

## Sustainability Update

The council has an ambition to become one of London's most sustainable boroughs, including to become Net Zero as a council by 2030 and as a place by no later than 2042. This is currently being delivered through the council's sustainability programme.

A key part of this ambition is the integration of a "Sustainability budget" within the council's annual budget process. The Sustainability budget highlights the measures that are being funded in the budget to deliver the council's net zero target. In doing so, the Sustainability budget clearly visualises how the council is prioritising efforts to achieve its sustainability aims, and any challenges faced in doing so.

The council's Sustainability Programme has been split into workstreams as set out below and progress is reported through Cabinet and challenged through Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

1. Housing and Buildings
2. Renewable Energy
3. Transport
4. Waste
5. Business and Skills
6. Natural Environment
7. Community and Partnerships

In addition, we're also looking at internal factors such as the council's investment and procurement strategy and its staff and policies.

### Measures and progress in 2023-24

Over the course of this year, we've made good progress towards our goals including:

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - following the award of c. £4.7m in phase 3 of the Government grant programme, officers have retrofitted 19 non-domestic Council buildings, estimated to save 11% of the Council's non-domestic building emissions.
- Caretakers Home Retrofit Pilot – following the award of a loan through the Mayors Energy Efficiency Fund, completed a deep retrofit pilot on a caretakers residence.
- Trojan Energy Charge Point Programme – following the award of £3.5m grant funding, Street Scene have installed 463 Surface Mounted Charge Points in partnership with Trojan Energy
- In partnership with Microsoft and EY, developed and launched a decision making tool to embed sustainability across the Council's decision-making processes.
- Launched the Community Tree Portal
- Launched a crowdfunding campaign for decarbonisation projects in the community. First round of funding will be awarded in November 2023.

We've also secured external funding including:

- Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Awarded a grant of £2.9m to retrofit up to 238 council homes.
- On street Residential ChargePoint Scheme – Awarded a grant of £5.2m to fund 60% of the installation costs for 500 lamp column charge points and 793 non-lamp column charge points.
- Innovate UK: Net Zero Living Digital Accelerator – Supported Mortar IO with an application to tackle the borough's place-based retrofit challenge by developing a retrofit resident advice tool to simulate 'whole building', optimal retrofit pathways. £270,000 funding was awarded.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund - £47,900 secured to deliver the Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

**Alongside accessing Government grants, we have also secured external funding through borrowing, including loans through the Mayor’s Energy Efficiency Fund (MEEF), in addition to private investment.**

### Measures in 2024-25

The primary aim in the next financial year is to continuing delivering against our ambitions and developing a robust financing strategy that will enable us to deliver on our targets.

Work has already begun in many areas, but there is much more to do. Many of the actions identified to date are focussed on reaching our 2030 target but we know that achieving the borough target of 2042 is going to be much harder and needs to commence now.

Following the Citizen’s Assembly and Young People’s Assembly we are beginning to work in a Partnership Plan which will look to bring together synergies across partner plans. This is in its early stages and will be developed through 2024/25.

### Future measures: Getting to 2042 – the borough target.

Getting to 2042 is going to need all the residents and businesses in the borough to also be Net Zero – this is much harder to achieve as some ‘can’t’ and others ‘won’t’.

We need to get plans in place now if we are to achieve this target. The Citizen’s Assembly was one of the ways in which we started this work, and during the next period we will work closely with community and faith groups to further this work.

### Net zero – Capital Projects Existing Pipeline

The Capital programme already includes £36m worth of investment targeted to the delivery of net zero.

