

Meeting

Environment and Climate Change Committee

Date and time

Tuesday 14th March, 2023

At 7.00 pm

Venue

Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
9	Sustainability Strategy Update	3 - 28

Tracy Scollin Tel 020 83592315 tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

	<p>Environment & Climate Change Committee</p> <p>14 March 2023</p> <p style="text-align: right;">AGENDA ITEM 9</p>
Title	Sustainability Strategy Update
Report of	Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Request for call off under the MCF3 Framework
Officer Contact Details	<p>Deputy Chief Executive – Cath Shaw Cath.shaw@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Director of Growth – Stephen McDonald stephen.mcdonald@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>(Interim) Assistant Director for Sustainability – Yogita Popat yogita.popat@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary

This paper provides an overview of the progress against Barnet’s Net Zero commitments and the actions taken since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (25 January 2023)

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the progress on the Sustainability Strategy since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee update (25 January 2023).
2. The Committee note and approve the ongoing work to develop a holistic business case for the delivery and financing options of Barnet Council’s Net Zero Portfolio; and that an update to these options is brought to a later cabinet meeting
3. The Committee delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee and statutory financial S151 Officer to progress and deliver a crowdfunding platform in Barnet to support Net Zero projects in the community.

<p>4. That the Committee approve the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee enter into a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period.</p>
<p>5. The Committee note the progress on delivery of a Citizen’s Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity</p>
<p>6. The Committee notes the ongoing work to develop and implement initiatives to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and confirms that this work should continue.</p>

1. Why this report is needed.

1.1 This report is presented to the Committee to provide an update on progress on the Sustainability Strategy since the last Committee meeting which was provided to the Environment & Climate Change Committee on 25 January 2023, with the following recommendations:

- That the Committee note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (21 November 2022)
- The Committee note the progress on delivery of a Citizen’s Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity
- The Committee note the outcomes of the Engagement Workshop held in March/April 2022 and the progress against actions since these sessions.
- The Committee notes the ongoing work to develop and implement initiatives to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and confirms that this work should continue

This report provides an update on key areas of progress since the previous update; most notably:

- Financing the Net Zero Portfolio including using Crowdfunding to support Net Zero projects within Barnet
- Ernst & Young Consultancy Call-off
- Update on the progress of the Citizen’s Assembly and Young People’s Assembly
- Roadmap to Net Zero

