.

Highlights



Islington's *Saddle and Sole* festival, held on Sunday 24 September



Consultation on proposals for the Mildmay Liveable Neighbourhood,

WS3: Sustainable and Affordable Energy

- increase local generation of renewable heat and electricity - *heat pumps and solar PV*.
- increase the uptake of affordable and renewable energy tariffs and mitigate fuel poverty – *SHINE*.
- increase the use of smart, zero carbon district heating in the borough, considering the whole energy system – *heat networks*.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
6	1	3	0	2

Expected benefits



Installation of Solar PV

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Increase local generation of renewable heat and electricity

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- Solar PV arrays installed at five sites: Waste Recycling Centre; Downham Road; Fairbridge Road; Islington Ecology Centre and Laycock Centre (see buildings workstream for details)

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
Promote Solar Together to residents and businesses	Completed		Ongoing	Closed	
Support community energy schemes	Delivery		Ongoing	Ongoing	
Installation of Solar PV on council buildings <i>details of solar arrays as per buildings workstream</i>	Delivery		Ongoing	Ongoing	

Addressing fuel poverty and energy efficiency

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Increase the uptake of affordable and renewable energy tariffs and mitigate fuel poverty

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- SHINE's contract with the GLA has increased and the team are taking on two additional Energy Doctors and one additional Energy Advisor.

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments(if delayed)
SHINE energy and fuel poverty advice and referral service (ongoing)	Delivery		Ongoing	Ongoing	
Energy Doctors - deliver energy and cost saving measures to mainly low-income owner occupiers and private tenants (ongoing)	Delivery		Ongoing	Ongoing	Deficit between target no of visits and those delivered due to staff changes but expected to catch up with new recruits.

Heat and Energy networks

Workstream Owner: Martijn Cooijmans – Director of Climate Change and Transport

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Increase the use of smart, zero carbon district heating in the borough, considering the whole energy system

Highlights from the last 6 months and changes

- Funding bid submitted to complete the GreenSCIES outline business case

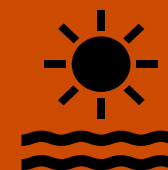
Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Deliver GreenSCIES New River Network	Secure resources & approvals		Q1 2022/23	2024/25	Lack of staff resources has delayed progress

WS4: Green Economy

To deliver on our net zero carbon target whilst assuring the economic success and vitality of our borough by working closely with the 21,000 businesses in the borough, most of them small or micro-sized.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
3	1	0	2	0

Expected outcomes



Our Future Approach for the Green Economy

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Decarbonise the commercial sector: retrofit job and skills development, supply chain development, business engagement and funding
- Reduce emissions from business transport: modal shift and freight consolidation
- Reduce our Scope 3 emissions and deliver social value through procurement
- Drive green business innovation and skills development: accelerator programmes, business models
- Drive a circular economy and reduce waste
- Improve climate resilience of our high streets

- The Green Economy is in the process of undergoing a workstream review to re-establish priorities
- The key objective of this workstream is to ensure the success of other net zero carbon workstreams, primarily housing and transport through supply chain development and business support
- Work is still continuing as detailed in the following pages.

Commercial Property and High Street Decarbonisation

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Improve the energy efficiency and carbon emissions of commercial premises
- Enable and encourage mode shift, including sustainable freight and delivery options, amongst local businesses
- Create a new generation of jobs in the industries and infrastructure we need to tackle the climate crisis: in low carbon sectors such as retrofitting, building, climate adaptation and in the environmental sector or in other sectors where the roles are involved in protecting the environment
- Position our residents to be skilled in new sectors, especially the newly un-employed, disadvantaged and young people who are out of work:

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Created green jobs tracker to develop progression pathways map and identify gaps for green construction and related roles
- Signed contract with MP Smarter Travel to support in application for DEFRA funding to roll out e-cargo bikes for 35 businesses – DEFRA bid submitted 29/09/23
- 21 Energising Small Business grants approved

