

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

E&R Scrutiny Committee

23rd November 2023

Climate Action

- In the recently published **Council Climate Action Scorecard**, Islington is in joint 5th position of all 186 UK single-tiered authorities.
- We have cut direct emissions from our **pension fund** by 40% between 2021 and 2023
- Developed and agreed a **Citizens Panel** model with an initial focus on climate action to be launched early 2024
- Development of the **Net Zero Supplementary Planning Document** underway, following a proactive engagement programme with residents, businesses, housing associations, and architects/developers.
- Free **planning advice** now available for householders on when planning permission is required for retrofit
- Over 200 **solar panels** now installed across five council buildings and ground source heat pump installed at New River College. Decarbonisation works for the Waste and Recycling Centre complete, with four more buildings underway including Archway Leisure Centre.
- UCL completed an **analysis of retrofitting and energy change** options for existing council housing stock.
- Successfully partnered ReLondon delivering **Circular Economy grants** for small businesses
- Joint action plan for reducing carbon emissions drafted with Anchor Institutions and launched in April 2023 with a six-week **Go Zero campaign**.

Energy Services

- 2022/23 **CO₂ emissions from fleet vehicles** were 2,379 tonnes, 3% lower than the target of 2,450.
- 2022/23 **CO₂ emissions from council buildings** were 2,029 tonnes, 17% lower than the target of 2,431 tonnes and representing an 11% reduction on 2021/22.
- Successful bids were made to the **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS)** for Archway Leisure Centre, Drayton Park Primary and King Henry's Walk care home, which will see gas boilers replaced with heat pumps and solar panels installed.
- **Feasibility studies** have now been carried out for 51 council buildings and schools, with a successful bid made to the Low Carbon Skills Fund for a further 31.
- **Solar panel arrays** were installed at four other council sites funded by Islington's Carbon Offset Fund.
- A successful bid was made to the **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund wave 2** to install energy efficiency measures at 371 council properties (raising them to an EPC C rating).
- **Energising Small Business** funding has been awarded to 167 applicants to date, delivering annual savings of 192 tonnes of CO₂ and an average saving to businesses of over £1,000 a year.

Fuel Poverty and Seasonal Health Interventions Network – SHINE

- Across 2022/23:
 - our **Energy Doctors** supported 1,168 Islington households, saving them an estimated £137k on bills and 651 tonnes of carbon.
 - our **Energy Advice Team** supported 339 households with debt and complex cases which has resulted in £8k debt relief. Demand for the debt service has tripled compared to 2021/22.
 - SHINE received 3,014 **unique household referrals** and delivered 11,800 interventions resulting in an estimated total of £1.4 million of savings for vulnerable residents.
- SHINE retained its pan-London advice contracts with EDF and the GLA . Several other boroughs have enquired about running SHINE schemes tailored to them.
- SHINE worked with colleagues to improve **referrals from other council services** (care leavers, blue badge, free school meals)
- SHINE is liaising with support organisations inside and outside the council on a **coordinated cost of living response** to ensure maximum take-up of the service.

Air Quality

- Supporting transport, inclusive economy and housing projects across the borough with **pollution monitoring** and working on reducing pollution from **construction equipment**.
- Surveyed ten care homes in the borough to **reduce vulnerable resident's exposure to air pollution**.
- Awarded **Defra funding** to trial real-time display of pollution monitoring data.
- Islington leading with Camden on London wide **wood burning research** and communications project.
- Investigating prevalence of **non-construction NRMM** ('Non-road mobile machinery') in the borough.
- Evaluating the first ever visitor mooring **electric charging points** along the Islington canal network.
- Published report with Global Action Plan on first of a kind programme to **train Islington GPs** on health effects of Air Pollution.
- Completed study with Groundwork and UEL on the **impact of road cleaning on particulate matter** pollution.
- Published report with Imperial College London on **wood burning impacts** in the borough.
- Supported outer London boroughs with the **Ultra-Low Emission Zone expansion** that now covers the whole of London.