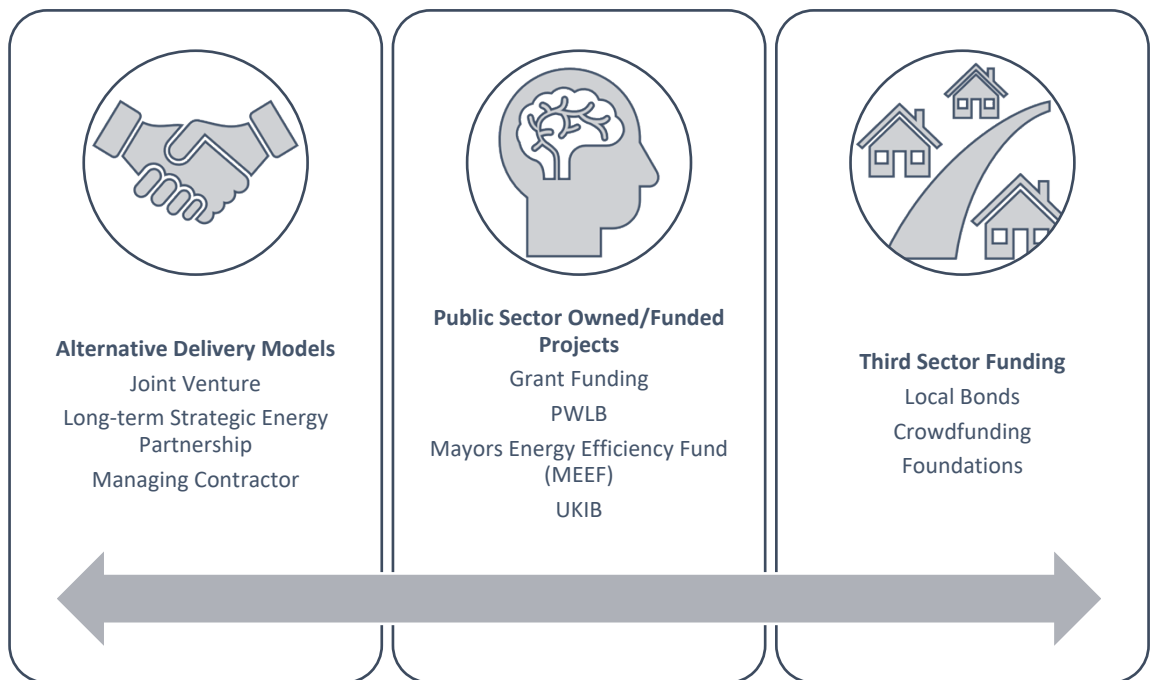
1.2 Financing the Net Zero Portfolio

Research was undertaken on the models that have been used (or are currently being used) to deliver sustainability projects and programmes across a number of sub-sectors, which reflect Barnet Councils sustainability action plan. Sustainability projects are financed and delivered in a variety of ways, and the models depend on the context of the specific project being delivered, or the portfolio in which it sits.

The models identified ranged from comparatively simple models for small

projects with high levels of local authority control and low levels of risk (e.g., a project delivered directly by the local authority using grant funding), to more complex models which utilise technical expertise within the private sector that operate over a longer period (e.g., a Strategic Energy Partnership approach).

The financing model and delivery model can be highly interdependent, informing and influencing the possibility and probability of success. In summary, Net Zero Projects will broadly fit into one of three categories as illustrated in Figure 1:



Work is currently on-going to produce a LAEP (Local Area Energy Plan) for Barnet, this is due to be completed in mid-2023. The outcomes from the LAEP will be used to help align the characteristics of underlying individual projects within the Sustainability Action Plan, to identify how these projects may be packaged for delivery and financing. A robust holistic business case will be developed, that will identify the preferred delivery and financing models for our Net Zero Program. We will report back to a future Cabinet meeting with the outcomes of LAEP and the business case.

In addition to developing the above business case, we have an opportunity to use the momentum gained from the BarNET Zero campaign. We have a borough wide target of achieving net zero by 2042 and a key success factor of achieving this will be bringing the residents, communities and businesses on the journey with us.

Crowdfunding with match funding is one such way of driving this initiative forward. It engages the residents and communities and shows collective responsibility. Officers are exploring options to set up a crowdfunding platform, a match-funding pot will be set-up to enhance projects which meet certain criteria. We will use the opportunity to identify local partners who may want to also support community projects through their corporate social responsibility and thereby increasing our

match-funding pot. A dedicated task and finish group will be set-up bringing together various teams across the council to scope out how it will operate.

This paper is seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee (or Lead Cabinet member whichever structure is in place at the time) in conjunction with the Chief Officer and S151 Officer to set up a Crowdfunding Platform for Net Zero Projects in Barnet.

1.3 **EY Consultancy Call Off Contract**

The Chair of Environment & Climate Change Committee seeks the following resolution from the Environment & Climate Change Committee:

- The approval of a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via MCF3 on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period with the authority delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee as outlined at Appendix 1 to this report.
- That the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee enter into a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period. The total Call-Off Contract value shall not exceed £300,000 per annum and any call will be subject to sufficient budget being made available.

See Appendix 1

1.4 **Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly Update**

- **Delivery** of both the assembly sessions has started with the Citizens' Assembly being launched on 21 Feb and the Young People's Assembly on 4 March. The sessions will conclude by late May, with reporting and further participant engagement to follow. All Assembly sessions are being held at Middlesex University.
- **Input and evidence** for the process will continue to be shaped by the Independent Expert Advisory Group, with input from the Oversight & Scrutiny Panel and sign off from the Planning Team.
- **Evaluation** is being conducted by academics from Middlesex University to analyse the learning journey participants experience and the impact of the assembly's recommendations. Participants will conduct short surveys throughout the process with the option to take part in interviews once the Assembly has concluded.
- **Communications** are ongoing to highlight the focus of each assembly session and share access to live 'Show and Shares' which take place frequently to update members of the public on the outcomes of each session. Additionally, a BarNET-ZERO e-bulletin has been launched for

residents to sign up to and receive updates on the Assembly's progress and wider Sustainability work.