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Business Directory of Local Construction Suppliers	Delivery		Feb-23	Sep-23	The test site has been created and is currently undergoing testing. A few testing issues have caused delays. Due to launch end Oct with online promotion

Commercial Property and High Street Decarbonisation Highlights

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson

Energising Small Business

21 ESB grant approvals for high street businesses
£39,682 of energy saving measures installed
18,564kg of CO2 saved



2 new e-cargo bikes
located in Highbury Barn and on
Blackstock Road

marlborough 

Two new apprenticeships secured as part of the new contract with Marlborough Highways and will be starting in September 2023

Islington
Inspiring young people
World of Work

Promoting green skills as part of Climate Action Week including showcasing case studies from some of our contractors

The London School of Architecture

Pilot for Saturday School completed successfully in June, teaching architecture and the built environment to 13-16yrs
LIFT funded

Green Business, Innovation and Procurement

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Improve the energy efficiency and carbon emissions of commercial premises
- Enable and encourage mode shift, including sustainable freight and delivery options, amongst local businesses
- Increase availability and take up of surplus, repair and reuse facilities
- Increase awareness and take up of 'Shop Local' (both consumer and B2B)

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Created first draft of green social value guidance to support commissioners in understanding the council's progressive procurement policy including circular economy principles. Through a Social Value Operations Group green skills and jobs are being embedded in council contracts and S106 agreements
- The Anchor Institutions Net Zero Carbon Task & Finish Group has continued to meet and collaborated in Go Zero Activities (see Engaging, Empowering and Partnering section)

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Social Value through procurement: Establish a framework to embed the need for green skills in our council contracts and S106 agreements	Complete		Dec 21	Sep 23	
Deliver Net Zero Affordable Workspace with specialist operator	Delivery		Oct-21	June-23	Unable to appoint via procurement, reviewing alternative let options with environment to be considered in social value

Green Business & Innovation Upcoming Activities

Workstream Owner: Caroline Wilson

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

STARTUP DISCOVERY SCHOOL

Islington has partnered with Start-up Discovery School (SDS) to run a **first-of-its-kind Zero Carbon Business Accelerator Programme**, working with diverse start-ups on solutions directly addressing:

- infrastructure development
- retrofitting energy inefficient homes
- increasing access to fair energy tariffs
- building low carbon energy networks

Islington Council Circular Economy Grants

Roll-out second round of circular economy grant scheme: to be officially announced at Circular Economy week 16-20th Oct
15 businesses to receive grants



Support Cally Trade Association to develop model for tool sharing for business: developing a business-led model to encourage resource sharing between businesses and support with sourcing equipment.



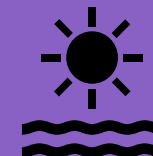
Food surplus café at Jean Stokes: developing operational model including staffing. Talk to Chapel Market traders about potential link up to food surplus from the market.
Part of Cally Green Economy Plan

WS5: Natural Environment

To improve the quality of our natural environment and maximise opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, adapt and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Projects Total	Complete	On track	Challenges	Off track On Hold
7	0	4	1	2

Expected outcomes



Greener Together Programme – enabling green infrastructure in the public realm in collaboration with the community

Workstream Owner: Tony Ralph

Objectives

- To increase the number of people engaged in caring for the environment
- To help meet the council’s target to increase tree canopy cover from 25 to 27% by 2023
- To increase the number of local composting facilities
- To enhance Islington’s biodiversity
- To Improve resilience to climate change
- To increase local food growing opportunities
- To widen access to nature, including through enabling access to pocket parks

Highlights from the last 6 months

- 14 projects from Greener Together Phase 1 now complete out of 38 in total. Two have been removed and remaining 22 to be completed by the end of March 2024.
- Delivering online and in person training for staff on green infrastructure delivery in partnership with Camden and Urban Design London (Highways Greening Accelerator Programme). 30 people trained on biodiversity and sustainable drainage. Case studies being developed for best practice report.
- Completed first phases of research for private investment financial model and Pocket Park framework. Engaged with early adopters (GLA and other councils) to understand the research process..
- Groundwork appointed as partner to deliver Islington Greener Together Champions. Training needs assessment complete and a training plan for champions is now being developed.

