



**Haringey Council**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Better Places Partnership</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Greenest Borough Strategy review 2008-2012</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Alex Grear Principal Policy Officer</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2012</b>

## **1. Issue under consideration**

Following the changes to partnership arrangements in Haringey, a paper has been requested to review the Greenest Borough Strategy, and discuss the future for partnership working in relation to the environmental agenda.

### **1.1 The report**

The report will,

- review the key achievements that have occurred since the adoption of the Greenest Borough Strategy,
- highlight the key contextual changes that have occurred since its adoption,
- describe the planned changes to the partnership arrangements in Haringey,
- identify options for future task and finish groups.

### **1.2 Background**

Adopted in October 2008, the Greenest Borough Strategy provides a strategic commitment to achieve environmental sustainability throughout the borough. The strategy, adopted by the Haringey Strategic Partnership was constructed following extensive consultation in which residents, along with large organisations such as public agencies and service providers, were able to shape the key aims and objectives for Haringey.

#### ***Vision***

*"We will work together to tackle climate change and secure a clean, safe and environmentally sustainable future for everyone living, working, visiting or studying in Haringey."*

The strategy acknowledges that climate change is the single biggest threat to society, affecting both the quality of the place in which we live and our economic prosperity. It is therefore important that we commit to take action in order not only to mitigate the scale of the problem, but also to prepare and adapt for the inevitable changes that lie ahead.

## **2. Context**



Since Haringey adopted the Greenest Borough Strategy, the contextual landscape has dramatically evolved. Public agencies and service providers in Haringey are facing increased pressure to deliver amidst an environment of cuts in resources. The council's role is changing, and the weakened economic climate has made the challenge to meet our identified aims and objectives much more challenging.

The current economic climate is also having significant impacts of families. Energy prices have increased and public transport is becoming unaffordable, with further rises later this year. This is putting the squeeze on the most vulnerable in our borough.

However, the commitments made in the Greenest Borough Strategy, and supporting pledges such as our 40:20 ambitions, still demonstrate a desire to meet our overall objectives.

## **2.1 National context 2008-12**

Along with the frontloaded budget cuts to local authorities, the new **coalition government** has introduced a series of reforms which have direct ramifications for local government and the environmental aspirations we hold in Haringey, highlights of which include:

- ❖ There is renewed effort to remove burdens across local government, and along with the currently ongoing '**Red Tape Challenge**', the government has scrapped the **National Indicators** dataset, and **Comprehensive Area Assessments**. Through the **Best Value review**, the 'Duty to Involve' and Sustainable Community Strategy have had their statutory status removed.
- ❖ A tough approach to the budgets of local finances has impacted on the resources we have available and has led to a reduction in the scope of programmes such as **Decent Homes**. This has now been revised to address external and internal essential health and safety works only.
- ❖ With fewer resources available, increased emphasis has been placed by the government on how the community can play a more significant role. The **Big Society** has been identified as a way to enhance capacity in the community. In turn, the government is encouraging local authorities to become more transparent, providing its community with the knowledge to play a greater role in their area.
- ❖ The **Localism act** was passed in 2011, with the intention of shifting power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. It aims to give neighbourhoods much greater ability to shape the places in which they live through the planning system.

## **2.2 Key Environmental changes**

The government has introduced a series of reforms centered on the environment agenda which has also had a significant impact. Highlights of which include:

- ❖ The new Energy Act includes provision for a new "Green Deal" which will enable private firms to offer consumers energy efficiency improvements to their homes, community spaces and businesses, and recoup payments through a charge on the energy bill.
- ❖ The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (previously known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment) is a mandatory carbon emissions reporting and pricing scheme. The coalition government



announced in October 2010 that the money raised from the sale of allowances will be retained by the Government rather than recycled back to scheme.

- ❖ The Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme was introduced on 1 April 2010, under powers in the Energy Act 2008. However, in October 2011, the coalition Government confirmed it was to slash solar incentives by more than 50%.
- ❖ The Natural Environment White Paper (June 2011) outlined the Government's vision for the natural environment over the next 50 years. Key measures in the White Paper, include:
  - New Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs)
  - Biodiversity offsetting
  - New Local Nature Partnerships
  - Green Areas Designation
  - New environmental volunteering initiative "Muck in 4 Life"

### **3 Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy 2008-2012**

The seven priorities which underpin Haringey's environmental approach capture the breadth of the challenge we face. They demonstrate a broad and complex area of work set against a national context of increased political, scientific, and public concern that urgent action must be taken to protect the environment and address global climate change at a local level.

