

Overview & Scrutiny PDSQs 13.12.2021

Questions	Response
Item 6.1 Net Zero Carbon Partnership Action Plan	
<p>1. Appendix 2 "Quick wins by May 2021" marked in yellow - were these delivered by May 2021?</p>	<p>This is a typo it should read May 2022.</p> <p>The quick wins are designed to be delivered in the first 6 months of the plan (November 2021 – May 2022).</p> <p>As an update to the highlighted 'quick wins':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been agreed the Climate Alliance to be set up, a meeting with the taskforce members has been scheduled for January 2022 to agree the terms of reference, operating model and membership. • Good practice and projects were shared during COP 26, we will continue to share good practice on our council website, partner websites and newsletters. • Council officers sit on the NHS North East London Sustainability Working Group and will continue with this engagement. • Carbon accounting tool has been developed and is currently being tested by selected organisations and will be rolled out after the successful pilot testing. • The 3-part youth challenge is being delivered by the Youth Council. • Council and partners applying for external funding, where the Council have made successful bids for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and Local Authority Delivery Fund
<p>2. The Climate Change Emergency was announced 2 1/2 years ago (the Paris Agreement was 6 years ago) - where is the list of tasks already</p>	<p>We committed to becoming a Net Zero Carbon Council by 2025, and a</p>

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completed?

Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2045

key achievements:

Buildings & Energy

- Installed heat pumps across four Council buildings
- Since 2019 the council purchases 100 per cent renewable electricity
- 98 per cent of our street lighting upgraded to LED.
- Removed all plastic cups from our offices

Delivery of grants programmes:

- 100% grant funded 26 schools with a total of £618,000 to carry out energy efficiency works saving 348 tonnes carbon.
- 50% match grant funded 87 small businesses with a total of £403,000 to carry out energy efficiency works saving 198 tonnes carbon
- 100% grant funded 96 low-income households with a total of £264,000 to replace old inefficient boilers reducing carbon emissions and helping to alleviate fuel poverty
- Completed Bio-solar retrofit feasibility study of council housing stock to deliver renewable energy generating technologies (photovoltaics)
- We are part of the Solar Together London, a group buying scheme for London Councils for purchasing solar panels and battery storage for homeowners

Transport

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- Adoption of Tower Hamlets Transport Strategy which sets out our vision and priorities for travel in Tower Hamlets from 2020 – 2041 through sustainable means of transport
- We have installed 99 electrical vehicle charging points across the borough
- Launched Liveable Streets programme.
- Planted 700+ street trees and working towards delivering 1000 street trees by 2022. 5,518 trees in total delivered across the borough since May 2018.
- Rolling out electric vehicle charging points across the borough against a target of 300 by 2022. On track to install 350 by February 2022.
- Breathe clean campaign tackling idling and air pollution

Waste

- Through a recycling incentive scheme pilot by using comms and other behaviour change initiatives we aim to encourage better recycling behaviour on housing estates
- We provide community composters to council, social housing and private estates and blocks, with the resultant compost product used in communal garden space or to aid food growing projects. We support groups in developing and implementing composting schemes
- We offer a full recycling service to businesses and have been working to encourage businesses to recycle more of the waste they produce.
- We delivered a pilot scheme to inform development of a toolkit that businesses can use to implement their own reusable cup scheme.
- Waste and recycling supplementary planning document ensuring

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- schemes have internal space for waste and recycling facilities
- We will install c.8-10 drinking fountains within parks across the borough

Procurement

- The pensions fund is on a journey towards decarbonisation of their investments.
- Adopting new green procurement policies

Land use and other

- Adopted Local Plan policies that require all new developments to achieve net zero carbon status.
- Lifecycle carbon assessments required for major planning development.
- Environmental impact assessments which include consideration of climate change resilience and adaptation.
- Local biodiversity action plan to protect, create, and enhance biodiversity.
- Scrutiny review to improve health, environmental quality, economic and social outcomes through Housing Open Spaces.
- Open spaces strategy to achieve quality parks and open spaces that are safe and accessible to residents and visitors.

London Environment Directors Network

- The Council is the chair of the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet) Climate Change Cluster.

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Item 6.3 Liveable Streets Shadwell consultation outcome report

Scheme 1/ School Streets - I note that there was some proposals for changes to the timings of operation.

1. Please confirm if the hours of operation is consistent for all school streets across the borough or are there variances?

There are sometimes variances depending on the circumstances of and requests from the school but the closure times between 8.15am to 9.15am and 3pm to 4pm on school days are the most common times used for school streets in Tower Hamlets.

Scheme 4/ Cable street Traffic management - It is proposed that some right turns from the highway will be banned.

2. What impact will these have on residents from Wapping?

These banned right turns are timed to address rat running and have been timed to minimise disruption to residents.

