



## Environment & Climate Change Committee

25 January 2023

<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 – Our Journey So Far (Dec 2022)
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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 (21 November 2022)<sup>1</sup>

### Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (21 November 2022)
2. The Committee note the progress on delivery of a Citizen's Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity.
3. The Committee note the outcomes of the Engagement Workshop held in March/April 2022 and the progress against actions since these sessions

<sup>1</sup> <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=11127&Ver=4>

**4. 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 This report is presented to the Committee to provide an update on progress on the Sustainability Strategy since the last report which was provided to the Environment & Climate Change Committee on 21 November 2022, with the following recommendations:

- That the Committee note the progress since the last Environment and Climate Change Committee (26 September 2022)
- The Committee note the progress on delivery of a Citizen's Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity.
- 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:

- Actions from the Engagement Workshop held in March/April 2022
- Citizen's Assembly & Young People's Assembly
- Roadmap to Net Zero

### **1.2 Actions from Engagement Workshop – Applied Negative Emissions Centre (ANEC) Engagement March 2022**

In March 2022, Barnet Council commissioned ANEC to conduct a series of qualitative engagement workshops to discuss and shape the emerging Sustainability Strategy Framework. The workshops provided the opportunity for residents, businesses, and community organisations to feedback their views on the council's sustainability plans. There were 11 workshops held across the borough, 5 in person, and 6 virtually. In total, 166 residents participated overall, as well as 12 representatives from partner organisations.

As a result of the engagement, there were a number of recommendations which are now embedded within the themes and overarching commitments of the Sustainability Strategy, (presented at the last Environment and Climate Change Committee, 21 November 2022).

A summary of the recommendations from the workshops are grouped by theme below, the actions against each of these themes have been incorporated into the wider Sustainability Action Plan and will be reported through this framework going forward.

- **Housing and Buildings:** You asked us to: Develop ambitious targets for

sustainable development, directly improve energy efficiency in council homes and buildings across the borough and support the private sector, and develop a net zero pathway for the built environment

- **Transport:** You asked us to: Develop initiatives that encourage the take up of active travel, particularly walking and cycling in the borough and to improve orbital bus routes and access to car clubs.
- **Staff, Policy and Supply Chain:** You asked us to: Develop internal policies within the council as an organisation to promote sustainability including the supply chain and investments, as well as ensuring the entire Borough has a just transition.
- **Business and Skills:** You asked us to: Support the development of green skills and job opportunities in the borough and consider implementing a library of things and repair spaces.
- **Waste:** You asked us to: Increase awareness of correct waste and recycling methods and increase access to disposal services.
- **Natural Environment and Biodiversity:** You asked us to: Support, protect and enhance local greenspaces, consider educational opportunities and strengthen protective policies and opportunities for sustainable drainage.

### 1.3 Citizens' Assembly & Young People's Assembly Update

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 both the Citizen's Assembly and Young People'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 progress of the planning and delivery of the two Assemblies on Climate Change and Biodiversity

- **Design** sessions for the process took place in November and December 2022 deciding the size, composition, question, framing, evidence and mode of delivery. Further sessions in January and February 2023 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 continue to 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 January after input from both governance groups and then reviewed throughout the process in light of feedback from participants.
- **Question setting** is an important step in the design process and a question has now been agreed in collaboration with the planning team, engagement

with community groups and staff. The question being taken to both the Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly has now been finalised:

**Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?**

- **Delivery** of both the assembly sessions will begin in early February 2023 and conclude by late May, with reporting and further participant engagement to follow. All Assembly sessions are being held at Middlesex University.
- **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 with members from some groups on the Oversight and Scrutiny Group.
- **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, updates on progress will be provided to the Environment and Climate Change Committee. 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.

**Update on Citizens' Assembly (18+ years old)**

- **Recruitment** of a representative sample of residents began on 30<sup>th</sup> December with letters arriving at selected households asking for registration of interest, led by Sortition Foundation. Onboarding of selected participants begins in Feb 2023. A list of confirmed participants will be available to TPXimpact and the Council at the end of January.

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

- **Design:** The Young People's Assembly aims to recruit 20 young people between 11-17 years old across the borough to participate in the assembly. Within this group of 20 young people, 5 of the young people will become co-design leads, and in doing so, will ensure that the principles of the assembly are adhered to and will shape the design of the process.
- **Recruitment:** Invitations for young people to apply to be part of the assembly has been launched via Secondary Schools at the beginning of January 2023. A selection panel will meet during the week of Monday 16th January to review the applications and select 20 participants (including the co-design group) for the young people's assembly. Onboarding of selected participants will begin on week of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, parallel to the Citizen's Assembly.

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](#) and will be brought to the next Environment and Climate Change Committee (March 2023). We are aiming for the final report from the citizens' assembly to be presented to the cabinet in June 2023.

#### 1.4 Roadmap to Net Zero

*Update on portfolio progress:* Since the previous update given to Environment and Climate Change Committee (21 November 2022), service areas have moved forward with the implementation and delivery of many projects, including:

- Works are due to begin winter-22/23 to deliver a 'deep' retrofit pilot of a caretaker's home to achieve EPC Band B. This will include loft insulation and window glazing, alongside the installation of solar PV, low carbon radiators and heat pump technologies. The pilot is due to complete by April 2023, where the property will be disconnected from gas which will no longer be required.
- As part of Public Sector Delivery Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3, installation is ongoing of air source heat pumps, solar PV and radiator upgrades to 21 schools and Family Services buildings, due to complete in March 2023.
- Work is 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, and is due to complete by the end of May 2023 with the first streets due to become operational in February.
- As approved at Policy & Resources Committee on 13th December], officers are beginning work on preparing the necessary procurement documentation to test the market to support the rollout of further Electric Vehicle charge points throughout 2023 and beyond; as well as seeking to make the most of available government grant funding. Further information on this decision is available at: [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- Work is ongoing to co-produce and finalise the Air Quality Action Plan, (further update to be brought to committee in March 2023).

A fuller update on some of the initiatives completed on Our Journey to Net Zero is shown in Appendix B

#### 1.5 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:** 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 21 November 2022.
- **Recommendation 3:** the recommendations from the Resident Engagement Workshops held in March/April 2022 have been analysed against the Sustainability Action Plan; the actions recommendations from these workshops have been included in the wider Sustainability Action Plan where appropriate. The committee is asked to note this work and that progress against these recommendations will be made through the wider Sustainability Action Plan reporting.
- **Recommendation 4:** 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 Mayslit 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. Post decision implementation**

- 3.1 Work will continue to implement a borough-wide Citizen’s Assembly for Climate Change and Biodiversity; in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.
- 3.2 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.

## 4. Implications of decision

### 4.1 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.

### 4.2 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, 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.
- 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.

### 4.3 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 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.

#### **4.4 Insight**

- The council will take an evidence-driven approach to ensure that we are

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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)

taking the most impactful action. Therefore, data and insight will be used to develop our action plan and monitoring thereof of it.

#### 4.5 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.

#### 4.6 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.

#### 4.7 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

#### **4.8 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

#### **4.9 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.

#### **4.10 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

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

# Appendix B – Our Journey to Net Zero (So far)



BarNET-Zero - the story so far (Dec22).p