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if Delayed)
Highways Greening Accelerator Programme	Development		Q4 22/23	Q4 23/24	
Develop a private investment financial model and Pocket Park Framework	Development		Q2 22/23	Q4 23/24	
Greener Together Round 1	Delivery		Q1 22/23	Q4 22/23	14 projects complete. Many in later stages of development and a few are on-site. Aiming for completion - March 2024.
Greener Together Round 2	Development	On hold	Q1 23/24		On hold due to resource constraints
Greener Together Champions Programme	Development				

Tree Canopy and Biodiversity

Workstream Owner: Tony Ralph

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1	WS3	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- increase tree canopy cover in the Borough from 25% to 27% by 2030 by protecting our trees and open spaces and increasing our woodland in line with our Biodiversity Action Plan
- Reduce area of deficiency in access to nature from 17% to 15% through improvements to Sites of Importance for Nature (SINCs)
- Support community involvement in managing spaces for biodiversity

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Biodiversity Progress Report being finalised and draft excerpts have been included as highlights at the end of this section

Work package	Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Status
WS5: Tree Canopy Cover	Urban Forest Management Policy	Initiation & Scoping		2019	Q4 23/24	£55k required for tree canopy assessment. New funding stream found and application in process
WS5: Biodiversity and engagement with nature	Review progress against the Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 - 2025	Delivery		Q2 22/23	Q1 23/24	Draft report being finalised and date being scheduled to present to E&R Scrutiny.

Nature-based climate mitigation and adaptation solutions

- The Gillespie Park reedbed restoration project carried out in Spring 2023
 - A project to benefit biodiversity, and a nature based sustainable urban drainage project
 - 600 metres square
 - A shallow bed that holds water and creates a wetland/reedbed area for the benefit of birds and other wildlife.
 - Completed by Siemens working on the adjacent railway line.
- Greening Together Programme now creating new climate adaptation projects on highways and other sites.



New River Re-Opens to Enhance Biodiversity and Delivers Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Benefit

Improvement works included,

- Emptying the water and dredging the silt, increasing water holding capacities.
- Re-using the silt on site to create new wooden borders planted with native plants.
- Total area improved 3,531 square metres.

Volunteers are now invited to help create an environmentally friendly, more biodiverse environment where a range of native species can flourish.



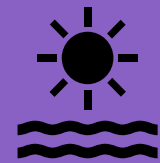
WS5: Waste Reduction, Recycling and the Circular Economy

To integrate our ongoing activities in recycling and reducing waste and managing our natural environment.

We will ensure that these objectives are coherent in our efforts to achieve net zero and help mitigate the risks from severe loss of biodiversity which will impact people, the economy and the environment.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
4	1	2	1	0

Expected outcomes



Highlights



Repair Café Programme

We have developed an ongoing programme of 12 repair workshops until March, targeting textile and repair. **This is double the yearly target!**

GOODMINE

Accelerating the Circular Economy for Consumer Goods within Islington

Net Zero Digital Accelerator

ISLINGTON

Accelerating the Circular Economy

We have begun working with **Goodmine**, an Islington-based profit-for-purpose tech company to develop circular pathways in Islington, **diverting reusable household goods from the waste stream and maximising their lifespan**



Food waste trial for flats above shops on Holloway Road now completed and working with ReLondon to improve recycling

Waste Reduction, Maximising Recycling and Circular Economy

Workstream Owner: Tony Ralph

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- Recycling 40 per cent of household waste by 2030
- Residual waste per household to be 329kg
- Expand food waste recycling collections

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Library of things: developing proposals for the N4 Library, working through funding and costing
- Litter bin recycling in parks trial: initial 15 bins in place, to be complimented with 20 additional bins
- Circular Economy workstream review to re-establish priorities and KPIs