Strategic Transport

- Top scoring inner London borough on the 2023 **Healthy Streets Scorecard**, for third successive year.
- **Removal of roundabouts** – Works continue at Old Street to complete the public realm improvements and finish works to the station entrance and fit out the shop units in the subway area. Final works to be complete by spring 2024 (new station entrance, lift and public realm improvements). Bath Street and Peerless Street traffic and environmental improvements mitigation scheme completed May 2023.
- 496 **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** have been installed to date with the end of 2023/24 target being 600.
- 500 **on-street bike hangars** have been installed to date, with the capacity for 3,000 bicycles. Target of 600 on-street hangars by the end of 2023/24, with commitment to meet demand and cut costs for lower-income households.
- The council has exceeded its commitment to reduce the number of **privately owned cars** in the borough by 6.9% from a 2016 baseline of 37,372 by 2041. The most recent figure (2021) is 34,217 (8.4% down).
- The next **Islington Transport Strategy biennial monitoring report**, which tracks progress against targets and commitments, due to be published spring 2024.
- People killed or seriously injured in **road traffic collisions** in Islington in 2022 was 111, up from 96 in 2021, as was the case with most other London boroughs as traffic returned to pre-pandemic levels. 49 of these were on TLRN roads and 60 on borough roads. There were 2 fatalities as compared to none in 2021.

Housing Estate transport developments

- Implemented over 130 estate **Traffic Management Orders** to maintain safe access for residents and services.
- Ongoing program of **re-purposing parking spaces** to promote cycling and recycling.
- Provided 2780 **secure cycle storage spaces** across 284 facilities in a variety of design solutions tailored to local needs and environmental context.
- Offering inclusive and accessible cycle storage provision for cargo and adapted cycles.
- Completing accessibility improvements such as a recent new wheelchair access ramp, with more to follow.
- **De-cluttering public rights** of way to modernise pedestrian access routes and encourage walking and mobility scooters.
- Increasing **mobility scooter storage and charging** facilities.

Transport Projects and people-friendly streets

- St Mary's Church and Amwell **Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN)** both now been made permanent. Six out of seven LTNs are now permanent.
- Significant progress made on development of new **Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN)**
 - **Mildmay** : 3rd round consultation – complete
 - **The Cally** : 2nd round co design - complete
 - **Barnsbury and Laycock**: 2nd round co design - complete
 - **Bunhill and Barbican, and Dartmouth Park** : 1st round early engagement – complete
 - Work on the first three expected to start in 24/25.
- Additional three **School Streets** made permanent with primary school programme virtually complete. **Sacred Heart** School Street and public realm improvements complete, including permanent traffic filter and two build-outs. Ongoing improvements to deliver the benefits of Street Streets to primary schools on main roads.
- **Nags Head to York Way cycleway** – design phase and consultation complete, construction to start in January.
- **Southgate Road/Northchurch Road junction** – design phase and consultation complete
- Work continues to deliver public realm projects at **Kings Square and Clerkenwell Green**, though latter has been suspended due to major local gas works.

Waste Minimisation and Recycling

- Islington's **residual waste per household** figure for 2022/23 was confirmed as 450.1kg, our second lowest ever and remaining one of the lowest across all London boroughs.
- Our 22/23 **recycling rate** however was 27.7%, the lowest since 2007/8. This downward trend is shared across most other NLWA boroughs and considered a combination of the impacts of the very hot summer on organics tonnages and more broadly the economic downturn, with shifting patterns of discretionary household spend and consumption.
- Second **Reduction and Recycling Plan** agreed in Feb 2023, setting new 2030 recycling commitment of 40%.
- **£500k estate recycling investment, more than £2m over three years**, to make recycling on estates easier and more convenient for residents.
- **Expansion of the food waste recycling service** to remaining suitable purpose-built blocks of flats. Current coverage is 75% with a target of 100% by March 2024.
- Trial of **food waste for flats above shops** (first in country) complete and ongoing project with ReLondon to improve recycling rates for flats above shops.
- Series of **repair cafes** held throughout 23/23 funded through social value contract donations.
- Aiming to reopen **Library of Things** in N4 Library in Spring 2024.

