



## Environment & Climate Change Committee

21 November 2022

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sustainability Strategy Update</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A – Timeline of Citizen’s Assembly Appendix B – Citizen’s Assembly Principles Appendix C – Citizen’s Assembly Governance Arrangements
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### 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 (6 September 2022)<sup>1</sup>

### Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (6 September 2022)
2. The Committee note the progress on delivery of a Citizen’s Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity.

<sup>1</sup> [Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Tuesday 6th September, 2022, 7.00 pm | Barnet Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

**3. The Committee notes the ongoing work to develop and implement initiatives to deliver reductions in carbon emissions and confirms that this work should continue.**

## **1. Why this report is needed**

1.1 A report was provided to the Environment & Climate Change Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with the following recommendations:

- That the Committee note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (9 June 2022)
- The Committee note the outcomes of the engagement workshops held in March/April 2022; and note the outcomes of these workshops will be used in wider engagement work later in the year.
- 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 the progress on some of the key areas of delivery in our Sustainability Action Plan; most notably:

- Citizen's Engagement and Citizen's Assembly
- Development of Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan
- Communications and Engagement
- Roadmap to Net Zero

### **Citizen's Engagement and Citizen's Assembly Update**

1.2 **Citizen's Engagement:** we recognise, citizen's engagement will be a key driver to the delivery of the Borough's ambitious commitments; a dedicated Sustainability Engagement Officer, with responsibility for this work, has been appointed and is progressing work, including:

- *Youth Engagement:* work has commenced to develop a strategy for impactful youth engagement which builds upon previous activities and engagement plans already in place. We aim to create initiatives that raise awareness and empower young people to play an active role in promoting and influencing sustainable behaviour in their communities. As part of this plan, we are working with stakeholders that hold strong ties with schools and young people in the borough including, Family Services, BELS (Barnet Education and Learning Service), Mums for Lungs, the Barnet Youth Assembly and Project Earth Rock.
- *Design, differently:* run by the design Council, *Design, differently* looks to discuss, and celebrate the ways that community organisations are working together to meet the challenges faced by the climate crisis. We are working with Inclusion Barnet on this project, and through a series of collaborative design sessions, we will work together to explore new ways to communicate

and influence sustainable and innovative solutions locally.

- **Building Case Studies:** to show our progress, and identify areas of best practice, we will begin to capture and track stories that showcases our path to becoming one of London's most sustainable boroughs. This is intrinsic in our communications strategy and will be used in our newly designed website (due to go-live in Jan 2023).

1.3 To understand resident and community behaviours and attitudes to sustainability a research project has been scoped with Middlesex University; beginning in January 2023, this research will enable us to provide us with insights into how to ensure we are supporting all our residents in making more sustainable choices.

1.4 A more developed update on these engagement plans will be brought to the next Environment and Climate Change Committee (25 January 2023).

1.5 **Citizen's Assembly:** The purpose of a Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity is to provide a platform for contributing to the co-production and monitoring our Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

TPXimpact Ltd has been appointed to deliver the Citizen's Assembly alongside council officers. Their involvement will ensure impartiality as well as facilitating the deliberative process to produce actionable outcomes.

This paper provides an update on the planning and delivery of the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity

- **Planning** for the Citizens' Assembly has commenced and a Planning Team has been established involving the appointed contractor TPXimpact Ltd ("TPXimpact") and council officers from the Sustainability Team. The group has been delegated authority by the Deputy Chief Executive and Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change to sign off on design choices throughout the process. A timeline of activity can be viewed in *Appendix A*.
- **Updates** on progress are provided to the Chair of Environment and Climate Change Committee. Further updates will be provided to the Environment and Climate Committee in January and March 2023. We are in the process of establishing a cross-party sub-group for regular updates and inputs to the process.
- **Principles** for the process have been established by the Planning Team and can be viewed in *Appendix B*. They will guide the design and delivery of the process.
- **Governance** arrangements for the Citizens' Assembly are being established and a paper can be viewed in *Appendix C*. This includes the proposed establishment of an Independent Expert Advisory Group and an Oversight & Scrutiny Panel.
- **Design** sessions for the process will be held in November and December. These will take key decisions on the size, composition, question, framing, evidence and mode of delivery for the process. Later sessions will focus on

the design of the learning journey and shape of the sessions in order to develop the session and facilitation plans. There will be some flexibility in design required throughout the process to take account of the participants needs and preferences.