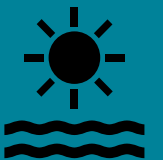
Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Recycling site improvements on estates	Delivery			Mar-26	
Food waste recycling for purpose-built flats	Delivery			Mar-24	
Food waste for flats above shops - Trial on Holloway Road	Complete			Mar-25	
We will update our recycling and waste storage space guidance for new developments, as appropriate, to ensure it is robust and effective.	Feasibility		Not started	New end date TBC	Investigating funding options for project delivery

WS6: Planning

Climate action embedded in planning to deliver emissions reduction while maximising economic and social benefits for Islington residents and businesses.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
2	1	1	0	0

Expected Outcomes



Supplementary Planning Guidance – Delivering a Zero Carbon Planning Framework in Islington

Workstream Owner: Director of Planning, Karen Sullivan

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- To develop appropriate technical background information to inform the SPD.
- To develop the SPD and realise its benefits in more easily, facilitating net zero carbon retrofit planning applications through meaningful and open public engagement with local people, businesses, landlords and organisations.

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Islington's new local plan was adopted on 28 September 2023
- 58 duty planner appointments made to discuss retrofit between April to October 2023
- 415 visits to the Let's Talk Islington Supplementary Planning Document page launched on 18th August 2023
- Over 50 responses to the SPD scoping paper and a programme of engagement involving separate workshops with councillors, residents, local businesses, architects and housings associations
- Let's Talk Islington webpage now linked to every page of the Together Greener webpages
- Local heritage societies, including the Canonbury Society, engaged

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Status (if delayed)
Take the draft Local Plan forward for adoption	Delivery		Q1 22/23	Q1 23/24	Delays because of modifications requested by HM Planning Inspectorate
Development and adoption of new Supplementary Planning Document	Delivery		Q3 2022/23	Q1 2024/25	

Highlights

- Delivered a programme of engagement to raise awareness of Islington's net zero ambitions, involving workshops with residents, architects, local businesses, housing associations and councillors
- Free planning advice for householders on when planning permission is required for retrofit
- Commissioned a study on Islington's most common housing typologies and the NZC retrofit opportunities available, with a view to guiding residents to implement cost-effective carbon reduction measures

Islington Permitted Development Guide for Net Zero Works



WS7: Engaging, Empowering and Partnering

Although the council has a leading role in delivering carbon emissions in Islington, we cannot deliver on the net zero carbon target on our own. We will work closely with residents and local businesses and community groups to enable and encourage them to help our borough achieve net zero.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
7	2	0	4	1

Engaging, Empowering and Partnering Actions

Workstream Owner: Assistant Director of Communications and Campaigns, David Hardiman

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- To provide all workstreams with effective communications support to raise awareness of the council's net zero carbon programme
- To increase awareness, collaboration and commitment amongst:
 - Staff
 - Councillors
 - Residents
 - Business
 - Partners
- To attract new investment into the programme
- To manage the council's reputation
- To influence government policy and approach

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Delivered April's Special Scrutiny event
- Supported delivery of a range of engagement and campaign events around Earth Day, London Climate Action Week, etc. in partnership with Anchor Institutions
- Commissioned a series of workshops on the Barriers to Net Zero to inform engagement plans
- Scoped out further detail on the Citizens Panel model and secured corporate approval
- Completed major departmental restructure to support effective delivery of communications and campaigns going forwards, alongside a new team dedicated to partnerships and engagement
- Worked with London Councils on the scope for a jointly commissioned climate essentials module
- Developed brief for Behaviour Change commission and initiated procurement process for specialist support
- Identified and arranged behaviour change training for staff, scheduled for delivery in October.
- Continued input into London Councils' Climate Change Programmes
- Collaboration with Public Health on physical activity campaign as well as scoping work on climate vulnerabilities and adaptation needs.

