

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY 31ST JULY, 2018 AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BG

S U M M O N S A N D A G E N D A



All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Council meeting for the transaction of the business set out.

Andrew Charlwood
Head of Governance

Agenda and Timetable
Tuesday 31st July, 2018

Item	Subject	Timing	Page Nos
	Part 1 - Statutory formalities/Announcements (15 minutes)		
1.	Apologies for absence		
2.	Elect a Member to preside if the Mayor is absent		
3.	Prayer		
4.	Declarations of Interest		
5.	Minutes of the last meeting		7 - 22
6.	Official announcements		
7.	Any business remaining from last meeting		
	Part 2 - Question Time (30 minutes)		
8.	Questions to the Leader (and Committee Chairmen if he/she has delegated)		
	Part 3 - Statutory Council Business (60 minutes)		
9.	Petitions for Debate (20 minutes)		To Follow
10.	Reports from the Leader		
11.	Reports from Committees		
11.1	Referral from the Audit Committee - Annual Report of the Audit Committee		23 - 42
11.2	Referral from the Constitution & General Purposes Committee - Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet Stage 1 - Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission		43 - 90

11.3	Referral from the Constitution & General Purposes Committee - Constitution Review		To Follow
12.	Reports of Officers	7.45pm - 9.30pm	
12.1	Report of the Head of Governance		91 - 96
12.2	Council Tax Reduction for Care Leavers		To Follow
13.	Questions to Council Representatives on Outside Bodies		
	Break (15 minutes)		
	Part 4 – Business for Debate (45 minutes)		
14.	Motions (45 minutes)		
14.1	Administration Motion in the name of Councillor Brian Gordon - Boycott the Antisemitic BDS Movement		97 - 98
14.2	Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Jo Cooper - Pesticide Free Barnet		99 - 100
14.3	Administration Motion in the name of Councillor John Marshall - Conserve Our Family Homes		101 - 102
14.4	Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Jess Brayne - Equality in Mental Health Services for BAMER Communities		103 - 106
14.5	Administration Motion in the name of Lisa Rutter - Reunify Cyprus Allow Refugees Home		107 - 108
14.6	Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings - Broken Election Promises in Broken Barnet		109 - 110
14.7	Opposition Motion in the name of Councillor Ross Houston - People's Vote on the Final Brexit Deal		111 - 112
15.	Motions for Adjournment		

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Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance
Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, N11 1NP

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Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BG, on 6 March 2018

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENT:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Brian Salinger)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Val Duschinsky)

Councillors:

Maureen Braun	Ross Houston	Hugh Rayner
Jess Brayne	Anne Hutton	Tim Roberts
Rebecca Challice	Andreas Ioannidis	Gabriel Rozenberg
Pauline Coakley Webb	Dr Devra Kay	Lisa Rutter
Dean Cohen	Sury Khatri	Shimon Ryde
Jack Cohen	Adam Langleben	Gill Sargeant
Melvin Cohen	Kathy Levine	Joan Scannell
Philip Cohen	David Longstaff	Alan Schneiderman
Geof Cooke	Kitty Lyons	Mark Shooter
Alison Cornelius	John Marshall	Agnes Slocombe
Richard Cornelius	Kath McGuirk	Stephen Sowerby
Tom Davey	Arjun Mittra	Caroline Stock
Paul Edwards	Alison Moore	Daniel Thomas
Claire Farrier	Ammar Naqvi	Reuben Thompstone
Anthony Finn	Nagus Narenthira	Jim Tierney
Brian Gordon	Graham Old	Laurie Williams
Eva Greenspan	Alon Or-Bach	Peter Zinkin
Rohit Grover	Bridget Perry	Zakia Zubairi
Helena Hart	Wendy Prentice	
John Hart	Sachin Rajput	
	Barry Rawlings	

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Charlie O-
Macauley

Councillor Reema Patel

1. ELECT A MEMBER TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR IS ABSENT

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Reema Patel and Councillor Charlie O'Macauley.

2. ELECT A MEMBER TO PRESIDE IF THE MAYOR IS ABSENT

The Worshipful the Mayor was present.

3. PRAYER

Ms Rosette Heidarieh of the B'hai faith was called upon by the Worshipful the Mayor to speak to Council and say prayers.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that Members did not need to declare an interest in respect of any matter within the Budget Report which may only affect them in general terms. No interests were declared.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of 30 January 2018 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the correction of Councillor Brian Salinger's name.

6. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor wished a speedy recovery to chief executive John Hooton following the removal of his appendix. He then thanked all staff involved in the snow clearance following the previous week's bout of extreme weather.

The Worshipful the Mayor announced he was very sad to announce the recent passing of several figures well known to the Barnet community.

Firstly he noted he was sad to announce the death of Chris Harmanda who was the husband of former councillor Katia David, at the age of 59.

He noted he was also sad to announce that the widow of former Hendon North MP John Gorst had passed away a few weeks ago.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that Councillors had been advised of the passing of former Councillor Wayne Casey on 16 February at the age of only 54. He noted that some councillors wished to pay tribute. Councillor Jack Cohen, the Leader Councillor Richard Cornelius and Councillor Kath McGuirk then spoke in tribute to former Councillor Wayne Casey.

Council then observed a minute's silence.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that it was the final meeting before the local elections on 3 May and that those councillors who would be standing down this year were invited to address council. The following councillors gave farewell speeches:

Councillor Alon Or-bach
Councillor Devra Kay
Councillor Rebecca Challice
Councillor Tom Davey
Councillor Jim Tierney
Councillor Graham Old

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that the Council would be holding a Civic Awards ceremony on 25 April to recognise exceptional people in the borough and that councillors were very welcome to attend this event.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted there were several upcoming Mayoral charity events for which flyers had been distributed, and he hoped that some councillors would be able to attend some of these events.

7. ANY BUSINESS REMAINING FROM LAST MEETING

There was none.

8. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

The Deputy Mayor moved the following resolution:

“At a meeting of the Council held at Hendon Town Hall on Tuesday 6 March 2018 it was resolved that we, the Members of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet, hereby express to The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Brian Salinger our appreciation of the excellent service he has rendered to the London Borough of Barnet as its Mayor during the period May 2017 to May 2018, and for the friendly and conscientious way in which he has performed the duties of that office.

We offer him our sincere gratitude for the concern that he has shown at all times in promoting the welfare of the Borough and its residents, particularly for his willingness to support the many organisations and individuals who called on his time and services during his Mayoralty.

We congratulate him on the success of his appeals for his charity – Homeless Action in Barnet.”

This was duly agreed, with the foregoing resolution to be engrossed over the common seal of the corporation and presented to The Worshipful Mayor at the Annual Meeting.

9. THE MAYORALTY FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-2019

The Worshipful the Mayor called for nominations for election of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for 2018/19. He noted that there were two nominations for Mayor Designate. It was noted that the election of the approved Mayor Designate at Annual Council will be subject to the result of the local election on 3 May. It was noted that a vote for Mayor Designate must either be in favour of the Conservative Nomination, or in favour of the Labour Nomination and that votes would be taken on each.

Conservative Group Nomination

Councillor Melvin Cohen, duly seconded by Councillor Dean Cohen moved that Councillor Reuben Thompstone be proposed for the appointment of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet at the Annual meeting of the Council on 22 May 2018.

Labour Group Nomination

Councillor Arjun Mittra, duly seconded by Councillor Alon Or-bach moved that the Councillor Alison Moore be proposed for the appointment of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet at the annual meeting of the Council on 22 May 2018.

The Worshipful the Mayor advised Council that a vote was either in favour of the Conservative Nomination, Councillor Reuben Thompstone, or in favour of the Labour Nomination, Councillor Alison Moore. Upon the nominations being put to the vote, the Conservative nomination was declared carried.

Councillor Reuben Thompstone was nominated as Mayor Designate.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Reuben Thompstone was nominated as Mayor Designate

Councillor Reuben Thompstone thanked those present for his nomination and nominated Councillor Caroline Stock to be his Deputy Mayor Designate.

10. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER

The Leader, Councillor Richard Cornelius moved reception and adoption of the report.

The Leader noted the Electoral Commission had advised it was conducting a review of the wards in Barnet, and that the Council was required to give its view by the end of the month as to how many councillors the Council views it needs, how many wards they should be distributed in and whether they should be evenly distributed. The Leader noted the Administration would prefer to respond on behalf of all Members, and sought the support of the Opposition to note Council's preference is to have 21 wards of 3 Members each distributed evenly around the borough. The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Barry Rawlings, confirmed that the Opposition Group supported this proposal.

The Leader then noted a proposed response to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on the Fair Funding Review had been tabled around the Chamber. He sought the support of the Opposition for the Chief Executive to provide a written response to the DCLG on behalf of Council, by the end of the week. The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Barry Rawlings confirmed the Opposition's support for the proposed response. Debate ensued.

Councillor Richard Cornelius then moved a motion for council to agree the proposed response as tabled. The motion was seconded and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED,

That Council notes:

- 1. Government is currently consulting on their proposals for revision to the way local government is funded; the consultation is known as the Fair Funding review.**
- 2. In the summer of 2017, the Outer London Boroughs jointly commissioned an independent piece of research into their funding position under the current system of revenue support grant funding and their budget pressures. This showed that:**
 - Relative to Inner London, spending power for Outer London will be 19% lower in 2019/20, or lower by £161 per resident.**
 - Relative to the rest of England, Outer London's spending power will be 9% lower, or lower by £63 per resident.**

- The difference from Inner London is mostly due to the Outer London Boroughs' lower levels of funding in the form of grants and retained business rates, though this is partly offset by higher council tax revenue.

That Council instructs the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, to respond to the Fair Funding review making the following points:

1. Barnet, and other similar London Boroughs, are unfairly funded and therefore the council welcomes the review.
2. That plans to simplify the formula, focussing on the most important cost drivers are welcome
3. That the formula should be based on refreshed population estimates, taking account of transience and population movement
4. That journey times are a more appropriate proxy of additional costs than rurality, as this allows impacts of urbanity such as congestion and lower speed limits to be considered consistently
5. That deprivation, taking account of housing costs, should be a common cost driver.
6. That area cost adjustments should take account of property and land prices, general labour market approach, private sector pay levels; and that levels of homelessness, people with No Recourse to Public Funds and unaccompanied asylum seekers should also be included within the formula as these present significant costs to local authorities.

Council further instructs that the reply should also set out the relevant factors for assessing social care, waste management and other costs in accordance with those identified in the research commissioned by Outer London Boroughs.

11. PETITIONS FOR DEBATE (20 MINUTES)

There were none.

12. REPORT OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - BUSINESS PLANNING 2018-20

Councillor Richard Cornelius, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, moved reception and adoption of the recommendations in the report. Councillor Barry Rawlings moved his amendment. Councillor Jack Cohen moved his amendment. Debate ensued.