- **Input and evidence** for the process will be shaped by the Independent Expert Advisory Group, with input from the Oversight & Scrutiny Panel and sign off from the Planning Team. A first list of speakers will be invited in December.
- **Question setting** is an important step in the design process and an open workshop to explore the options is scheduled for Friday 11 November. Draft questions will be tested with the wider community before sign-off by the Planning Team.
- **Delivery** of the assembly sessions will begin in early February 2023 and conclude by early April, with reporting and further participant engagement to follow.
- **Communications** planning has started in partnership with council officers and the team working on the BarNET ZERO campaign to ensure alignment. A plan will also be developed to engage with those residents who were not recruited to the wider assembly so that they are kept updated of progress and outcomes.
- **Community engagement** has begun with local community, faith and business groups to ensure they are an integral part of this process.
- **Youth engagement** and opportunities for a parallel process are being explored. The Planning Team will discuss opportunities for involving children and young people with council officers leading on My Say Matters.
- **Recruitment** of a representative sample of residents across Barnet will start in early January 2023, led by Sortition Foundation. A list of confirmed participants will be available to TPXimpact and the Council at the end of January.
- **Final Reporting** on the process will take place from early April 2023. Council officers in the Sustainability Team will take responsibility for action planning, monitoring and impact assessment of the outputs from the process, updates on progress will be provided to the Environment and Climate Change Committee.
- **Next steps** will include an invitation for participants in the process to meet 6 months after the report publication to review the response to their recommendations and discuss further action.

Further updates on the design and plans for the Citizens' Assembly will be brought to the next Environment and Climate Change Committee (25 January 2023). We are aiming for the final report from the citizens' assembly to be presented to the committee in June 2023.

## **Development of a Sustainability Strategy / Climate Action Plan**

1.6 **Sustainability Strategy theme structure:** we recognise that sustainability is a cross-cutting challenge and to ensure accountability and to maintain structure to the programme, we have grouped actions into broad themes based upon the headline findings from the carbon baseline. Eight themes have been established to deliver the council's Sustainability Portfolio and these are:

- Housing and Buildings
- Transport
- Renewable Energy
- Waste
- Business and Skills
- Natural Environment and Biodiversity
- Investments, and
- Staff, Policy and Supply Chain.

Each of the themes, led by a senior sponsor, outlines a number of overarching commitments, to guide and group subsequent actions towards delivering our sustainability goals.

An overview of these themes, alongside their key commitments and objective is available here:

***Housing and Buildings*** - Barnet will lead by example, by ensuring all housing stock is brought up to the highest sustainability standards; ensure new builds are designed to a high quality with a strong emphasis on sustainability; and design and retrofit with Barnet residents in mind through delivering energy efficient solutions through:

- Developing an understanding of council-owned and borough-wide building emissions,
- Retrofitting Barnet's Social Housing stock to an average of EPC-B by 2030,
- Assisting residents within private sector housing to make their homes more sustainable, prioritising support to fuel-poor households,
- Retrofitting Barnet's corporate estate buildings by 2030,
- Ensuring Barnet's housing and council infrastructure development and planning is net zero by 2030,
- Ensuring that sustainability sits at the heart of the council's corporate strategies and policies for housing and buildings,
- Empowering residents, businesses, and other organisations with guidance to make sustainable decisions around reducing emissions; and
- Supporting partners across the public and private sector to ensure net zero is achieved across Barnet's buildings.

Transport - Barnet will influence travel choices and behaviours as per our Transport Hierarchy; create a safe and resilient environment for walking, wheeling and cycling; promote active travel but recognise that this is not possible for all; make public transport as accessible as possible; and encourage the decarbonisation of transport and lower private car usage through:

- Developing a greener public realm by facilitating greater use of Active Travel methods,
- Enabling the uptake of sustainable travel methods, including low and zero emissions vehicles,
- Working with TfL and other partners to bring forward investment in orbital travel,
- Implementing sustainable traffic management measures, and
- Investigating potential to reduce freight emissions in the borough.

Renewable Energy - Barnet will remove their use of fossil fuels where possible; make energy use across the Borough more sustainable and affordable for residents and businesses and tackle fuel poverty through:

- Improving the understanding of Barnet's current and future energy position,
- Transitioning the council to a clean energy supplier,
- Making energy use across the borough more sustainable and affordable for residents and businesses,
- Supporting residents and businesses to access grants and support to increase uptake of solar power, and
- Developing in-house energy expertise.