- **Final Reporting** on the process will take place from June 2023. Council officers in the Sustainability Team will take responsibility for action planning, monitoring and impact assessment of the outputs from the process. The Planning Team will work with Assembly Members to agree a review mechanism and how, those who wish to be, can continue to be involved in the implementation of the recommendations.
- **Launch of recommendations** will take place in July 2023 after the recommendations have been noted by Cabinet.

Update on Young People's Assembly (11-17 years old)

- **Recruitment** of 20 young people (including 5 co-designers) has now been completed.
- **Design:** The 5 co-designers met on 1st February to learn about the process of the assembly and help design the 3 main sessions taking place on 4th March, 1st April and 13th May.

Further updates on the progress of both the Citizen's Assembly and Young People's Assembly will be provided through our website: [Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity 2023 | Engage Barnet](#)

1.5 Roadmap to Net Zero

Update on portfolio progress: Since the previous update given to Environment and Climate Change Committee (25 January 2023), service areas have moved forward with the implementation and delivery of many projects, including:

- Work is ongoing to trial a Library of Things in the borough. This would promote a sharing economy and make it easy for residents to borrow the household items they need, while saving money and reducing waste. Potential sites with proven community interest, high footfall and co-located in buildings with other community assets, such as a library or community centre, are being identified by the Estates and Economic Development Teams. The LoT is financially self-sustaining but set up funding (c.£44k) and ongoing promotion/community engagement is needed to make it successful.
- Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Tool: work has commenced in scoping a decision-making tool which will enable us to review the impact of decisions on sustainability. The aim is that the tool will be included as part of Cabinet reporting going forward, embedding sustainability in the heart of everything we do.
- Funding opportunities and collaborations are being explored and scoped including Innovate UK and HDRC.
- Early stages scoping on partnership collaborations with Hitachi linking to

South London Partnership in facilitating accessing funding for Microsoft led sensors to measure air quality.

- Final Report for Green Jobs and Skills in West London has been published (for 2020) with the projections of jobs by occupation for 2030. Main findings to be assessed and transposed to Barnet's local picture. From the report: "We find that if West London's sectoral changes are in proportion to the rest of the UK then overall employment in London could increase by around 10,200 by 2030, and 3,700 by 2050 due to the move to net zero policies compared to current policies".
- Barnet led a consortium bid with 11 other boroughs for £900,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Funding to deliver a support programme for construction sector SMEs (April 2023 to March 2025). The aim of the project is to help more SMEs get the skills and certification they need to deliver publicly funded retrofit projects for domestic and non-domestic buildings and become 'retrofit supplier ready.' The GLA will announce their decision on all UKSPF applications at the end of April 2023.
- Barnet Homes have been preparing an update to the Housing Strategy 2023-28, with the draft for public consultation and engagement being presented at Housing and Growth Committee on 23rd March. Sustainability has been embedded within the key outcomes of the draft strategy, with an ambition to tackle the climate emergency through increasing the energy efficiency of existing homes and working to achieve the council's net zero carbon targets.
- As part of the successful application for funding by West London Retrofit Consortium, Barnet Homes officers have been supporting the delivery of the Sustainable Warmth Competition within the borough. The Consortium is preparing a mailout to identify and engage with eligible off-gas properties, with the delivery of works expected to be extended up to September 2023.
- Alongside the Sustainable Warmth Competition, officers are also working with Warmworks to deliver Phase Two of the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme. Fabric first installations were completed in 24 eligible social homes in September 2022, with remaining works taking place in 11 remaining properties in March 2023.
- Alongside grant funding initiatives, Barnet Homes are delivering energy saving initiatives to tenants to help support tenants in the immediate or short term through HRA funding. These initiatives include top up loft insulation in homes and an energy saving pack consisting of Radiator heat reflectors, draught strip and LED light bulbs.
- Barnet Homes are participating in a pan-London consortia led bid by the GLA for Phase Two of the Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2, which aims to raise the energy efficiency rating of off-gas homes and help eligible properties in bands D-G become more energy efficiency through upgrades to the heating system through to 2025. The consortia are awaiting the outcome of the application from BEIS, and developing a collaborative approach to data and engagement to identify eligible properties across the boroughs.

