

**Council, Tuesday 15 December, 2009**

**Administration Policy Item: Councillor Melvin Cohen**

**London Housing Design**

Council notes that the London Development Agency has produced new minimum design requirements that will initially apply to publicly funded homes. A key driving factor behind the new requirements is the need for suburban family sized homes, particularly affordable ones, in outer London boroughs such as Barnet.

Council further notes that the draft requirements cover the dwelling space, wider environment and streetscape of a new development, diverse housing requirements of London and climate change mitigation.

Council believes that design benchmarks for developers need to be updated and unified to match Barnet's unique housing requirements and to guarantee that affordable homes are of a high standard.

Council requests that Cabinet:

- Implement the Design for London benchmarks as part of Barnet's planning system once they have been finalised
- Encourage private developers to meet the requirements when initially drawing up planning applications
- Press for the requirements to become compulsory under more locally focussed planning laws