Waste - Barnet will seek to minimise the production of waste across the Borough; enable all citizens to have equitable access to sustainable waste disposal choices; educate businesses and individuals about best practice; all whilst ensuring unavoidable waste is processed in line with our waste hierarchy principles through:

- Ensuring the waste vehicles fleet is as sustainable as possible,
- Reducing the quantity of general waste produced across the borough by construction,
- Reducing the quantity of general waste produced across the borough by commercial businesses,
- Reducing the quantity of general waste produced across the borough by households, and
- Increasing recycling rates across the Borough, both in the public realm and within buildings.

Business and Skills - Barnet will create and leverage opportunities to make Barnet an attractive place for sustainable business and investments; support the

development of green skills amongst its population; highlight the benefits of sustainability for businesses; all whilst furthering our relationships and partnerships through collaboration through:

- Gaining a better understanding of the Green Economy in Barnet,
- Providing opportunities for residents to train for green skilled jobs,
- Supporting the growth and availability of green jobs across the borough,
- Resourcing the Council's own retrofitting programme,
- Nurturing a green business sector and create a viable business environment for sustainable enterprises, and
- Supporting the sharing economy and sustainable business practices.

*Natural Environment and Biodiversity* - Barnet will protect existing natural space and seek to expand coverage of green space across Barnet; ensure equitable access to green spaces; balance the needs of residents against those of biodiversity and ecology; all whilst educating people on the value of these natural spaces through:

- Protecting and restoring biological systems across the borough, particularly those which may have been affected by the borough's growth and development,
- Increasing Barnet's street tree canopy cover
- Encouraging appropriate 'greening' and biodiversity improvements, and
- Improving water management within Barnet.

*Investments* - Barnet will improve the understanding of the impact of investments, such as pensions and the impact on sustainability, through:

- Refocusing treasury management to promote sustainable investment and incorporate green objectives, and
- Investigating a trial for carbon budgeting.

*Staff, Policy and Supply Chain* - Barnet will gain a better understanding of their suppliers' sustainability objectives and strategies; work with and monitor current and future suppliers to improve sustainability within their supply chain; and integrate sustainability in their procurement and decision making processes, through:

- Supporting the council's internal transition to sustainable transport,
- Striving to reduce the council's own internal waste generation and increase recycling rates,
- Aligning all council employees on the importance and meaning of sustainability, as well as best practice for the office,
- Establishing a sustainable procurement policy for Barnet, and

- Improving data collection and monitoring of our supply chain.
- 1.7 For each of the overarching commitments and objectives, individual actions have been identified. A detailed sustainability action plan spreadsheet has been built to capture additional information such as delivery timescales, impact on baseline emissions and funding mechanisms. A dashboard to collate key achievements for each theme is in development and an update on progress will be brought to the next Environment and Climate Change Committee, as well as being made available on our refreshed website.

## **Communications and Engagement**

- 1.8 To promote our sustainability programme and highlight the actions residents across the borough can take, we have developed a communications plan and are preparing for the launch of the BarNET-ZERO campaign in January 2023. The campaign will communicate our journey to becoming a net-zero council and our work together to create a borough of net-zero homes, businesses and communities. The implementation and delivery of this campaign has progressed, including:
- Bringing together case studies to raise awareness of both the council's progress on the sustainability agenda and actions within the wider community to share our journey together,
  - Building our new sustainability brand to be consistently applied to all future communications,
  - Designing the new sustainability web hub,
  - Preparing campaign launch videos to tell the story with key stakeholders in the council, community, business owners and residents,
  - Continuing internal and external communications, with messaging to align to key events such as COP27, and,
  - Ensuring quality baseline data to track engagement and impact.

A fuller update on our communications and engagement will be provided at the next committee meeting (25 January 2023)

## **Roadmap to Net Zero**

- 1.9 *Update on portfolio progress:* Since the previous update given to Environment and Climate Change Committee (6 September 2022), service areas have moved forward with the implementation and delivery of many projects, including:
- Retrofitted an additional 24 council homes through the Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase Two in September 2022.