Action	Outcome of Action	Estimated Cost (£m)	Funding methods
<b>Towards Net Zero (TNZ) All council non-domestic managed buildings to be net zero by 2030</b>	PSDS Phase 3 - School decarbonisation - over 100 heat pumps installed across 19 schools, care takers home pilot	12.000	Salix grant funded. MEEF loan, S106, borrowing, £84k Prevention Funding
<b>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (Wave 2)</b>	Council Home decarbonisation – fabric first retrofit will be completed at 238 homes by 2025.	10.300	£2.9m grant funded, borrowing
<b>EV 500 Project</b>	This action will enable transition to electric vehicles	2.305	grant funded, S106, council funding
<b>EV - Town Centre - Charge Points</b>	Rollout of 120 Jolt charge points across town centres	3.500	grant funded, private investment
<b>Trojan Charge Point project</b>	Installation of 470 surface mounted charge points at 33 streets	7.090	grant funded, S106, council funding
<b>Deliver existing Barnet's School Streets Programme (CIL)</b>	Eight schools included in the next phase of the school streets programme to improve safety	1.000	CIL and part funded through S106
<b>Total</b>		<b>£36.195</b>	

## Funding required to get to net zero.

However, it's estimated that an additional investment of £842m is required for the actions currently in the Sustainability Action Plan.

Action	Theme	Estimated Cost (£m)
Retrofit Barnet's Social Housing stock to an average of EPC-B by 2030	Housing and Buildings	500
Retrofit Barnet's Corporate estate buildings to net zero by 2030	Housing and Buildings	77
Ensure new build housing developed on behalf of the Council is at least EPC-B using sustainable methods and industry best practice standards	Housing and Buildings	0.5
Undertake pilot projects to showcase to residents, businesses and other organisations recommendations and learning from how the Council is delivering net zero	Housing and Buildings	0.5
Continue to retrofit permeable surfaces around street trees to accommodate storm water	Natural Environment and Biodiversity	0.5
Deliver district heating network in priority areas	Renewable Energy	50
Roll out of remaining EV charge points (projects yet to be scoped)	Transport	72
Deliver West London Orbital	Transport	50
Explore opportunities to improve walking and cycling infrastructure in line with the Long-Term Transport Strategy 2020-2041	Transport	13
Implementation of the Barnet Loop proposal and building of a cycle network	Transport	12
Work with residents to explore the introduction of 20mph zones	Transport	1
Transition to a fully electric fleet by 2030, where technology all	Waste and Recycling	65
<b>Total</b>		<b>842</b>

## Sustainability and the Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP)

A review of the council's Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) is underway to ensure that programmes currently in the capital programme support council priorities. This may identify funds that can be released to support sustainability projects.

### Uncertainty over funded initiatives

There is currently no certainty on Government funding for capital investment beyond March 2024.

With additional funding, we could deliver additional improvements that would close the gap between our forecast and net zero emissions by 2030. Some of these options are at a very early stage of development, with costs and benefits estimated only at a high level.

Further funding would allow the council to continue its ambitious programme and build on the recent delivery of a citizen's and youth assembly, which involved engagement with 60 residents of Barnet between the ages of 12 and 90 who gave their views on how we can make Barnet more sustainable. A detailed plan is now being developed in response to the recommendations made by the Assembly.

Future funding certainty would also allow us to develop some our plans for delivery through to 2042.

## Next steps

- A workshop has been arranged with LCIV (who manage London Local Government Pension Scheme) and Fund Managers with interest in investing in Net Zero Projects, taking place in October 2023.
- Ongoing monitoring of the action plan and costings – including climate adaptation / resilience
- Ongoing work through regional and national networks i.e., London Councils, London Environment Directors network, The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport, CIPFA, 3Ci, and others.
- Explore partner engagement to develop a partnership plan (possible funding opportunities e.g., Health)
- Submitted a proposal to deliver a Net Zero Neighbourhood pilot under 3Ci's programme and develop a feasibility assessment to deliver a pilot project exploring alternative investment opportunities.
- Scoping the development of a strategy to look at the opportunities around carbon offsetting.

## Challenges to ourselves

- Are we considering all the right things to inform our prioritisation. i.e. cost, Financial return on investment (RoI), Social RoI, impact on Carbon Reduction?
- Are we missing anything obvious?
- Should we be doing this in a different way?
- Are there any economies of scale we can achieve (e.g. working with other LA's or Partners)?
- How can we work together effectively to ensure that the next steps are completed, as well as keeping these costs up to date?

The Local Government Association have produced a workbook to support councillors in the aim towards achieving net zero [Councillor workbook – The local path to net zero | Local Government Association](#)