

Opposition Policy Item in the name of Cllr Ross Houston

Housing need in Barnet

Council is deeply concerned about the housing crisis caused by rising house prices and capacity issues restricting housing supply in Barnet, with a predicted shortage of about 5148 affordable homes each year for the next 5 years.

Council notes that there are around 15,000 people that are known to be in need of re-housing on the housing register - that many more Barnet residents have urgent housing needs, and that the local population is set to increase by 31,000 by 2016.

Council recognizes the need to create sustainable communities with balanced mixed use, mixed tenure developments, and appreciates the challenges that this presents in terms of meeting the needs of the whole community.

Council notes the administration's Housing Strategy update this year to help address housing need across Barnet – with a particular focus in those wards where the need is greatest.

Council believes that all members have a vital role in ensuring that the Borough is able to meet the needs of the whole community.

Council asks Cabinet to actively engage councillors from all political groups in the implementation of the current Housing Strategy, and the further development of its Housing Strategy beyond 2010, including through the scrutiny process.