#### **3.1 Key achievements**

In Haringey, we have been successful in a number of areas with regard to the environment. Detailed in appendix A, is the broad range of activities broken down into environmental themes. The outcome of which has meant,

- Carbon emissions have reduced
- Street cleanliness has improved
- Resident satisfaction in waste collections and street cleanliness has increased
- Household waste has reduced
- Recycling participation has increased
- Attendance at environmentally themed events increased
- Modal shift away from the car for children travelling to school
- Haringey Councils carbon emission have reduced
- More community growing spaces

#### **3.2 Programmes of work**

There are specific programmes of work that continue to be successful which include:

- **Haringey 40:20**

Haringey Council adopted an ambitious target in November 2009 to reduce carbon emissions in the borough 40% by 2020 as part of the Friends of the Earth 'Get Serious' campaign. A range of projects and initiatives have been implemented such as the Low Carbon Zone, any many more have been identified through the Local Carbon Frameworks programme. A 40:20 commission has been set up with leaders in the field to discuss potential options for the borough in meeting the ambitious target.



- **Sustainable transport**

A range of initiatives have been implemented over the last three years, contributing to Haringey's transport ambitions. A successfully implemented Car Club in partnership with Zipcar now has over 4000 members, and more cycle and walking paths have been laid. Haringey Council were also awarded £25k funding from Transport for London (TfL) to develop a Biking Borough cycling strategy to identify measures to increase cycling participation. To further meet our transport targets, a Sustainable Transport Commission was created to advise the Council on future policy.

- **Haringey waste contract**

Haringey Council awarded a new contract for waste collection and street cleansing to Veolia ES (UK) Ltd. As part of the procurement process, the council undertook a consultation with residents on waste services in the borough, which received the biggest response to a consultation that Haringey has issued. Over 6,800 responses were provided with the new contract including a village approach to street sweeping, a two year strategy to tackle fly tipping, and increased emphasis on recycling.

- **Haringey Council- leading by example**

Haringey has successfully promoted the sustainability agenda throughout the organisation, adopting a Carbon Management Plan with the aim of reducing carbon emissions from its buildings, fleet and schools 40% by 2014/15. The introduction of the Sustainable Investment Fund and the Schools Sustainable Investment Fund is providing real cost and environmental benefits, and is complemented by the adoption of a sustainable procurement action plan, a staff travel plan and the introduction of SMART working.

- **Green Fairs and conference**

From the 1000 people who braved the rain in 2007 at Alexandra Palace Park, the Green Fair continued to grow and in 2010 over 10,000 people turned out in Ducketts Common to participate in a partnership event designed to raise awareness of green issues and promote the opportunities for greener living. The Going Green conference has also seen increased attendance and outcomes and provides an opportunity to review environmental successes and plan for the year ahead.

- **Green Flag Parks**

Sixteen parks and open spaces managed by Haringey Council are now declared as being among the best in the country with Green Flag status. Highgate Wood (managed by the Corporation of London), Alexandra Park (run by the Alexandra Palace Trust) and Tottenham Marshes (run by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority) also have been awarded green flags- bringing the total parks in Haringey to 19.

### **3.3 Summary**

Overall the, the Greenest borough Strategy is successfully being delivered. There is a strong approach around carbon, a focussed programme of work on sustainable travel, and our parks have significantly improved. The challenge will be to maintain these areas of work amidst resource cuts, and as identified in section 4, there are partnership arrangements in place exploring how this can be achieved.

One area of work that has suffered over the past year is the broad focus on raising awareness and involvement, and encouraging behaviour change. This is largely embedded into workstreams, but a collaborated approach, exploring the positive potential community empowerment and enablement can have on the environmental agenda is a gap.



#### **4 Partnership**

Following the review of partnership working in the borough, the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) and six existing theme boards have been effectively dissolved.

Under the new arrangements there will be three multi agency partnership bodies:

- Health and Wellbeing Board (in shadow form until 2013) – Chair: Cllr Dogus, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services
- Community Safety Board – Chair: Cllr Vanier, Cabinet Member for Communities
- Social Inclusion and Worklessness Group – Chair: Cllr Strickland, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Social Inclusion

Two of these are (or will be once the relevant legislation has been passed) statutory:

- the Health and Wellbeing Board
- and the Community Safety Board.

In addition the following partnership groups will continue:

- The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) - a statutory multi agency body with the remit to ensure that local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is well co-ordinated and effective. Regulations require it to be independently chaired and to stand outside other partnership structures.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) – this is similar to the LSCB with responsibility for adults and is to become statutory once the Health and Social Care Bill becomes law.