- As part of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3, installation is ongoing of air source heat pumps, solar PV and radiator upgrades to 21 schools and Family Services buildings, all due to complete in March 2023.
- Work has commenced to define a 'fabric first' project to retrofit all corporate buildings, with the 2030 target in mind. A c.£12m initial phase has been approved in-principle and scoping of interventions on 11, mostly school sites, to produce costed work plans, is underway. Interventions are likely to include double glazing, external wall insulation and heat curtains, and will be followed by the installation of further air source heat pumps to replace gas boilers, subject to affordability.
- Funding has been secured from the Prevention Fund to support a 'deep' retrofit of a school caretakers' home to at least EPC-B with gas free heating. Works are due to begin in Spring 23, and will include loft insulation and window glazing, alongside the installation of solar PV, low temperature radiators and heat pump technologies. Alongside this pilot project, officers are also exploring retrofit activities such as double glazing, external wall insulation and heat curtains across a number of schools.
- Planning officers are actively participating in a Towards Net Zero Carbon Study with other London boroughs and led by the Greater London Authority. The study identifies opportunities to review local planning policies closer to the Mayor's London Plan targets and may impact the amount of carbon offset payments generated through future developments. The final study and report is expected in spring 2023.
- Revision of the Barnet Long-Term Transport Strategy is currently being scoped with a view to presenting proposals for consideration by Cabinet in September, together with a suggested engagement and consultation plan. The revision will take account of developments since the original strategy was published in 2020, including the Council's declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency. It will highlight safe, convenient and integrated transport options that enable all Barnet's people, neighbourhoods and communities to have a choice of sustainable ways to access what they need for a full, healthy life for themselves and their successors - and helps put the borough at the forefront in addressing climate change and other environmental, economic and social challenges.
- Work is progressing simultaneously on two electric vehicle charge point projects, which will allow the council to build on its existing suite of over 200 charge points. The innovative nature of these projects is further highlighted by the fact that the EV charging programme has been shortlisted for the LGC Future Places Award.
- Using £3.5m of government funding, the council is installing 470 surface mounted Trojan charge points across 33 locations, installation of these started in October 2022, and is due to complete by the end of April 2023 with the first streets operational from April 2023.
- The council has secured £1.65m of LEVI funding in Summer 2022 to support the rollout of 100 Jolt charge points – this has subsequently been expanded by £427k to support the installation of an additional 20 charge

points. Jolt offer a combined charge point and digital advertising display which, through its dual income stream, allows the council to lower the costs of charging to users. Installations are expected to begin later this year.

- Development of the next phase of the school streets programme has commenced with eight schools to participate in this tranche, with the programme aiming to improve safety around the school, reduce congestion, improve air quality and promote active travel choices.
- Officers have been developing the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2023-28 to help improve air quality in Barnet, reduce impacts on public health, encourage sustainable transport and support climate change measures, which is being presented for approval separately to this committee.
- Officers are continuing to explore options around switching towards a Green Energy supplier to further reduce the council's carbon footprint, whilst delivering a return on investment. Alongside this, officers are also looking into opportunities to enter into a Private Power Agreement (PPA), both as a partner initiative with other London boroughs, and directly through a smaller-scale agreement. If successfully procured, the PPA will not only provide accredited renewable power for council assets but also ensure that additional renewable energy capacity is added to the grid.
- The council is working sub-regionally with the West London Alliance (WLA) to develop a Local Area Energy Plan, due for publication in April 2023, which will baseline current energy demand and usage, and help the council plan for future scenarios based upon planned growth. As part of this project, officers are working to co-ordinate current and future constraints on the heat network, whilst also exploring options to take forward future outputs to inform a detailed boroughwide energy masterplan.

1.6 Reasons for recommendations

Recommendation 1: an update is provided to the Committee to provide assurance on progress against our Sustainability Action Plan, the committee is asked to note progress of this work.

Recommendation 2: as the financing model and delivery model are highly interdependent, informing and influencing the possibility and probability of success a holistic business case will enable us to identify the interdependencies and impact of our actions. The committee is asked to note this work taking place and that we continue with this.

Recommendation 3: we have an opportunity to use the momentum gained from the BarNET Zero campaign. Crowdfunding is one such way of bringing community action together at a local level. It engages the residents and communities and shows collective responsibility. The committee are asked to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee and statutory financial S151 Officer to progress and deliver a crowdfunding platform in Barnet to support Net

Zero projects in the community.

Recommendation 4: In the next phase of the delivery of our strategy, we wish to have continued external specialist consultancy support to help develop projects and finance options for the delivery of the programme. The Committee approve the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee enter into a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period.