Engaging, Empowering and Partnering Actions

Workstream Owner: Assistant Director of Communications and Campaigns, David Hardiman

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Develop and deliver a programme wide communications and engagement plan for next 18 months with workstreams	Development		Q1 22/23	Q2 23/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned engagement and communications objectives with each NZC workstream and reviewed planned activities. Overarching plan being finalised for sign off. Recruited new Communications and Campaigns Officer dedicated to NZC activities to deliver the plan
Establish a community forum to help shape our engagement programme	Secure Resources and Approvals		Q1 22/23	Q2 23/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtained approval to develop a corporate Citizens Panel – first phase to focus on climate change
Develop and promote staff training programme	Development		Q1 23/24	Q4 23/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff behaviour change workshops scheduled for October. Liaising with organizational development colleagues and training providers Contributed to London Councils meetings around a collaborative approach to e-learning

Engaging, Empowering and Partnering Actions

Workstream Owner: Assistant Director of Communications and Campaigns, David Hardiman

Workstream Interdependencies

WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Key projects	Phase	Status	Start	End	Comments (if delayed)
Deliver a 6 week campaign with partners to raise awareness of Net Zero	Completed		Q4 22/23	Q1 23/24	
Publish new webpages setting out the activity across the programme and progress updates	Development		Q1 22/23	Q2 23/24	New pages drafted – awaiting sign off
Develop a carbon monitoring approach and set interim targets	Secure Resources and Approvals		Q1 22/23	Q2 23/24	Main workstreams reviewed and CO2 savings collated into a monitoring framework. Annual report completed as shown in this report above. Targets to be confirmed. Exploring how waste and recycling could be measured
Deliver and collaborate on themed events to explore key challenges with our communities	Completed		Q1 22/23	Q4 22/23	

Highlights



Earth Day

Islington Council and Anchor Institutions promoted ways that local people could lower their carbon footprint through a range of activities

Go ZERO

“Go Zero” campaign

A six-week communications campaign to promote our carbon emissions reduction activities and to encourage local people, groups, and businesses to play their part.



Boots and sports equipment collection in collaboration with Arsenal and Better Sports Centres

Arsenal community will redistribute boots to children and to Union Chapel for Asylum seekers



Cook for Good: A sustainable food event

An Islington & Peabody collaboration promoting eating a healthy, plant base diet with an emphasis on reducing food waste



NHS Whittington Hospital Food Waste Event

for staff, patients and carers/ families



The Anchor Institutions and community groups ran a range of activities with a focus on upcycling, transport and green skills



Front page coverage in the Gazette for the TFL STARS programme poster contest winners

Highlights

- Encouraging nearly 1,000 people to attend our [Saddle and Sole event on Highbury Fields](#), with promotional social media posts gaining more than 15,000 impressions. This included [our promotion of local cycling group JoyRiders](#).
- Promoting the pioneering work the council is doing to [improve air quality in care homes](#) (including a piece in the [summer edition of Islington Life](#)).
- Working with [Zero Hour, and Muslims Declare to host a climate change exhibition at Finsbury Park Mosque](#).
- Promoting Love Parks Week (28 July to 6 August), including by [profiling female staff that work in parks](#). This gained more than 10,700 impressions on social media - more than double the impressions we gained the last time we promoted Love Parks Week.
- Promoting the council's work [to cut emissions from its pension fund](#), including in [The MJ magazine](#).
- Successfully delivering communications on Liveable Neighbourhood engagements, including our first public consultation [on Mildmay](#) (which was the feature of the [Leader's column in the Islington Gazette](#))

Upcoming Activities



Delivering a 30min panel discussion at the Showcase stage featuring our work to achieve Vision 2030.

Participating in the festival provides a unique chance to tell our story to a national audience and for our initiatives to gain exposure with the business and investment communities.



Working with Navigate to design an effective panel process

Determining the role of the panel and the topics for engagement.

Due to launch early 2024.



Reuse & Repair Pavilion

A reuse and repair café for staff, students and the public in support of City beehives.

Career Fair and Speed Recruitment

Aimed at students ready to enter the workforce, to promote green jobs and bring together organisations prepared to hire/offer internships and permanent jobs



Repair Café

Held at the North Library 14th Oct in collaboration with Restart Project

WS8: Finance & Investment

To establish the investment, financial strategy and pathways to achieve Net Zero Carbon, supporting Workstreams on Vision 2030 and helping to deliver high quality outcomes for residents in the community and our stakeholders.