The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 and Council Procedure Rule 12.4 requires that voting relating to the budget and Council tax be recorded. In accordance with this requirement, voting on the budget decisions was as follows:

Upon being put to the vote, the Labour Alternative Budget was declared lost. Voting on the Labour Alternative Budget:

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Maureen Braun		✓		
Jess Brayne	✓			
Rebecca Butler	✓			
Pauline Coakley Webb	✓			
Dean Cohen		✓		
Jack Cohen			✓	
Melvin Cohen		✓		
Philip Cohen	✓			
Geof Cooke	✓			
Alison Cornelius		✓		
Richard Cornelius		✓		
Tom Davey		✓		
Val Duschinsky		✓		
Paul Edwards	✓			
Claire Farrier	✓			
Anthony Finn		✓		
Brian Gordon		✓		
Eva Greenspan		✓		
Rohit Grover		✓		
Helena Hart		✓		
John Hart		✓		
Ross Houston	✓			
Anne Hutton	✓			
Andreas Ioannidis	✓			
Devra Kay	✓			
Sury Khatri		✓		
Adam Langleben	✓			
Kathy Levine	✓			
David Longstaff		✓		
Kitty Lyons	✓			
John Marshall		✓		
Kath McGuirk	✓			
Arjun Mittra	✓			
Alison Moore	✓			
Ammar Naqvi	✓			
Nagas Narenthira	✓			
Charlie O'Macauley				✓
Graham Old		✓		

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Alon Or-Bach	✓			
Reema Patel				✓
Bridget Perry		✓		
Wendy Prentice		✓		
Sachin Rajput		✓		
Barry Rawlings	✓			
Hugh Rayner		✓		
Tim Roberts	✓			
Gabriel Rozenberg		✓		
Lisa Rutter		✓		
Shimon Ryde		✓		
Brian Salinger		✓		
Gill Sargeant	✓			
Joan Scannell		✓		
Alan Schneiderman	✓			
Mark Shooter		✓		
Agnes Slocombe	✓			
Stephen Sowerby		✓		
Caroline Stock		✓		
Daniel Thomas		✓		
Reuben Thompstone		✓		
Jim Tierney	✓			
Laurie Williams	✓			
Peter Zinkin		✓		
Zakia Zubairi	✓			

For: 28
 Against: 32
 Abstain: 1
 Absent: 2
 TOTAL: 63

Upon being put to the vote, the Liberal Democrat Alternative Budget was declared lost.
 Voting on the Liberal Democrat Alternative Budget:

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Maureen Braun		✓		
Jess Brayne			✓	
Rebecca Butler			✓	
Pauline Coakley Webb			✓	
Dean Cohen		✓		

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Jack Cohen	✓			
Melvin Cohen		✓		
Philip Cohen			✓	
Geof Cooke			✓	
Alison Cornelius		✓		
Richard Cornelius		✓		
Tom Davey		✓		
Val Duschinsky		✓		
Paul Edwards			✓	
Claire Farrier			✓	
Anthony Finn		✓		
Brian Gordon		✓		
Eva Greenspan		✓		
Rohit Grover		✓		
Helena Hart		✓		
John Hart		✓		
Ross Houston			✓	
Anne Hutton			✓	
Andreas Ioannidis			✓	
Devra Kay			✓	
Sury Khatri		✓		
Adam Langleben			✓	
Kathy Levine			✓	
David Longstaff		✓		
Kitty Lyons			✓	
John Marshall		✓		
Kath McGuirk			✓	
Arjun Mittra			✓	
Alison Moore			✓	
Ammar Naqvi			✓	
Nagas Narenthira			✓	
Charlie O'Macauley				✓
Graham Old		✓		
Alon Or-Bach			✓	
Reema Patel				✓
Bridget Perry		✓		
Wendy Prentice		✓		
Sachin Rajput		✓		
Barry Rawlings			✓	

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Hugh Rayner		✓		
Tim Roberts			✓	
Gabriel Rozenberg		✓		
Lisa Rutter		✓		
Shimon Ryde		✓		
Brian Salinger		✓		
Gill Sargeant			✓	
Joan Scannell		✓		
Alan Schneiderman			✓	
Mark Shooter		✓		
Agnes Slocombe			✓	
Stephen Sowerby		✓		
Caroline Stock		✓		
Daniel Thomas		✓		
Reuben Thompstone		✓		
Jim Tierney			✓	
Amy Trevethan			✓	
Laurie Williams			✓	
Peter Zinkin		✓		
Zakia Zubairi			✓	

For: 1
 Against: 32
 Abstain: 28
 Absent: 2
 TOTAL: 63

Upon being put to the vote the recommendations in the report of the Policy and Resources Committee were declared carried, with voting being declared as follows:

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Maureen Braun	✓			
Jess Brayne		✓		
Rebecca Butler		✓		
Pauline Coakley Webb		✓		
Dean Cohen	✓			
Jack Cohen		✓		
Melvin Cohen	✓			
Philip Cohen		✓		
Geof Cooke		✓		

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Alison Cornelius	✓			
Richard Cornelius	✓			
Tom Davey	✓			
Val Duschinsky	✓			
Paul Edwards		✓		
Claire Farrier		✓		
Anthony Finn	✓			
Brian Gordon	✓			
Eva Greenspan	✓			
Rohit Grover	✓			
Helena Hart	✓			
John Hart	✓			
Ross Houston		✓		
Anne Hutton		✓		
Andreas Ioannidis		✓		
Devra Kay		✓		
Sury Khatri	✓			
Adam Langleben		✓		
Kathy Levine		✓		
David Longstaff	✓			
Kitty Lyons		✓		
John Marshall	✓			
Kath McGuirk		✓		
Arjun Mittra		✓		
Alison Moore		✓		
Ammar Naqvi		✓		
Nagas Narenthira		✓		
Charlie O'Macauley		✓		✓
Graham Old	✓			
Alon Or-Bach		✓		
Reema Patel				✓
Bridget Perry	✓			
Wendy Prentice	✓			
Sachin Rajput	✓			
Barry Rawlings		✓		
Hugh Rayner	✓			
Tim Roberts		✓		
Gabriel Rozenberg	✓			
Lisa Rutter	✓			

	For	Against	Not Voting	Absent
Shimon Ryde	✓			
Brian Salinger	✓			
Gill Sargeant		✓		
Joan Scannell	✓			
Alan Schneiderman		✓		
Mark Shooter	✓			
Agnes Slocombe		✓		
Stephen Sowerby	✓			
Caroline Stock	✓			
Daniel Thomas	✓			
Reuben Thompstone	✓			
Jim Tierney		✓		
Laurie Williams		✓		
Peter Zinkin	✓			
Zakia Zubairi		✓		

