

	<h2>Cabinet</h2>
<b>Title</b>	Sustainability Strategy – Recommendations from the Citizens’ Assembly and Young People’s Assembly
<b>Date of meeting</b>	26 June 2023
<b>Report of</b>	Portfolio Lead for Environment and Climate Change – Cllr Alan Schneiderman
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Key</b>	Key
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Appendices</b>	No Appendices
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<b>Summary</b>	
<p>Our vision is to become ‘one of London’s most sustainable boroughs’; we have set an ambitious target to be a net zero council by 2030 and as a borough, as soon as possible after this, but no later than 2042.</p> <p>In January 2023, the council launched its first ever Citizens’ Assembly consisting of 40 residents from across the borough. In parallel to this, the council also launched a Young People’s Assembly, consisting of 20 young people between the ages of 11-17 years old. The assemblies explored the question: ‘Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?’</p>	

These processes concluded on 21 May 2023, and resulted in a number of recommendations from both assemblies. This report provides an overview of the next steps for the process, and asks Cabinet to approve implementation of them.

## Recommendations

1. Cabinet notes the recommendations from both assemblies (Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly) as set out under section 1.7 of this report.
2. Cabinet asks the Deputy Chief Executive to consider the recommendations (as per section 1.7) and bring back to cabinet or other committees as appropriate, reports outlining next steps regarding these recommendations for approval.

### 1. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 1.1 *Recommendation 1:* the Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly is a deliberative process that brings together a randomly selected group of people who broadly represent the entire community. It is a platform, for a diverse group of people to make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change; the recommendations presented have been developed by this group.
- 1.2 *Recommendation 2:* work will commence with partners, communities and residents to identify the actions required to deliver the overarching recommendations made by the Assemblies. The cost analysis will provide a platform for prioritisation, alongside other sustainability benefits.
- 1.3 The recommendations from Barnet Citizens' Assemblies are a set of priorities for action developed through a series of meetings between 21 February and 21 May 2023.
- 1.4 The recommendations were developed and prioritised by 60 residents between the ages of 12-90 from across Barnet during two parallel processes. Barnet Citizens' Assembly involved 40 people aged over 18. Barnet Young People's Assembly involved 20 young people aged 12-17. They came together at key moments to share learning, ideas and conclusions on the following question:
  - *Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?*
- 1.5 Assembly members explored the question through learning and deliberation focused on key themes identified in Barnet's Sustainability Action Plan with the most scope to reduce carbon emissions and which require borough-wide action. These included:
- 1.6 The themes explored were:
  - *Waste and Sustainable Consumption*
  - *Learning, Communications and Partnerships*
  - *Nature and Biodiversity*
  - *Transport*
  - *Housing, Buildings and Energy*
- 1.7 Recommendations from the Assemblies:

The Citizens' Assembly and Young People's Assembly jointly made 16 recommendations across the 5 themes:

*To make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future, we need to:*

**Waste and Sustainable Consumption**

1. encourage and educate Barnet residents on how to reduce the amount of food waste.
2. improve waste management through easier recycling and by addressing fly tipping.

**Learning, Communications & Partnerships**

3. educate children and young people on sustainability and climate change through curriculum delivery and after school activities.
4. we must include integrating courses on climate change, sustainability and green skills across schools, businesses and apprenticeships. This should be available through online courses, local career speakers at schools and work experience opportunities that enable people to develop practical skills such as horticulture. (Young People’s Assembly)
5. target education and communication using a wide range of channels that are accessible and appropriate to all diverse communities.
6. we must create different campaigns and raise awareness across social media with concise and direct videos that are comedic and relatable created by everyone, including influencers & policymakers. (Young People’s Assembly)

**Nature and Biodiversity**

7. identify unused spaces and infrastructure across the borough (e.g. fields, old railway tracks, green walkways) to develop biodiverse green spaces and cycling paths for partnership between council and local community volunteers.
8. commit to planting more trees in existing and new green spaces to promote biodiversity and wildlife.
9. encourage more school gardens, so that everyone has access to green spaces, and use the school gardens to grow food to use in school meals. (Young People’s Assembly)
10. encourage and support local farming for fruits which will help create support for veganism and reduce the carbon emission for shipping. (Young People’s Assembly)