Outgoing Theme Boards such as the Better Places Partnership (BPP) have been asked to identify key actions and areas of work within their remit which may not be addressed in the new arrangements. These are to be picked up by task and finish groups, already established networks and relationships, or as part of core business. The intention is that with smaller public services, we need more focused, tighter, and efficient partnerships.

Much of the Greenest Borough Strategy has been delivered in partnership. Although adopted by the HSP much of the successful partnership work as occurred outside of the HSP and BPP framework.

##### **4.1 Mapping exercise**

A mapping analysis of where environmental issues are/will be managed is outlined in the table below. It demonstrates that there are currently successful partnership bodies in place to manage key areas of work

Issue	Proposed future responsibility
<b>Better Places Partnership Board- Strategic lead for the environment and sustainability issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Street cleanliness, waste and recycling, environmental crime, enforcement</li> </ul> <b>(Priority 1 and 3 of the GBS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place and Sustainability Directorate, Haringey Council/ Veolia</li> <li>• Area Committees</li> </ul>



Issue	Proposed future responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parks and open spaces <b>(Priority 2 of the GBS)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Friends of parks groups</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Carbon management (reducing energy use, projects and engagement) <b>(Priority 3 and 5 of the GBS)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 40:20 Partnership and commission</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable food <b>(Priority 3 of the GBS)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable food steering group</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Council Leading by example <b>(Priority 4 of the GBS)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leading by example project board (Haringey Council)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sustainable travel (biking borough, reducing road transport) <b>(Priority 6 of the GBS)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Haringey Transport Forum</li> </ul>

#### 4.2 Potential partnership focus

As the table demonstrates, the Greenest Borough Strategy is being managed in a range of specifically focussed groups. However there are areas that could potentially benefit from a specifically focused task and finish group being established to focus on specifically identified issue. Following an analysis of the Greenest Borough Strategy, suggested issues are:

- **Community empowerment/behaviour change**

Priority seven of the Greenest borough Strategy focuses on Raising awareness and involvement. Since the strategy was adopted the council has led on campaigns, events and roadshows focused on empowering communities to play their part and lead sustainable lifestyles.

With fewer resources these approaches are difficult to resource and therefore, further focus needs to go on innovative new ways to engage and empower the community to get involved, building social capital in specific communities.

- **Waste and recycling**

With the new contract with Veolia being agreed, further focus and collaboration is required to increase levels of recycling and reducing waste. The scope can provide an opportunity to develop partnership working with voluntary groups and community organisations. By bringing together individuals and organisation who are involved in waste and recycling, the group can promote effective waste management and recycling throughout the borough.

#### 5 Key points for discussion

- The approach to partnership working around the environmental agenda.
- Key principles for future partnership arrangements being that they are targeted, resourced and commitment is provided from both partners and the council (there will be no central resource to manage any proposed partnership arrangements)
- The progress made in delivering the Greenest Borough Strategy
- The area of focus for future task and finish groups

#### Appendix A

##### **The Urban Environment**

- Haringey Council has adopted a new waste contract with Veolia, managing our street



cleanliness and waste collection.

- Haringey Council, in partnership with the Policy have taken a strong targeted approach on street litter, smoking litter, dog fouling and dumping leading to improved the cleanliness of the borough.
- Haringey named the best performing outer London borough for tackling litter in a capital standards survey on cleanliness, and the Environment Agency named Haringey the highest achieving London authority for tackling fly tipping through enforcement.
- Haringey Council collected the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards in the category of Public Protection of the Year.
- Haringey staged a successful multi agency conference in November 2011 on the subject of HMOs.
- Haringey Council, in partnership with other public bodies, organised a programme of clean sweep activities across the borough, and took part in the Capital Clean Up campaign.
- The Responsible Dog Ownership scheme was launched in partnership with the national Keep Britain Tidy Campaign.

#### **The Natural Environment**

- Haringey now has 19 Green Flag parks.
- Haringey adopt a new Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Management plans produced for sites of importance for nature conservation
- Habitat action plans were adopted for allotments, gardens, parks and green spaces, woodland, standing water and built structures
- £420k secured by Groundwork for Paignton, Russell and Fairlands Parks
- £80k secured by Froglife and Friends of Parks groups for new ponds in Downhills Park and Queens Wood
- Completion of £3.8m restoration of Markfield Park
- Introduction of Parkforce – 700 hours a week of patrols in Haringey's parks
- Haringey in bloom awards
- Lordship Recreation ground restoration has begun.
- The Living Under One Sun (LUOS) community allotment organised a Harvest Festival.
- Back2Earth won £50k from the Peoples Millions competition.