For: 32
Against: 29
Abstain: 0
Absent: 2
TOTAL: 63

RESOLVED – That Council:

- 1. Consider the issues that have emerged from the consultation when making their decisions. Council will make the decisions below also being mindful of the equalities impact assessments including the cumulative equalities impact assessments;**
- 2. Approve the MTFs attached as Appendix A and the detailed revenue budgets in Appendices C1 and C2. The MTFs sets out all of the budget changes over the period 2017-20, including assumptions around inflation, changes to levies, pressures, savings and grant funding. It is the model around which the council's financial strategy is based;**
- 3. Approve that the budget for 2018/19 is prepared on the basis of no increase to general council tax in 2018/19, other than for the increase set out below on recommendation 4;**
- 4. Approve the applying of a social care precept at 3% in 2018/19 – to help fund care for vulnerable adults and the elderly;**
- 5. Approve the resolutions relating to Council Tax contained within Appendix B – Council Tax Resolutions;**

- 6. Approve, on the advice of the Chief Finance Officer, that it determines that the council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2018/19 as set out in Council Tax resolution (Appendix B) 2(iv) is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under section 52ZB and 52ZC of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, set out in the Referendums relating to Council Tax increases (Principles)(England) Report 2018/19;**
- 7. Approve that the Barnet Council Tax Support Scheme, adopted in January 2015, remains unchanged except for uprating in line with Department for Work and Pension changes for housing benefit (see 1.7.12 within Appendix 1;**
- 8. Notes that the working age non-dependent (ND) charges be uprated as set out in paragraph 1.7.13 within Appendix 1;**
- 9. Approve that in accordance with Section 38(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 the Chief Executive be instructed to place a notice in the local press of the amounts set under recommendation 5 above within a period of 21 days following the Council's decision;**
- 10. Approve the capital programme as set out in Appendix E1 and E2, and that the Chief Officers be authorised to take all necessary actions for implementation;**
- 11. Note that the addition to the capital programme in relation to the Barnet Trees Policy (as per paragraph 1.8.16 in the 13th February 2018 P&R report) was approved in addition to the capital programme referred to in recommendation 10;**
- 12. Note that the addition to the capital programme in relation to the Gaelic Playing pitch relocation (as per paragraph 1.8.20 in the 13th February 2018 P&R report) was approved in addition to the capital programme referred to in recommendation 10;**
- 13. Note that the addition to the capital programme in relation to the Tranche 3 Affordable Homes Programme (as per paragraph 1.8.25 in the 13th February 2018 P&R report) was approved in addition to the capital programme referred to in recommendation 10;**
- 14. Note that the addition to the capital programme in relation to the Housing Acquisition Programme (as per paragraph 1.8.29 in the 13th February 2018 P&R report) was approved in addition to the capital programme referred to in recommendation 10;**
- 15. Delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer to adjust capital project budgets and financing in 2018/19 throughout the capital programme after**

the 2017/18 accounts are closed and the amount of slippage and budget carry forward required are known;

16. Note that the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix J) is a live document and that the version recommended by Policy and Resources has been updated to reflect the proposed capital programme and the inclusion of lease financed capital expenditure;
17. Approve of the Treasury Management Strategy for 2018/19 as set out in Appendix J;
18. Approval of the following in relation to the Housing Revenue Account:
 - a) The proposed rent decrease by 1% for council dwellings as set out in Appendix 1 paragraph 1.10.3 to take effect from 1 April 2018;
 - b) The proposed increase to service charges for council dwellings as set out in Appendix 1 paragraph 1.10.9 to take effect from 1 April 2018; and,
 - c) The proposed rent increase of 3.1% for council garages as set out in Appendix 1 paragraph 1.10.9 to take effect from 1 April 2018.
19. Approval of the draft Schools Budget of £327.313m as per paragraph 1.6.8 in Appendix 1;
20. Note the draft Post-16 budget of £5.417m as per paragraph 1.6.8 in Appendix 1;
21. Approve that any changes to the Schools Budget reasonably required as a result of the final 2018/19 DSG and Post-16 settlement are delegated for decision to the Strategic Director - Children & Young People in consultation with the Director of Finance;
22. Note the Adults, Children's and Environment fees and charges that were approved at their relevant Theme Committee as detailed in Appendix G;
23. Note the summary equality impact assessment (EIA) and cumulative assessment set out in section 5.6. of Appendix I provides the cumulative impact and individual Delivery Unit assessments where significant changes to service delivery are proposed;
24. Approve the reserves and balances policy as set out in Appendix K and indicative amounts as set out in para 1.12 in Appendix 1 and the Chief Finance Officer's assessment of adequacy of reserves in section 1.12 in Appendix 1. That Council delegate authority to the CFO to adjust balances in 2018/19 after 2017/18 accounts are closed and the amount of balances carry forward required are known;

- 25. Note the changes to the underlying financial strategy of the Council as set out in paragraph 1.4.20 within Appendix 1 and approved by Policy and Resources Committee;
- 26. Note the budget movements as set out in paragraph 1.15 in Appendix 1 and approved by Policy and Resources Committee;
- 27. Approve the write offs as detailed in paragraph 1.16 in Appendix 1;
- 28. Approve the corporate risk register as set out in Appendix M;
- 29. Approve the Corporate Plan – 2018/19 addendum attached as Appendix N, subject to any changes to the relevant appendices by Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee on 12 March or Community Leadership Committee on 15 March; and
- 30. Note the establishment of a Collection Fund Smoothing Reserve as set out in paragraph 1.12.10 of Appendix 1 and approved by Policy and Resources Committee.

13. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2018-19

The Worshipful the Mayor introduced the report. Following consideration of the report the recommendations in the report were put to the vote and the votes were declared as follows:

For:	32
Against:	29
Abstain:	0
Absent:	2
TOTAL:	63

RESOLVED:

- 1. That Council have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London as attached as Appendix A.
- 2. That Council approve the Members' Allowances Scheme 2018/19 attached as Appendix B with effect from 1 April 2018.

14. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

The Head of Governance introduced the report. He noted the item set out at agenda item 13.2 detailed changes to the calendar of meetings for the municipal year 2017-18. He

noted two further changes since agenda publication: the Adults and Safeguarding Committee scheduled for 5 March was cancelled, and the Hendon Area Committee of 28 February was re-scheduled to 8 March.

The recommendations as set out in Appendix A were put to the vote and were unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED - That the Council note the change to the Calendar of Meetings.

15. REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE - CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY PANEL

The Chairman of the Children Education Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, Cllr Reuben Thompstone moved reception and adoption of the report. Debate ensued.

On the recommendations in the report being put to the vote they were unanimously carried.

RESOLVED – That Council:


- 1. Agrees that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel becomes an informal working group.**
- 2. Agrees that, subject to recommendation 1 being agreed, that Council nominates Members to be appointed to the Panel in accordance with the membership requirements in the Panel’s revised terms of reference.**
- 3. Notes the proposed Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**

16. QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were none.

The meeting finished at 9.17 pm

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	<p>Council</p> <p>31 July 2018</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2017/18</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Audit Committee</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Enclosures</p>	<p>Annex 1 – Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2017/18 Cover Report Appendix 1 – Audit Committee Annual Report 2017/18</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Clair Green, Assurance Director, clair.green@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<p>Summary</p>
<p>The Constitution under Responsibility for Functions includes the following within the Audit Committee’s terms of reference: “The Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on an annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.”</p> <p>The attached Annual Report describes how the Audit Committee met its objectives as well as detailing the work of the Committee and the outcomes it achieved for 2017-18. It was approved by the Audit Committee on 17 July 2018.</p>

<p>Officers Recommendation</p>
<p>That Council note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2017/18</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Annual Report describes the work of the Committee and the outcomes it achieved for 2017/18.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is a Constitutional requirement for the Audit Committee to present an Annual Report to full Council each year.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 N/A

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.2 The Audit Committee provides the Council with independent assurance and effective challenge and, therefore, the Committee is central to the provision of effective governance that supports delivery of all corporate priorities.

5.3 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.3.1 None in the context of this report.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Article 7 (Committees, Forums and Working Groups) requires that the Audit Committee “shall prepare a report to Full Council on annual basis on its activity and effectiveness”.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 None in the context of this report

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 None in the context of this report


5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 The Audit Committee on 17 July 2018 considered the Annual Report of the Audit Committee and referred it to Council.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None

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	<h2>Audit Committee</h2> <h3>17 July 2018</h3>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2017-18</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Audit Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A – Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2017-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annex 1 –Schedule of Planned and Unplanned Work 2017-18
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Clair Green, Assurance Director clair.green@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<h2>Summary</h2>
<p>The Constitution under Responsibility for Functions includes the following within the Audit Committee’s terms of reference:</p> <p>“The Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on an annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.”</p> <p>The attached Annual Report describes how the Audit Committee meets its objectives as well as detailing the work of the Committee to date and the outcomes it has achieved for 2017-18</p>

<h2>Recommendations</h2>
<p>1. That the Committee recommend Full Council to note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2017-18 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Annual Report describes the work of the Committee to date and the outcomes it has achieved for 2017-18.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked whether they wish to make any amendments and note that the report will be presented to Full Council in due course.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is a Constitutional requirement for the Audit Committee to present an Annual Report to full Council each year.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once agreed by the Committee the report will be sent to the next Full Council meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.11 The Audit Committee provides the Council with independent assurance and effective challenge and, therefore, the Committee is central to the provision of effective governance that supports delivery of all corporate priorities.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 There are no legal issues in the context of this report.

- 5.3.2 The Audit Committee's terms of reference are noted in the Council's Constitution under responsibility for functions. Function 16 of the terms of references requires that the Audit Committee "shall prepare a report to Full Council on annual basis on its activity and effectiveness".

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 None in the context of this report

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPER

None

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Appendix 1

Audit Committee Annual Report 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018

Cllr Anthony Finn
Chairman of the Audit Committee
July 2018

Contents

1. Introduction and overview

2. Summary of Audit Committee outcomes during 2017-8

3. Conclusions

Annex 1 –Schedule of actual work 2017-8

1. Introduction and Overview

1.1 Good corporate governance requires independent, effective assurance about both the adequacy of financial management and reporting, and the management of other processes required to achieve the organisation's corporate and service objectives. Good practice from the wider public sector indicates that these functions are best delivered by an independent audit committee. In this context, "independence" means that an audit committee should be independent from any other executive function. Further, the National Audit Office regards "well-functioning Audit Committees as key to helping organisations achieve good corporate governance".

1.2 It is important that local authorities have independent assurance about the mechanisms underpinning these aspects of governance.

Specifically:

1.2.1 **independent assurance** of the adequacy of the control environment within the authority;

1.2.2 **independent review** of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and

1.2.3 **assurance** that any issues arising from the process of drawing up, auditing and certifying the authority's annual accounts are properly dealt with and that appropriate accounting policies have been applied.

1.3 Effective audit committees can bring many benefits to local authorities and these benefits are described in CIPFA's *Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities* as:

1.3.1 raising greater awareness of the need for internal control and the implementation of audit recommendations;

1.3.2 increasing public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting;

1.3.3 reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit and any other similar review process (for example, providing a view on the Annual Governance Statement); and

1.3.4 providing additional assurance through a process of independent and objective review.