**Transport**

11. have an integrated sustainable transport plan for the borough.
12. we must develop a strategy to make roads safe for active travel, with an emphasis on cycle lanes. (Young People’s Assembly)
13. we must move towards more accessible (must be accessible to all people including disabled people), frequent and cheaper electric bus routes for people to use across Barnet. (Young People’s Assembly)

**Housing, Buildings & Energy**

14. incorporate green and sustainable design processes in all new builds / infrastructure.
15. retrofit council properties and provide grants / subsidies for people in private housing to make buildings net zero.
16. we must also make housing more sustainable by installing solar panels and providing subsidies to improve appliances. (Young People’ Assembly)

**2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended**

- 2.1 Alternative options in delivering the recommendations will be considered as part of Recommendation 2. These will be bought back to a future Cabinet for consideration.

**3. Post Decision Implementation**

- 3.1 The Sustainability Team will engage internally with senior stakeholders and conduct wider analysis in response to the Assembly recommendations, coordinating with the wider sustainability action plan and will bring back to cabinet ( or other committee) next steps regarding these recommendations for approval.
- 3.2 Work will also commence with partners, communities and residents to identify the actions that can be taken together which are required to deliver the overarching recommendations.
- 3.3 The Assemblies provided a platform for engaging with residents on making '*Barnet one of London's most sustainable boroughs*' and the Sustainability Team will continue to identify events and opportunities for the participants of these to be involved in the delivery of these recommendations. Opportunities that have already been identified include:
- Our Plan for Barnet launch July 2023 will include a presentation of these recommendations by participants from the Assemblies (both young people and adults).
  - Exhibition materials are being produced using the live illustrations created during the assembly process; these will be available digitally and promoted throughout the borough.
  - Participants are taking part in a short video to explain the process and the recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly; with the aim of launching this during London Climate Action Week (June 2023).
  - Dedicated editorial in the summer edition of the Barnet First Magazine will share the recommendations widely and include reflections from participants on the process.
- 3.4 Work is ongoing to develop further 'next steps' following the assemblies, and taking on board some of the ideas identified by participants; updates on these will be brought back to future Cabinet meetings as work progresses on these.

#### **4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations**

##### **Corporate Plan**

- 4.1 Following the declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency in May 2022, delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan is a key priority for Our Plan for Barnet 2023 – 2026; in caring for Barnet's people, place and planet.

##### **Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures**

- 4.2 The Council has committed to becoming a net zero organisation by 2030 and a net zero borough as soon as possible after this, but no later than 2042, and will also realise a number of related corporate performance measures and outcomes, including environmental, social and governance (ESG).
- 4.3 The recommendations from the Assemblies will provide further actions to be considered as part of our Sustainability Action Plan; the timeframe for the delivery of each Recommendation has not yet been established, but relevant council departments (such as Greenspaces, Public Health, Highways and Transportation) have been engaged on the priority actions. We have also invited the assembly participants to form a Working Group that would monitor the council's progress on the delivery of these Recommendations; work is ongoing to further develop and define the Terms of Reference for this group.

##### **Sustainability**

- 4.4 The council has set ambitious targets to become net zero as an organisation by 2030 and net zero as a borough by 2042. In order to achieve this, the council recognises the importance, and necessity, to embed sustainability considerations into all decision making and council activity.

The ambition is that this goes beyond a compliance requirement and instead facilitates deep and meaningful consideration of the impact of a project/policy/strategy on sustainability and the council’s journey to net zero, to enable informed decision making.

4.5 In order to support this ambition for more consistent and evidence-based assessment of the impact of a particular project/policy/strategy on sustainability, we are rolling out at Net Zero Decision Making Tool to inform Cabinet decisions by demonstrating the impact of a project on sustainability. This is designed to explore the environmental impact of a decision aligned to key thematic areas.

4.6 To ensure consideration and prioritisation of sustainable outcomes, relevant sections of the Net Zero Decision Making Tool has been completed in the table below (work is ongoing to embed this as an automated process and will be available in future reports). There is a positive impact on achieving sustainable outcomes through the recommendations of this report, which particularly supports local community groups and residents make more sustainable choices because of the collaborative process completed.