However, Wapping residents approaching these roads from the west and wishing to turn left into these roads will be able to do so. For example, if a Wapping resident wanted to drive north on Garnet Street or Wapping High Street, they could turn right onto the highway and left into King David Lane, Glamis Road or Brodlove Lane during the restricted hours.

3. Appendix D - The bar graphs on pages 25 & 27 show the same results - disabled and BAME - this is improbable - can you check?

There seem to be some duplication here. Officers will need some more time to identify the source of the error.

4. Appendix D - What were the businesses / workers response to the consultation?

Before the consultation project team officers undertook face-to-face engagement with location businesses.

In the main consultation, there was a total of 592 respondents to the consultation of which 328 were received online and the remaining 264 were paper responses. From these responses 8 were from business owners and 37 from market traders.

5. Appendix D - Why are the responses by ethnic group so different?

It has been an ongoing challenge to ensure the ethnic breakdown of consultation responses reflects the same breakdown of the consultation area. This has been the in consultation of this project and previous projects.

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	<p>Consultation packs, containing an information booklet (including a link to online survey) hard copy survey and freepost return envelope, were delivered to the 5,613 residential and business properties within the consultation area. There were 264 hard copy surveys received by return post.</p> <p>There was an opportunity for those within the community who did not have English as a first language to request translated documents. Through local knowledge of the area, it was identified that Shadwell has a high population of Bengali speakers, therefore, the consultation document and survey were available in this language to download from the website. The English version of the consultation document also included a sentence in Bengali advising residents, visitors, and businesses on how to request a full Bengali copy of the consultation document.</p> <p>Officers are actively reviewing our consultation methodology for future projects to see if we can improve participation from all ethnic groups.</p>
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Item 6.4 Harriott, Apsley & Pattison (HAP) Houses Regeneration Scheme	
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<p>Decant status to be approved.</p> <p>1. How will this impact those who are on the CHR already waiting for years?</p>	<p>The award of decant status will give priority to the 34 secure tenants and their households for rehousing. However, each of these tenants also have the offer of a replacement home within the new scheme, so we expect the vast majority will chose to remain living in their current home until their replacement home is completed. On top of the replacement homes, the scheme will also create 90 additional affordable rented homes and 20 new Shared Ownership properties for</p>
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	<p>low-cost home ownership. The additional 90 rented homes will be available to those registered on the Common Housing Register. The scheme also makes provision for those hidden households within the existing estate who are in housing need. They will have the option to bid for a home elsewhere in the borough, or to take up one of the additional new homes if they would prefer to stay in their local community.</p>
<p>Landlord offer for current parking permits guaranteed.</p> <p>2. Is this any different to the current policy for car free homes? If so, why and how?</p>	<p>One of the Council's guiding principles for estate regeneration is to ensure existing residents are not put in a worse position than they currently enjoy. It has therefore been the council's practice with previous regeneration schemes to protect the existing rights of council tenants and leaseholders who currently benefit from the right to have a parking permit(s). This scheme is no different, so whilst the planning application proposes a car-free development for all new residents of the homes, an exemption is proposed for those existing residents moving into the new scheme.</p>
<p>3. £215 million / 400 homes = £537,500 per home - this seems high compared to various new private sector developments i.e. Westferry £414k agreed earlier this year with the Councils consultants - what cost analysis has been done?</p>	<p>The council has used external cost consultancy services to estimate the total scheme costs, which include the costs of buying back leaseholder properties, Home Loss and disturbance payments, other costs with achieving vacant possession of the site and contingency. In deducting these costs, reduces the cost per unit to £417k.</p>
<p>4. What is the legal basis for agreeing a new lease for RCCM of 125 years given that their existing lease will have less than 15 years remaining by the time work starts? what is the likelihood that a primary religious building will be required for that length of time?</p>	<p>In re-providing space for the mosque the Council is acknowledging the importance of prayer space to the current population of the area. While we cannot predict the future demographics of the borough, it is not unusual for faith organisations to request and be granted long tenures reflecting the enduring role they expect to play in the life of the community. The price set for disposal reflects the length of the lease. In the event that a mosque is no longer required on this site, future community use will be safeguarded by the planning designation of the space and under the terms of the proposed lease, there is a requirement to seek the landlord's approval for a change of use. LBTH</p>

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	may use the requirement for consent to safeguard the space for the community.
5. What is the cost of building the new mosque and how much of the cost is being contributed to by RCCM?	The build cost for the community building is £3,000 per sqm. In selling a long lease for the building at market value to RCCM, the council will be recovering the cost of providing the community space
Item 6.8 Disposal of Bromley Hall School and Associated land at Aberfeldy	
1. Will the Council's responsibility for security cease?	Once the property has been transferred over to the purchaser then the Council's security responsibility will cease
Item 6.9 Canon Barnett primary school academy conversion	
1. To whom will the capital from the playground swap be remitted? (Sections 3.4 and 3.5)	The capital from the playground swap will be received by the council and ring-fenced for capital investment in schools