- Submitted an application for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Round Two in October 2022, which aims to retrofit a further 500 council homes.
- Supported the council's wider response to the cost-of-living crisis to provide residents with information on actions they can take to help lower energy bills and how they can stay warm and safe this winter, as well as providing guidance on how to secure grants and funding to improve energy efficiency.
- Secured funding through the prevention fund to deliver a 'deep' fabric first retrofit of a caretaker's home to achieve EPC-B by winter 2022.
- Commenced installation in August 2022 of air source heat pumps to 21 schools and Family Services buildings through Public Sector Delivery Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3, due to complete in March 2023.
- Submitted a funding application for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Phase 3b in October 2022. The outcome of the application is currently expected in 2023, and if successful, funding will be used to support the heat decarbonisation of up to 10 buildings, including schools, through the installation of heat pump technologies and low surface temperature radiators.
- Completed a project to pilot a Net Zero Estates Tool, developed by the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT) in November 2022. The project provides a baseline report of emissions for all corporately owned buildings and council homes, as well as providing a decarbonisation model and forecast costs to meet strategic commitments.
- Promoted the Great Big Green Week in September 2022, supporting the work of our partners at Inclusion Barnet, by shining a light on the sustainable activities led by community and voluntary groups across Barnet.
- Delivered carbon literacy training to 15 council officers across 3 teams, strengthening low carbon culture and empowering learners to support action to motivate emissions reduction.
- Progressing with the installation of electric vehicle lamp column charge points, with over 200 now in place. Further funding has been secured which will allow for the installation of an additional 610 charge points over the next year. This will include 510 surface mounted Trojan charge points across 34 locations, installation of these started in October 2022.
- A new 3,500 sqm public square in Finchley Square is due to start on site in Autumn 2022; includes significant new tree planting, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and support for active travel.
- Delivery of a Town Centre Travel Campaign which aims to promote behaviour change away from car use and towards more active forms of travel for local shopping journeys. The campaign also raises awareness about ways in which local businesses can promote sustainable travel; linking to the wider Sustainability Strategy and public health promotion.
- Planning and co-production of the Air Quality Action Plan, which will be presented at the next Committee (25 January 2023).

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 Recommendation 1: the committee is asked to note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee
- 2.2 Recommendation 2: the committee is asked to note the progress against delivery of the Citizen's Assembly and associated timelines.
- 2.3 Recommendation 3: 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

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 This paper notes the work that is taking place and recognises the wider programme of work taking place across the council. The ongoing development and monitoring of a Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan will enable us to achieve our ambitious targets, therefore, alternative options have not been considered in this paper.

## **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.
- 4.2 Work will continue in designing and introducing our wider programme of citizen's engagement, working alongside the Community Participation Strategy.
- 4.3 Work to deliver and monitor the impact of existing and new carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives will continue; recognising the need to be agile in an ever changing landscape.

## **5. Implications of decision**

### **5.1 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.

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

- 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. £0.350m has been allocated from contingency for the financial period 2022/23 with an additional £0.508m budget from contingency for 2023/24. 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.
- Additional funding opportunities are available, including those generated by the council through Section 106 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.
- Resource requirements will be further explored throughout the development of any actions.
- 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.

### 5.3 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 2030<sup>2</sup>
- 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

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<sup>2</sup> [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)

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*).

#### 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.

#### **5.4 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.

#### **5.5 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.

## 5.6 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.

## 5.7 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

## **5.8 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

## 5.9 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.

## 5.10 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

## 6. Background papers

- 6.1 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee, 11 March 2021 - [A4 Letterhead \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 6.2 Sustainability Strategy Framework – Policy & Resources Committee, 9 December 2021 - [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 6.3 London Borough of Barnet Air Quality Annual Status Report for 2021, May 2021 - [Barnet Air Quality Annual Status Report 2020 \(ODT, 835KB\) | Barnet Council](#)
- 6.4 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee 9 June 2022 - [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)



6.5 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 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

## Appendix A – Timeline of Citizen’s Assembly

The Planning Team has developed a timeline for the planning and delivery of the citizens’ assembly. Design work will take place throughout November and December through a mix of remote and in person sessions.

The timeline includes the following key activities:

- Early November ‘22, finalise **governance** arrangements
- 10 November, **communications** planning session
- 11 November (morning), **question setting** workshop
- 11 November (afternoon), BarNETZero campaign planning
- 21/22 November, **design workshops** at Hendon Town Hall
- Early December, draft **evidence framework and learning journey** prepared
- End December, **design and recruitment plans** finalised
- Early January ‘23, **launch recruitment**
- w/c 30 January, receive **participant list** and start **onboarding**
- February to April, facilitating the **citizens’ assembly sessions**
- April, **final report** shared with the committee

Details on next step activities will be developed following the design sessions.

## **Appendix B - Citizen's Assembly Principles**

The Citizens' Assembly will be guided by the following principles:

### **Fairness**

- We ensure that the assembly discussions enable all participants to consider the impact of different choices and actions across Barnet and how these might impact on their lived experiences
- We will have an overview and scrutiny panel whose role it is to ensure any decisions abide by our principle of fairness.

### **Collaboration**

- We will learn from other Assemblies and take the lessons from these.
- We will ensure that the design and delivery of the process is transparent and involves stakeholders across the wider community, including businesses and the faith sector.
- We will share our outputs with anyone that wants to see them.