Recommendation 5: the Citizen's Assembly and Young People's Assembly, will be one of the ways we engage with residents across Barnet to hear their views and recommendations on how we can together work to becoming a more sustainable borough; an update is provided to the committee to show progress against this work and the delivery against timescales set out in the report on 25 January 2023.

Recommendation 6: the committee is asked to note the progress to date on developing the climate action plan, associated commitments and objectives. It is recognised that in achieving our Sustainability goals these will have a wider health, economic and social benefits, as well as environmental ones. Much work has already taken place in delivering actions across the organisation in these areas and a wider Transformation Programme is being developed across the organisation, that will enable the council to maintain its momentum in this area, as well as demonstrating its wider intentions to residents, businesses and partner organisations.

2. Alternative options considered and not recommended

- 2.1 The alternative to the actions and progress outlined in this paper is to do nothing. As the Council declared a Climate & Biodiversity Emergency in May 2022 and set out its ambitions to be a net zero Council by 2030 and as a place by no later than 2042, doing nothing is not an option and cannot be recommended.

3. Implication of the decision

3.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan is a key corporate priority for the council, which cares for its people, place and planet.

3.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- Finance & Value for Money: Any financial implications arising from the action plan requiring additional investment will be considered through the

Council's delegations and established governance arrangements.

- Additional funding opportunities are available, including those generated by the council through Section 106, carbon off-set fund and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL). Previous reporting to this Committee outlined successful bids for external funding sources which will form part of the overall budget envelope.
- Feasibility studies and delivery plans will be developed as part of this work; but will not be a barrier to the council delivering its ambitious plans, at pace and with rigour. These will include estimated project costs, staffing and other resource requirements, and potential sources of funding. This will inform the Value-for-Money proposition to the Council.
- The council must, by statute, set a balanced budget each year. It is good financial management practice to also set a Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) over a 3-5 year timeframe. Any proposed deliverables arising from the work should not have a negative impact to the council's financial sustainability. Where deliverables have costs exceeding planned resources, it is expected that officers responsible for delivery will mitigate these costs through appropriate actions, for example value engineering of large capital programmes.
- Procurement: any procurement proposals identified as a result of the Action Plan will be subject to procurement in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Additional procurement requirements arising from the development of the workstreams will be authorised in accordance with value and as appropriate under the council's contract procurement rules and delegated authority of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, as approved at the Environment & Climate Change committee in September 2022; the full cost of this is being analysed and continuously being refined as the landscape and technologies improve.

- Staffing: additional resources may be required post approval of this report, to further develop the proposals, manage projects and support with the development and implementation of any actions. This will be undertaken via delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive as approved at Environment and Climate Change Committee in June 2022.
- IT: at this time there are no direct implications
- Property: at this time there are no implications
- Sustainability: the report specifically notes the positive impact on all three aspects of Sustainability (Social, Economic and Environmental). A Sustainability Decision Making Wheel is being developed which will help the organisation to assess the impact on sustainability of decisions.

3.3 Legal and Constitutional References

National Legislation

- The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for the UK

to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to a 1990 baseline. In June 2019, the target was updated to reach net zero by 2050. In April 2021, the UK government committed to reducing emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The Environment Act 2021 gained Royal Assent on 9th November 2021 with an aim to develop similar legally binding targets for biodiversity, air quality, water, and waste.

- Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 places a general duty on the Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity and it must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistent with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. After that consideration the authority must (unless it concludes there is no new action it can properly take), determine such policies and specific objectives as it considers appropriate for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective, and take such action as it considers appropriate, in the light of those policies and objectives, to further that objective.
- The Localism Act 2011 includes a 'general power of competence' which gives local authorities the legal capacity to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited
- In London, the Mayor is required to prepare and publish a London Environment Strategy by the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended).

International Legislation

- The Paris Agreement set the international target to limit global temperature rise to well below 2°C with the aim of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The IPCC's follow up report stated that this requires a global reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 45% by 2030¹
- Legal challenges to governmental policies on carbon management have been made in the European Court of Human Rights, particularly by Dutch environmental pressure groups, relying on provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights which are given effect to in UK domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998, particularly the provisions relating to the right to life, private and family rights, and the right to effective remedies. The European Court on Human Rights has consistently rejected the proposition that the European Convention on Human Rights confers general rights to environmental protection (*Kyrtatos v Greece* and *Fadeyeva v Russia*). The Dutch Supreme Court has, however, found that the state is responsible for excessive emissions, triggering positive emissions reduction obligations, based on the provisions in the European Convention on Human Rights relating to right to life and privacy and family life. Such a position has not yet been established in the UK, although it has been found that the establishment of a direct 'causal nexus' between a 'real and immediate threat' to individual rights may trigger a positive obligation on a state to take action (*Osman v UK*).