1.3.5 Effective internal control and the establishment of an audit committee can never eliminate the risks of serious fraud, misconduct or misrepresentation of the financial position. However, an audit committee:

➤ **can give additional assurance through a process of independent and objective review**

➤ **can raise awareness of the need for sound control and the implementation of recommendations by internal and external audit**

1.4 **Audit Committee at Barnet Council**

The Council's Constitution includes the terms of reference for the Audit Committee, defining its core functions. The terms of reference describe the purpose of the Audit Committee as being:

“to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority’s financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority’s exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.”

- 1.4.1 To bring additional expertise from the sector and financial capability the Audit Committee also has two independent members.
- 1.4.2 The Audit Committee has a work programme that has been drawn up to effectively discharge its responsibilities as defined by the terms of reference.
- 1.4.3 The Committee relies upon independent, qualified professionals to provide assurance. Directors and Assistant Directors (or equivalent grade) have attended Committee to support the process and to aid in the Committee’s effectiveness/understanding.
- 1.4.4 During the year 2017-18 the Committee undertook all of its meetings in the public domain. There have been two instances whereby items have been considered exempt and have been discussed in Part 2 of the meeting. These were the Prevent Follow-Up Audit Report (November 2017 meeting) and a Confidential Investigation Update (April 2018 meeting).
- 1.4.5 From July 2017 to the Local Election in May 2018 the Audit Committee had been chaired by Councillor Hugh Rayner, a member of the administration, for a one year period.
- 1.4.5 The Chairman during 2017-8 required senior officer attendance where there were high priority Audit recommendations and has continued to encourage public participation at the Audit Committee.

2. Summary of Audit Committee Outcomes during 2017-8

- 2.1 During the financial year (April 2017 – March 2018) the Audit Committee has demonstrated a number of outcomes with a focus on delivering improvement to the organisation. The way in which these were implemented were as follows: -
 - 2.1.1 **Key controls and assurance mechanisms.** The Committee relies upon information presented from qualified, independent and objective officers and external assurance providers. The key controls and assurance mechanisms are as described within the Annual Governance Statement. The Audit Committee is not a working group, it does not carry out the work itself, but relies on the assurance framework to bring significant issues to the Committee for discussion and make recommendations for the Executive and officers to take forward. The Committee recognises that management are responsible for a sound control environment¹.
 - 2.1.2 **Cross-Council Assurance Service (CCAS).** The Internal Audit service is delivered through a mixed economy model, which includes an in-house team and external provider, currently PwC. We work closely with 5 other London Boroughs (Islington, Camden, Enfield, Lambeth and Harrow) under a framework contract with PwC for the provision of internal audit, risk management, investigation and advisory services. Collectively we are the Cross-Council Assurance Service (CCAS). In November 2017, CCAS was shortlisted in the Institute of Internal Audit (IIA) Audit and Risk Awards for the Outstanding Team award.

¹The control environment comprises the systems of governance, risk management and internal control

2.2. External Audit financial resilience and value for money. For 2017/18 BDO continue to be the Council's appointed external auditors.

2.2.1 In July 2017, in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260, the council's external auditors (BDO) provided a draft report on matters arising from the audit of the Council's Accounts. The ISA 260 report has to be considered by "those charged with governance" (The Audit Committee) before the external auditor can sign the accounts, which legally had to be done by 30 September 2017. At the time of consideration there were a number of outstanding items and therefore the accounts could not be signed on the 27th July 2017. An extraordinary meeting of the Audit Committee was subsequently arranged for the 19th September 2017 and the accounts were signed within the statutory timescales. The Council's external auditors did not identify any adjustments affecting the Council's financial position and the accounts were signed accordingly.

2.2.2 The key messages arising from the audit of the 2016/17 financial statements were:

- The auditors identified no evidence of material misstatement as a result of management override of controls, or systematic bias in the making of accounting estimates.
- The work on the significant risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition identified no issues.
- There were no differences to be corrected in the final Statement of Accounts that affected the reported surplus for the year. A number of amendments to classifications and presentational adjustments were made but there were no unadjusted audit differences.
- The auditors identified some areas for improvement in respect of the Council's Narrative Statement.
- The auditors did not identify any significant control deficiencies, but did make a number of other recommendations.

2.2.3 In providing the opinion on the financial statements, the external auditors, concluded on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for ensuring economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the Value for Money Conclusion). The Council received a qualified Value for Money opinion as a result of the 'inadequate' Ofsted rating for Family Services.

2.4 Improvement agenda – the Audit Committee is committed to improving shortfalls in the control environment, rather than apportioning blame.

2.4.1 The Audit Committee has been provided with assurances on internal audit high priority recommendations and the progress against these quarter by quarter. The Audit Committee and its Chairman has asked that leading officers (Directors or Assistant Directors / Strategic Leads) to attend the Audit Committee to explain any deficiencies identified by Internal Audit and how they intend to address and action them. The important aspect that the Audit Committee has been assessing each quarter is whether the direction of travel from one quarter to the next has been improving via recommendations having been implemented. This focus on improving the control

environment through follow-up and discussion has made Delivery Units accountable for improvement. We followed up a total of 109 recommendations that had been raised and were due to have been implemented by the end of 2017/18. Of those, we found that 98 had been fully implemented by the year end, 9 were ongoing and 2 were outstanding. The direction of travel for implementing audit recommendations on a timely basis is therefore positive in 2017/18 with 90% of recommendations confirmed as having been implemented within agreed timescales (88% in 2016-17).

2.4.2 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the Head of Internal Audit to provide an annual opinion, based upon and limited to the work performed, on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation’s framework of governance, risk management and control (i.e. the organisation’s system of internal control). The opinion does not imply that Internal Audit has reviewed all risks relating to the organisation and is based on the work performed in 2017-18 but the conclusion should be considered in the context of the financial pressures facing the Council in a period where savings are required to be made but there is a greater demand for local services due to the borough’s growing population. For 2017-18 a ‘Limited Annual Internal Audit Opinion was given.