### **Openness**

- We will announce the Citizens' Assembly before it begins and connect with local media and community groups to get the word out that it is happening.
- We will proactively publish information related to the assembly, including (but not limited to) details on the agenda, briefings, evidence, recordings of presentations, the final report and recommendations, and the response from the Council.
- We will organise observer opportunities so people can find out more about the process.
- We will develop a communications strategy to aid openness of the process.

### **Diversity**

- We will use a sortition approach to recruitment, randomly selecting a broadly representative group of participants from across Barnet to participate.
- We will value evidence and knowledge from multiple sources, including research and academia, community perspectives and lived experience.
- We will consider diversity when selecting speakers and our facilitation team.
- We will actively seek to involve the voices of children and young people in connected activities that feed into the assembly process.

### **Integrity**

- We establish a Planning Team that includes expertise in citizens' assemblies with delegated authority for decision making on design and delivery from councillors.
- We develop the evidence framework with an Independent Expert Advisory Group which offers a range of views and perspectives in the formulation of evidence and inputs.
- We ensure that participants have access to a wide range of accurate, relevant, and accessible evidence and expertise.
- We establish advisory oversight of the process through an Oversight & Scrutiny Panel with representatives of different viewpoints.

**Inclusion and care**

- We will involve underrepresented groups through the recruitment
- We will enable participation by offering participants remuneration, expenses, taking account of caring responsibilities, translation and other enabling support as required.
- We will seek to understand participants' individual accessibility requirements and offer options that support their continued engagement throughout the process.
- We respect participants' privacy. Publication of data related to participants is with their explicit consent. All personal data of participants should be treated in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## Appendix C - Citizen's Assembly Governance Arrangements

This appendix offers a summary of the different governance groups and their role. A more detailed document including Terms of Reference is in development.

There are three types of groups involved in the governance of the Citizens' Assembly:

- **Decision** groups can make decisions about elements of the process.
- **Advisory** groups are invited to give input, feedback and advice on the process.
- **Scrutiny** groups are kept informed about the process and meet to scrutinise progress.

### **Responsibility and Accountability:** *Scrutiny / Decisions*

Responsibility and accountability for the Citizens' Assembly sits with:

- John Hooton, Chief Executive (overall responsibility)
- Cath Shaw, Deputy Chief Executive (responsibility for action and impact)
- Yogita Popat, AD Sustainability (operational responsibility)
- Cllr Alan Schneiderman, Lead Member for Environment (political accountability)
- Cllr Barry Rawlings, Leader of the Council (political accountability)
- Stephen McDonald, Director for Growth (Lead Officer responsible for Climate Change)

Responsibility has been delegated to the Planning Team for day-to-day decisions on the design and delivery of the Citizens' Assembly.

### **Planning Team:** *Decisions*

This blended team is responsible for all day-to-day decisions on the design and delivery of the Citizens' Assembly, including the sessions planning and facilitation.

They convene the advisory and scrutiny governance groups established for the process. The Planning Team involves:

- Council officers in the Sustainability Team
- Assistant Director for Sustainability
- TPXimpact

The group has been delegated authority by the Deputy Chief Executive and Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change to sign off on design and delivery choices throughout the process.

### **Oversight & Scrutiny Panel:** *Advisory / Scrutiny*

This group of stakeholders will include up to 12 stakeholders from across the wider community, including businesses and the faith sector. They will ensure that the principles of the process are being upheld. They will advise the Planning Team on the design and delivery of the assembly, including input on key decisions such as recruitment, evidence and the session plans (the 'what, when and who'). This group is not responsible for the 'how'.

**Independent Expert Advisory Group: *Advisory***

This group of subject matter experts will advise on the evidence framework, speakers and inputs to the process. They will be convened by the Planning Team and report to the Oversight & Scrutiny Panel for further input and feedback.

**Environment & Climate Change Committee: *Scrutiny***

The committee is kept updated on progress of the Citizens' Assembly and can offer checks and challenges on its progress. This is where the final report will be submitted for discussion and response from the Council.

Membership of the committee can be viewed [here](#).

**Records:**

The Planning Team will proactively publish records related to the governance of the Assembly, including (but not limited to):

- Terms of Reference and Membership of governance groups
- Notes from Oversight & Scrutiny meetings
- Notes from Expert Advisory Group meetings
- Notes from Environment and Climate Change committee meetings
- Log of key decisions, where they were taken, and by whom

They will be published on the process webpage when this is created - links to this webpage will be made available through Engage Barnet and promoted in all communications around the citizen's assembly.