¹ [UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law)

Council Constitution

- The Council's Constitution, Article 7 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, sets out the functions of the Environment and Climate Change Committee:
 - 1) Responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-area matters relating to the local environment including: air quality, cycling, walking and healthy streets, biodiversity, transport and public transport, grounds maintenance, highways, on-street and off-street parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, environmental crime (including littering, fly-tipping fly-posting, and graffiti), the council's fleet, waste and recycling, waterways, parks and open spaces (including allotments and trees), cemeteries, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health (except environmental health functions relating to housing and fire safety).
 - 2) Responsibility for the council's response to the climate emergency including:
 - Setting and overseeing implementation of carbon reduction targets, both in relation to the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place
 - Developing strategies to meet those carbon reduction targets
 - Developing strategies for the mitigation of the impacts of climate change, both on the council as an organisation and Barnet as a place
 - Implementing the elements of those strategies that relate to functions listed in (1) above.

3.4 Insight

- The council will take an evidence-driven approach to ensure that we are taking the most impactful action. Therefore, data and insight will be used to develop our action plan and monitoring thereof of it.

3.5 Social Value

- There are no immediate Social Value implications attached to this report. However, the Social Value policy and toolkit contains sustainability measures so we would therefore expect any procurement to actively support the utilisation of those measures in support the delivery our sustainability and carbon reduction aims.

3.6 Risk Management

- The Council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. Managing risk will be an essential part of programme management and will be considered in the development of the action plan and Strategy. Risk will also be considered at the feasibility stage for specific projects.

3.7 Equalities and Diversity

- Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the Council. Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:
- A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - *Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
 - *Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
 - *Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*
- Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard to the need to:
 - *Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;*
 - *Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;*
 - *Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.*
- The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
 - *Tackle prejudice, and*
 - *Promote understanding.*
- Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:

- *Age*
- *Disability*
- *Gender reassignment*
- *Pregnancy and maternity*
- *Race*
- *Religion or belief*
- *Sex*
- *Sexual orientation*
- *Marriage and civil partnership*
- Each proposal will consider equalities and be cognisant of the fact that some protected characteristics could be affected more than others. Due to the breadth of issues and projects covered in this report, it is not possible to provide all the necessary impacts and information at this time. As appropriate, individual Equalities Impact Assessments will be undertaken as the proposals are developed.

3.8 Corporate Parenting

- In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the Council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the Council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the Council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the Council does. To this end, great attention has been paid to the needs of children in care and care leavers when approaching business planning, to ensure decisions are made through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do for their own child.
- Climate change will hold greater implications for children and young people, and future generations than it does current adults residing in Barnet. Our surveys of children and young people highlight the strength of feeling they have around climate action. The Corporate Parenting Principles have been considered in the development of this report and will continue to be considered in the development of the strategy; they will also be considered in the development of the Equalities Impact Assessment

3.9 Consultation and Engagement

- The formation of a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity will engage with all relevant sectors of the Barnet community and will be undertaken in line with the council's corporate guidelines
- Engaging with citizen's, communities and businesses is at the heart of delivering our Sustainability Strategy and a wider plan of engagement is being developed. The outcomes of this will form part of our Action Plan where appropriate.

3.10 Environmental Impact

- The delivery of an ambitious sustainability action plan will enable us to deliver on our commitment to climate change; this work will have a positive impact on our borough and the environment in which we live, work and visit. The proposals included in this report aim to improve the sustainability of Barnet's environment and will have wide ranging environmental impacts which should provide a net positive impact. The potential benefits of the proposals are detailed throughout the report, and their environmental impact will be assessed on a project-by-project basis when conducting feasibility studies and delivery plans

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 Work will continue to implement a borough-wide Citizen's Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity; in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

Since our initial report to the Environment and Climate Change Committee in June 2022, work to deliver and monitor the impact of existing and new carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives is continuing; we recognise the need to work at pace whilst being agile in an ever-changing landscape