Total	Complete	On track	Overdue	Off track
11	0	8	3	0

Finance & Investment Action Plan

Workstream Owner: Director of Finance, Paul Clarke

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Objectives

- To understand cost to achieve NZC and how to achieve it.
- High quality capital projects, delivered on time and on budget - putting our residents and community first.
- Maximising funding opportunities on NZC – limiting overall cost to taxpayer.
- Delivering benefits with green finance, private finance including Community Municipal Investment(s).
- Continued decarbonisation of our pension fund
- Long lasting (and effective) working relationships with internal/external stakeholders locally and nationally.

Highlights from the last 6 months

- Supported Capital Budget Setting including enhanced proposals for decarbonising council buildings (c. £18m)
- Conducted NZC impact assessment of council savings proposals (to feature in Budget Report)
- Member of a Climate Budgeting Working Group with GLA and 12 Boroughs to integrate NZ into Budget
- Worked with Consultants and LAs on Alternative Delivery Models eg: GreenSCIES, Bristol City Leap
- Networking in 3Ci Forums supporting a submission of Net Zero Neighbourhood expression of interest (Decision 2024)
- A review of the council's pension fund and assets this summer showed that we have cut direct emissions from our pension fund by 40% between 2021 and 2023
- Active participation across London Councils Climate Programmes (eg: Retrofit London working with GFI)
- Developed and Tendered Green Finance Fund EOI for match funding PSDS 3c c. £8m (subject to approval)
- Negotiated/Implemented GrantFinder software to maximise grant funding supporting financial strategy



Finance & Investment Action Plan

Workstream Owner: Director of Finance, Paul Clarke

Workstream Interdependencies			
WS1 ✓	WS3 ✓	WS5 ✓	WS7 ✓
WS2 ✓	WS4 ✓	WS6 ✓	WS8 ✓

Deliverable	Status	Start	End	Revised Start	Revised End	Comments (if Delayed)
Programme Development, Implementation and Governance						
Establish total cost of delivering NZC per workstream	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Co-ordinate Islington business cases and align to PMO principles	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Support the delivery of NZC capital/revenue programme through improved monitoring	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Net Zero Carbon Funding Strategy						
Enhance funding opportunities database with workstream leads	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Explore Green Finance opportunities in Islington	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Explore Private Finance opportunities and delivery models	On Track	Current	Ongoing			
Develop financial strategy in Workstream 1 targeting action on Retrofit	Overdue	Current	Sep-22		Mar-24	Funding mechanisms are not fully established (yet).
Our Investments and Pension Fund						
Enhance quality and frequency of reporting	On Track	Current	Mar-23			
Review investment strategy statement and approach to Environmental and Social Governance risk	On Track	Current	Mar-23			
Fundraising and Sponsorship Strategy						
Support the development of fundraising and sponsorship strategy with Workstream 4	Overdue	Jan-23	Mar-23		Mar-24	Working on deliverables with Green Economy Workstream.
Investigate alternative ownership models (inc. mutuals and cooperatives) with Workstream 4	Overdue	Jan-23	Mar-23		Mar-24	Working on deliverables with Green Economy Workstream.

Upcoming Activities

Continue work on Climate Budgeting w/GLA and London Boroughs to establish how much we spend and need to spend on NZC.

NZC Financial Strategy (includes green finance/private finance) in context of economic/political uncertainty (eg: rising interest rates).

Support major grant applications (opportunities include: £230m PSDS 3c, £36m LEVI, SHDF £TBCm...).

Support delivery of high quality capital projects (on time and on budget) including projects under the RE:FIT framework.

Work with consultants to finalise GreenSCIES Outline Business Case (subject to funding) with an appraisal of potential delivery models eg: JV ESCO.

Our investments and pension fund, together with our fundraising + sponsorship.