#### **Energy**

- Haringey Council was awarded £253k to develop a Low Carbon Zone and a further £335k from Low Carbon Communities challenge.
- The 40:20 campaign has been adopted, with Haringey the first major Local Authority to adopt the target.
- Energy monitors have been placed in libraries for residents to loan.
- Social housing Energy Saving Programme (SHESP)- providing cavity wall insulation for the boroughs social housing stock
- Haringey Council was awarded funding from the Decentralised Energy Master Planning Programme, established by the London Development Agency (LDA) to carry out two feasibility studies for potential heat networks in the borough.
- Haringey Council was selected as one of nine local authorities to take part in the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Local Carbon Frameworks pilot.
- Haringey Council became one of the first local authorities to commit to introducing Local Carbon Budgets, to better measure action on carbon reduction.
- Solar photovoltaic (PV) panels were installed at three Haringey schools: Alexandra Park, Rhodes Avenue and Fortismere.
- The core strategy has been influenced by the development of the Greenest Borough Strategy and its resulting environmental ambitions.



- A Local Climate Impacts Profile has been created which compiles a database of weather events and associated impacts which has been compiled from media reports and council service information going back as far as 2002.

### **Waste and Recycling**

- Expanded recycling service has been implemented with more materials that can be recycled.
- Households above shops now have a recycling service
- On the go recycling bins.
- Haringey Council has organised a series of Give or Take events and Compost giveaways
- Recycling operations team won chartered institute of waste management award for environmental excellence in the category of health and safety best practice
- Haringey's Recycling Service were winners at the Train to Gain awards, and short listed for Government Business Awards and letsrecycle.com Awards for excellence.
- Participated in watch your waste week

### **Food**

- Sustainable Food steering group created including partners and resident groups
- Haringey Council signed up to the Capital Growth target of 60 new community growing spaces by 2012.
- An online food map was produced to show new and existing food growing spaces in the borough.
- Hornsey Meadow Orchard created links with a farm on the outskirts of London as part of their 'Community Supported Agriculture' initiative.
- The 'Food from the Sky' project based at Thornton's Budgens in Crouch End received 200 old recycling boxes to use as containers food growing on their roof, along with advice and support on developing the project from the 2010 Chelsea Flower Show.
- Haringey achieved Fairtrade status.

### **'Leading by example'**

- Recycling is now in all offices, and the Sustainable Investment fund is providing real cost and environmental benefits.
- Creation of the Sustainable Investment Fund and Schools Sustainable Investment Fund.
- Innovative water filtration system has been installed at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre.
- Haringey Council adopted the Carbon Management Plan with the aim of reducing carbon emissions from our buildings, fleet and schools by 40% by 2014/15.
- SMART working rolled out in council offices
- Staff travel plan introduced.
- Green Champions programme was introduced.
- Adoption of a sustainable procurement action plan.

### **Sustainable travel**

- Haringey Car Club with 4100 of members
- The Sustainable Transport Commission was created to advise Haringey Council on transport policy.
- Electrical charging points have been introduced in car parks across the borough
- All schools have an approved school travel plan and Haringey collected the School Travel Planner of the Year Award.
- Haringey collected the Guardian award for Transport and mobility for work with Moselle School.
- Creation of Haringey Transport Forum
- Increased cycle and walking paths have been laid and new 'Cyclehoop' bike parking facilities were installed





**Haringey Council**

- The Air Quality Action Plan has been revised and updated and Haringey Council secured funding air quality awareness raising projects.
- Haringey Council were awarded £25k funding from Transport for London (TfL) to develop a Biking Borough cycling strategy to identify measures to increase cycling participation.

#### **Raising awareness and involvement**

- Going Green Conference and 40:20 conferences saw up to 100 people attend representing partners, residents and voluntary sector groups.
- The Green Fair grew from strength to strength with over 10,000 attendees in 2010.
- The Green Fair schools day attracted up to 500 children from 14 different schools.
- Haringey Council ran an outdoor promotional marketing campaign promoting behaviour change.
- Young peoples Earth Summit took place at the Bernie Grant Centre.
- A Sustainable Schools in Haringey CD was produced as a learning resource for teachers.
- Environmental engagement team worked with schools to promote energy reduction, waste reduction and recycling.