2.4.3 In line with the Scheme of Financing Schools, the Chief Finance Officer is required to deploy internal audit to examine the control frameworks operating within schools under the control of the Local Education Authority (“LEA”). In 2017-18, Internal Audit performed 24 schools visits and undertook 4 follow-up reviews.

2.4.4 Following the requirement of an extraordinary meeting of the Audit Committee an improvement plan was put in place to address issues in the production of the Statement of Accounts. This improvement plan was monitored throughout the period by the Section 151 Officer and Deputy plus updates were provided to the Audit Committee periodically. The 2017/18 Statement of Accounts were produced and submitted to BDO by the 31st May 2018 statutory deadline.

2.4.4 The **Internal Audit and the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT)** functions, which are organisationally independent from the rest of the Council, have a combined Annual Plan approved annually by Audit Committee which demonstrates their commitment to joint working, making the best use of resources and avoidance of duplication of effort. This also enables them to ensure that any control weakness identified through fraudulent activity are followed up with recommendations to strengthen the control environment and noted on the service risk registers.

2.5 Issues external and internal assurances – during the year the Audit Committee has been presented with various reports regarding control weaknesses. Areas that received an Internal Audit ‘No / Limited’ assurance rating, or where a management letter identified areas of weaknesses and high priority recommendations, are listed below. The Committee has also continued to follow up all High priority recommendations within Reasonable Assurance reports where those recommendations are not implemented within the agreed timeframes. -

Review Title	Assurance rating	Number of High Priority recommendations
--------------	------------------	---

Prevent – part of the Contest Framework	Management letter issued	4
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – Phase 2, Expenditure	Limited	3
Transformation – Benefits Realisation	Limited	3
Elections Management – Annual Canvass	Management letter issued	3
Pensions Administration (full risk-based review)	Limited	2
Accounts Payable	Limited	2
Regeneration – Benefits Realisation	Limited	2
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – Phase 1, Income	Limited	1
Nursery Places – Free Early Education Funding	Limited	1
Staff Performance Reviews	Reasonable	1
Contract Register Maintenance	Reasonable	1
Accounts Receivable	Reasonable	1
Fixed Asset Register	Reasonable	1
Eligibility to Work - Pre-Employment Checks (Non-Schools) (Joint with CAFT)	Reasonable	1
Troubled Families - Payment by Results - December 2017 submission: data integrity issues meant that this claim could not be verified and was not submitted.	Claim not verified	1

2.6 Anti-Fraud – during the year the CAFT operated to an anti-fraud strategy and annual work plan which was approved by the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee has also received quarterly progress as well as an Annual report from CAFT which provide detailed summary on outcomes including preventative, proactive and reactive anti-fraud work undertaken.

2.6.1 During 2017/18 the Council has been dealing with a significant financial fraud issue. This matter came to light late in December 2017 and the Council responded immediately with a set of follow up actions; a criminal investigation commenced immediately by our CAFT Team (with relevant support where required from the Police). The individual was an employee of Re and subsequently left that employment. In addition, enhanced financial controls were immediately implemented to safeguard the council's finances until a full review could be undertaken. An independent review of financial controls and a financial forensic analysis was commissioned.

The individual was summonsed to appear before Willesden Magistrates court on the 3rd July 2018, on two charges of Fraud by Abuse of Position, contrary to the Section 4 of the Fraud Act 2006. The individual gave no indication of plea and the matter was referred to Harrow Crown Court for a Plea and Trial Preparation Hearing on 31st July 2018. Further details including the outcome of this case will be reported once the criminal proceedings have been concluded.

Members of the Audit Committee were initially briefed on the matter in January 2018 and a further report was provided to the Audit Committee in April 2018 during exempt session (in accordance with Sections 100A-H and Schedule 12A Local Government Act

1972). The committee will continue to be kept updated as appropriate. On conclusion of the criminal investigation and any associated proceedings, a more detailed final report will be taken to the Audit Committee.

2.6.2 Blue Badge Fraud and Misuse featured heavily within the CAFT program in 2017-18 with 355 new referrals being received in this area. Officer resource was increased to combat what has proved to be an area of increasing fraud with 36 cases successfully prosecuted and 86 Formal Cautions issued, 51 Warning letters sent out and 2 cases referred to the Police. Eight joint street operations also took place which resulted in 56 Blue Badges being seized at the scene of the offence.

2.6.3 In relation to Tenancy Fraud CAFT investigations resulted in 61 properties being recovered during 2017-18, which include, 11 succession applications being denied and 14 emergency accommodation properties being cancelled. The savings that this number of recovered properties equates to is £9.15m (according to audit commission calculation of £150k per recovered property). Good work was also undertaken in relation to 'Right to Buy' applications – with 45 being denied as a result of CAFT intervention. There is a maximum discount of £103,900 per property on right to buy cases; this work has meant that CAFT have saved the loss of a property and an asset value loss of £4,169,000 in discounts in 2017-18 year.

2.6.4 In other areas of internal / corporate fraud 1 case relating to cancellations of fines was successfully prosecuted and 1 Simple caution was administered to an offender.

2.6.5 In relation to Proceeds of Crime (POCA) Investigation CAFT Specialist Financial investigators received 13 new cases in 2017-18. As well as carrying out PoCA investigation for the London Borough of Barnet, these specialist officers are now also assisting other local authorities with the PoCA element of their criminal cases

2.6.6 Whistleblowing matters are also reported to the Audit Committee. Three matters were referred under whistleblowing policy in the last year – summarised below: -

- Q1 A whistleblowing letter was received this quarter but this related to a grievance issue and the whistle-blower was informed how to raise the issue in accordance with the relevant HR Policy.
- Q3 A whistleblowing referral was received this quarter which was passed to appropriate service to deal with under the corporate complaints procedure
- Q4 A whistleblowing referral was received this quarter which is currently being investigated

2.7 **Planned and unplanned work** – The Committee has completed its work plan in accordance with its planned level of activity as detailed at annex 1.