Street Services Cleansing Operational Performance

- Waste and recycling collections showing consistent good performance on reported monthly **missed collections**, averaging 265 across 22/23 compared to 262 in 21/22 and 289 in 20/21.
- 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.
- Missed waste and recycling collections (for both residents and businesses) have improved consistently with current levels running at half of what they were five years ago.
- Across 22/23 reported **fly-tip numbers across all land types** at 1,292 were down 8% on the 21/22 number, itself down 29% on 20/21. The proportion on the public highway being removed within 24 hours remains over 90%.
- On-street cleanliness surveys (LEQS) showed that **Litter levels** across the borough have improved consistently over the last few years, in 22/23 standing at 98.5% of surveyed 'transects' at or above a pre-defined acceptable standard.
- 22/23 levels of **Flyposting, Detritus (debris) and Graffiti**, also all improved on 21/22.
- The council has recently engaged an Environmental Protection contractor to operate **litter enforcement**, issuing on the spot Fixed Penalty Notices to offenders. To date over 1,100 fines have been issued for littering.

Fleet Decarbonisation

- **Electrification of the fleet** continues, now with 87 fully electric vehicles ranging from cars and vans to refuse vehicles. To date the electrified fleet includes six RCVs, five buses and nine vehicles at 3.5t and over.
- Additional **ebikes & e-cargo bikes** within Environmental Services well used by a variety of different services
- Installation of additional **power and charging infrastructure** has been completed at Cottage Road allowing wide-scale introduction of EVCPs to support the fleet transition.
- **Fiftyseven EVCPs with 134 total connection points have been installed** across ten council locations: the Waste & Recycling Centre, Pritchard Court, Laycock Centre, Fairbridge Road depot, Ecology Centre, 222 Upper Street, Newington Barrow Way, Randells Rd, Town Hall & Central Library
- Alongside the work on electrification the team are also working on **delivering a strategy to manage the reduction of the total number of vehicles** the council operates to deliver services. This will support the reduction of the total environmental and financial impact of the council's fleet and promote more sustainable transport solutions.
- The team is also working in conjunction with several other services across the council on the **energy masterplan workstream** to look at the variety of decarbonisation programmes taking place at the WRC and realise opportunities to ensure the site is making best use of it's upgraded electrical capacity.

Parks and Trees

- The new **Parks for Health Strategy** is being implemented through the provision (by the council and partners) of over four hundred health and wellbeing activities in parks, and with 260 Green Social Prescribing Referrals for people with health problems.
- 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 8 other parks including a Gold and category win for Granville Road Gardens in the Small Park Category. The borough also won the **Best Horticultural Health & Wellbeing Award** and **Best Community Engagement Award**.
- Three more Islington parks and open spaces have awarded Green Flag status in Keep Britain Tidy Green Flag Awards, taking the total to thirteen. The latest addition of parks awarded were **Duncan Terrace Gardens, Canonbury Square, and Grenville Row Gardens**.
- Continued strong community participation in our parks with **45 Friends of Parks groups** signed up to the Friends of Parks Charter and over 12,300 volunteer hours delivered across 22/23.
- We planted 451 **new trees** on streets and in parks in 22/23, though losses (including weather related) were also high at 318. Along with the (net) new 84 on Housing land, this gives a net new trees total for 22/23 of 217. The council has the ambition of six hundred net new trees a year.

Greening the Borough

- **Islington Greener Together** – 13 of the round one projects have now been delivered and a further 7 will be complete by the end of this year and another 12 by the end of March 24.
- First new Islington designed parklet installed at Mayton Street.
- Robert Blair School Street greening scheme completed.
- Cleveland Road Community Rain garden completed.
- New pocket park created in partnership with Central District Alliance in Clerkenwell.
- Greener Together Champions programme in partnership with Groundwork launched.
- **Green Finance for 'Islington Pocket Park Framework'** project has developed a draft pocket park design framework which is being ground tested with the Cultivating Cally project and now at investor testing phase.
- Joint internal training programme delivered for Highways and engineering staff around the delivery of green infrastructure with Camden.
- Second round of Islington Greener Together proposed for February 2024

Cemeteries

- In 22/23 Islington and Camden Cemetery Service facilitated **2,198 funerals** (902 burials and 1,294 cremations), representing a slight decrease on previous years as demand for services return to pre Covid volumes.
- **Memorials Sales** have continued to grow, contributing nearly £250k to the services ringfenced account for reinvestment.
- Key projects around further **Burial Ground development** and **Burial Vaults** have been delivered increasing capacity and providing variation in choice for our residents.
- Key projects moving forward include development works around our **Reclamation Strategy** (delivering around new 9,000 burial plots) will continue along with and **Grounds and Infrastructure improvements**.