Detailed Questions	Responses (Yes/No)
<i>Fair Change, Social Sustainability - Will your decision impact the local community within the Borough?</i>	Yes
Will your decision contribute to infrastructure, amenities and services that promote connectedness within the Borough?	Yes
Does your decision support local community groups and activities which are aligned to sustainability projects, awareness or understanding?	Yes
Does your decision serve to protect and improve community spaces? (both indoor and outdoor)	Yes
<i>Climate Positive Choices &amp; Behaviours - Will your decision impact the residents of the Boroughs choices and behaviours?</i>	Yes
Will your decision make it easier for people to live a low carbon, sustainable lifestyle that is aligned to the Boroughs Net Zero Ambitions of 2042 for the Borough (Council Target of 2030). For example; recycling, reuse and compost; use less water; smarter energy usage; & choosing sustainable travel. <a href="https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sustainability-barnet/how-live-more-sustainable-life">https://www.barnet.gov.uk/sustainability-barnet/how-live-more-sustainable-life</a>	Yes

### Corporate Parenting

4.7 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.

4.8 Climate change will hold greater implications for 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.

## **Risk Management**

- 4.9 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.

### **Insight**

- 4.10 In developing the Sustainability Action Plan, we have taken an evidence-driven approach through commissioning a robust carbon baseline and net zero pathway, to track our progress to net zero and ensure that we are prioritising the most impactful actions. Therefore, data and insight will be integrated in the monitoring and updating of this action plan. The development of our recommendations into action will be assessed on cost, impact and wider benefits; making our plan evidence driven.

### **Social Value**

- 4.11 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. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)**

- 5.1 **Finance & Value for Money:** Any financial implications arising requiring additional investment will be considered through financial regulations and any necessary approvals will be sought.
- 5.2 Additional funding opportunities are available, including those generated by the council through Section 106, carbon off-set fund and Community Infrastructure Levies (CIL).
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 **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.
- 5.5 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 in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Environment and Climate Change, 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.
- 5.6 **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.
- 5.7 **IT:** at this time there are no direct implications.
- 5.8 **Property:** at this time there are no direct implications.

## **6. Legal Implications and Constitution References**

### **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 **National Legislation:** The Climate Change Act 2008 introduced a legally binding target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in June 2019, the target was updated to reach net zero by 2050.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 In London, the Mayor is required to prepare and publish a London Environment Strategy by the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended).
- 6.4 **Council Constitution:**  
Under the Council's Constitution, Part 2D, section 3 the terms of reference of Cabinet includes responsibility for the following functions:
- Development of proposals for the budget (including the capital and revenue budgets, the fixing of the Council Tax Base, and the level of Council Tax) and the financial strategy for the Council;
  - Monitoring the implementation of the budget and financial strategy;
  - Recommending major new policies (and amendments to existing policies) to the Council for approval as part of the Council's Policy Framework and implementing those approved by Council;
  - Approving policies that are not part of the policy framework;
  - Management of the Council's Capital Programme;

## 7. Consultation

- 7.1 Both the Citizen's Assembly and Young People's Assembly are a deliberative process, consulting with a range of residents across the borough. Work is ongoing to continue engagement with both of these groups in the delivery of the recommendations.

## 8. Equalities and Diversity

- 8.1 Residents were chosen using a sortition method of selection to ensure a representative sample of residents were part of the process.
- 8.2 Any implementation of the recommendations will be subject to individual equalities impact assessments to ensure equity and fairness.
- 8.3 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 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:
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 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 16 participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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.
- 8.8 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.

## 9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee, 11 March 2021 - A4 Letterhead [A4 Letterhead \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)
- 9.2 Sustainability Strategy Framework – Policy & Resources Committee, 9 December 2021 - Committee Report [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)
- 9.3 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment Committee 9 June 2022 - Committee Report (moderngov.co.uk) [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)
- 9.4 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 [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)
- 9.5 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  [\(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)



- 9.6 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 [Committee Report \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://moderngov.co.uk)
- 9.7 Update on Barnet Sustainability Strategy – Environment and Climate Change Committee 14 March 2023 – Agenda for Environment and Climate Change Committee on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, 7.00pm [moderngov.co.uk](https://moderngov.co.uk)