5. Background papers

- 5.1 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee, 11 March 2021 - [A4 Letterhead \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 5.2 Sustainability Strategy Framework – Policy & Resources Committee, 9 December 2021 - [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 5.3 London Borough of Barnet Air Quality Annual Status Report for 2021, May 2021 - [Barnet Air Quality Annual Status Report 2020 \(ODT, 835KB\) | Barnet Council](#)
- 5.4 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee 9 June 2022 - [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 5.5 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022 - [Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Tuesday 6th September, 2022, 7.00 pm | Barnet Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 5.6 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 21 November 2022 - [Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Monday 21st November, 2022, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 5.7 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 25 January 2023 - [Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Wednesday 25th January, 2023, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendix 1: Decision Report to call off under MCF3 Framework



Councils Thematic
Committee the Enviro

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX 1

Summary

Barnet is in the process of continuing delivery of the Sustainability Strategy to enable the borough to become more sustainable and to meet net zero targets of 2030 as an organisation and 2042 as a place. In the next phase, we wish to have continued external specialist consultancy support to help develop projects and finance options for the delivery of the programme.

We are proposing to enter a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via Management Consultancy Framework Three (MCF3) on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period. The total Call-Off Contract value shall not exceed £300,000 per annum and any call will be subject to sufficient budget being made available.

The Environment & Climate Change Committee¹ noted the existing delegations to officers to develop and implement initiatives to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and confirmed work should continue.

Thematic Committee Decision

- 1. To approve and sign a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via MCF3 on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period with the authority delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Environment & Climate Change Committee.**

1. Why this report is needed

- 1.1 In May 2022, Council noted the declaration of Climate and Bio-diversity Emergency, at this meeting there was a commitment to move further faster than before; therefore the net zero target for the borough was brought forward to 2042 and as a council to 2030.
- 1.2 Following this meeting, a paper was presented at the Environment & Climate Change committee in June 2022, where it was noted *'the Sustainability Strategy Framework outlines the council's ambitious net zero targets and proposes a high-level roadmap to allow the organisation and the borough to meet them; further development of the workstreams will enable us to go further and faster in achieving our commitments. And that the implementation of these commitments and the development of a Sustainability Strategy may require further work, such as bidding for external funding, and spending in line with the objectives of this funding; repurposing existing delegated budgets across the organisation; and advancing corporate resources in line with financial regulation and Framework.'* The committee approved and noted, *'Chief Officer approval will enable the programme to remain agile in its deliver of our commitments'*. This report seeks to use this delegation to moved forward the delivery of our action plan at pace.
- 1.3 A relationship with Ernst and Young has been in place since April 2022 supporting the Sustainability Team. The last phase of work ended on 31/12/2022.

¹ [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

- 1.4 We are proposing to enter a Call-Off Contract with Ernst and Young via MCF3 on a 2-year basis with a 1-year optional extension period.
- 1.5 The work will provide continuity on the delivery of an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Decision Making Tool and the established Net Zero Estates project. The work will also include pilot revenue generation projects: an inseting funding pilot and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) regulations project. This demonstrates continuity of delivery against the sustainability strategy agenda and integration with work Ernst and Young have previously completed.
- 1.6 The Council may require additional support until the expiry date of the contract, the details and price for which shall be agreed. The total Call-Off Contract value shall not exceed £300,000 per annum and will be subject to sufficient budget being made available.

2. Reasons for recommendations

- 2.1 The contract will support the council to deliver priority projects in our sustainability strategy at pace; and support the programme by piloting financing options that will enable us to deliver against our Net Zero targets.
- 2.2 We have an established relationship with Ernst and Young who have familiarity with projects already in train, providing additional value in being able to progress quickly, without having start the work from scratch.
- 2.3 Any alternative supplier would have to repeat work which would cost more (both directly and in officer time). This would also take longer, and the outputs from this work are required to inform and deliver our Net Zero goals at pace.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1 This paper notes the work already taken place, ambitious net zero targets, and recognises the need to move faster. The 'do nothing option' is not recommended.
- 3.2 Alternatively, the Council could appoint an alternative supplier, however this is not recommended as it would be a costlier and lengthier process, as outlined above.
- 3.3 The call-off contract will enable us to move towards achieving our ambitious targets.

4. Post decision implementation

- 4.1 After approval, the Council will sign a Call off Contract with Ernst and Young.
- 4.2 An update will be taken to the next meeting Environment & Climate Change Committee.

5. Implications of decision

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.1.1 Following the declaration of a climate emergency, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan is a key corporate priority for the council.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Finance & Value for Money: At a meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) in July 2022, a budget was approved to support the delivery of the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan. Funding for the proposals noted within this report will be considered further in the development of detailed action plans, and resourced within the budget envelope approved by P&R.

5.2.2 Any proposed deliverables arising from the work should not have a negative impact to the council's financial sustainability.

5.2.3 In accordance with single tender action Contract Procedure Rules 6.2 authorisation has been sought and granted.

5.2.4 IT: at this time there are no direct implications.

5.2.5 Property: at this time there are no implications.

5.2.6 Sustainability: the report specifically notes the positive impact on all three aspects of Sustainability (Social, Economic and Environmental). A Sustainability Decision Making Wheel is being developed which will help the organisation to assess the impact on sustainability of decisions.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 In line with Article 10, (Decision Making) Table B provides the authorisation and acceptance thresholds for procurement values above £500,000. Accordingly, this is being made in line with the Council's Thematic Committee, which the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

5.3.2 National Legislation

- The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 compared to a 1990 baseline. In June 2019, the target was updated to reach net zero by 2050. In April 2021, the UK government committed to reducing emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The Environment Act 2021 gained Royal Assent on 9th November 2021 with an aim to develop similar legally binding targets for biodiversity, air quality, water, and waste.

5.4 Insight

5.4.1 The council will take an evidence-driven approach to ensure that we are taking the most impactful action. The development of an ESG Decision-making Tool will enable us to take an insight driven approach to decision making and ensure that these are evidence based.

5.5 Social Value

5.5.1 There are no immediate Social Value implications attached to this report. However, the Social Value policy and toolkit contains sustainability measures so we would therefore expect the contract to actively support the utilisation of those measures in support the delivery our sustainability and carbon reduction aims.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 The Council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. Managing risk will be an essential part of programme management and will be considered. Any projects or activity undertaken as part of this contract will have its own risk review undertaken as part of its delivery.

5.7 Equalities and Diversity

5.7.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the Council. Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty require elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

5.7.2 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.7.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 5.7.4 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 5.7.5 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- Tackle prejudice, and
 - Promote understanding.
- 5.7.6 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
 - Marriage and civil partnership

5.8 **Corporate Parenting**

5.8.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.9 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.9.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

5.10 **Environmental Impact**

5.10.1 Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact.

5.11 Background papers

- 5.11.1 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee, 11 March 2021 - A4 Letterhead (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.2 Sustainability Strategy Framework – Policy & Resources Committee, 9 December 2021 - Committee Report (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.3 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee 9 June 2022 - Committee Report (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.4 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 6 September 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Tuesday 6th September, 2022, 7.00 pm | Barnet Council (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.5 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 21 November 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Monday 21st November, 2022, 7.00 pm (moderngov.co.uk)
- 5.11.6 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 21 November 2022 - Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee, Wednesday 25th January 2023 (moderngov.co.uk)

Decision taker's statement

I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations. The decision is compliant with the principles of decision making in Article 10 of the constitution.

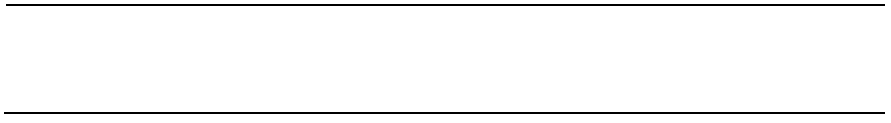
Chair:

Cllr Alan Schneiderman

Signed

On behalf Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Date



Report Clearance Checklist
(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)

Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chair, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.

This report is for decisions with a value between £213,477 and less than £500,000 but excluding all key decisions – if in doubt please contact the Governance Team – Governanceservice@barnet.gov.uk

This report must not be implemented until cleared by both the relevant Committee Chair and Chief Officer. Both names should be listed on the cover page in the ‘Report of’ section.

Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time.

Author to complete table below:

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chair	15/02/23	Cllr Alan Schneiderman
Chief Officer	14/02/23	Craig Miller
HB Public Law		
Finance	09/02/23	Ashley Hughes
Governance	08/02/23	Paul Frost