3. Conclusions

3.1 In conclusion the Audit Committee feels that it has demonstrated that it has added value to the Council's overall Governance Framework.

3.2 Throughout 2018-19 the Audit Committee plans to continue to require senior officers to attend Committee meetings to aid in its understanding of the services and the issues identified

through the audit process, but mostly to ensure that internal and external recommendations are given the priority required and implemented on a timely basis.

- 3.3 The Audit Committee's focus will continue to be ensuring action is taken of internal control deficiencies and reviewing progress on a regular basis as well as commitment to improving shortfalls in the control environment, rather than apportioning blame.

Annex 1 – Schedule of actual work 2017-8

Detail Reports considered:

Audit Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Items
20 th April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q4 Progress Report -1st January to 31st March 2017 Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2016-17 • Internal Audit Annual Opinion 2016-17 • Internal Audit & Anti-Fraud Strategy and Annual Plan 2017-18 • External Audit Plan 2016-17 • Audit Committee Work Programme 2016-17
27 th July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q1 Progress Report - 1st April to 30th June 2017 • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Q1 Progress Report 2017-18 • Draft Annual Governance Statement • Annual Report of the Audit Committee • Statement of Accounts and External Auditor's Report under International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260 for the year 2016-17 • Audit Committee Work Programme 2017-18
19 th September 2017 Extraordinary Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Accounts, External Auditor's Audit Completion Report and Annual Governance Statement for the year 2016/17
2 nd November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q2 Progress Report, 1 July - 30 September

Audit Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Items
	<p>2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement Plan • Accounts Preparation Timetable (verbal update) • External Auditor Progress Report (verbal update) • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Q2 Progress Report 2017-18 • Audit Committee Work Programme
31st January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report 1 October-31 December 2017 • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Q3 Report • Accounts Closure Improvement Plan • External Auditor - Annual Audit Letter • External Auditor - Grants Certification Work Report 2016 -17

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	<p>Council</p> <p>31 July 2018</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet Stage 1 – Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>John Hooton – Chief Executive</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Annex 1 – Report to the Constitution & General Purposes Committee, 24 July 2018 Appendix 1 – Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet. Stage 1 – Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Emily Bowler, Democratic Engagement Project Manager 020 8359 4463 / emily.bowler@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review that examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet. Stage 1 of the review (Council Size) covers the total number of councillors to be elected to the council. Stage 2 proposes the names, numbers and boundaries of wards as well as the number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward. This report outlines the recommendation to the Commission for Stage 1 of the review (Council Size).

The council considers that a figure between 63 to 66 to be the optimum number of Councillors required to ensure effective oversight for the authority. Based upon the current electorate this number also offers an electoral ratio that enables councillors to offer fair representation

to their Ward constituents.

The Constitution & General Purposes Committee will on 24 July 2018 consider the Stage 1 – Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission. Any comments, suggested amendments or recommendations made by the Committee will be reported to Council by way of an addendum.

Officers Recommendations

1. That Council agrees the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission that proposes the future council size (the number of councillors) as set out in Appendix A.

2. That Council acknowledges that there may be initial feedback from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to be considered and which may subsequently effect the final submission on Council Size.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

1.2 Any comments and/or recommendations made by the Constitution & General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 24th July 2018 will be reported to Council by way of an addendum.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.4.2 Council Constitution, Article 4, The Full Council – there functions of Council include to “Make decisions on matters normally reserved to committees (except for planning and licensing matters) where an urgent decision is required or where the matter is so significant that it requires all Members to determine.”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

6.2 Report to the Constitution & General Purposes Committee, 24 July 2018:
<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=9723>

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	<p>Constitution and General Purposes Committee</p> <p>24 July 2018</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet Stage 1 – Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>John Hooton – Chief Executive</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Electoral Review of the London Borough of Barnet. Stage 1 – Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Emily Bowler, Democratic Engagement Project Manager 020 8359 4463 / emily.bowler@barnet.gov.uk</p>

Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review that examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet. Stage 1 of the review (Council Size) covers the total number of councillors to be elected to the council. Stage 2 proposes the names, numbers and boundaries of wards as well as the number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward. This report outlines the recommendation to the Commission for Stage 1 of the review (Council Size).

The council considers that a figure between 63 to 66 to be the optimum number of Councillors required to ensure effective oversight for the authority. Based upon the current electorate this number also offers an electoral ratio that enables councillors to offer fair representation to their Ward constituents.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee considers and comments upon the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission that proposes the future council size (the number of councillors) in Appendix A before it is presented to Full Council for acceptance on 31 July 2018.**
- 2. That the Committee acknowledges that there may be initial feedback from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to be considered and which may subsequently affect the final submission on Council Size.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a statutory review of the London Borough of Barnet's electoral arrangements. This will be the first review of the ward boundaries in the borough since 1999.
- 1.2 The compulsory review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority, and will finally take decisions upon:
 - The total numbers of councillors to be elected to the council (Council Size)
 - The names, numbers and boundaries of wards
 - The number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward.
- 1.3 The timescales for the electoral review have been set by the LGBCE. Their deadline to review the draft Stage 1 submission outlining Council Size has been set as 13 July 2018, with the final Submission on the 10 August 2018.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The size and scope of this statutory Electoral Review is such that it will affect
 - the number of councillors elected to form the council
 - the boundaries, names and number of all wards, and
 - the electoral representation of all electors and residents by elected members.and as such will be presented to Full Council.
- 2.2 However, as the Constitution and General Purposes Committee terms of reference is 'To have responsibility for overseeing the Council's governance arrangements including "Electoral Services including: elections and electoral registration performance; and polling places and polling district boundaries", it is brought to this committee for comments and consideration ahead of Full Council.

- 2.3 Before arriving at a proposal on council size, the information and context provided in the attached submission relating to: Population; Electorate; Governance and Decision-making arrangements; and financial implications were researched and reviewed. The information was considered in relation to the Commissions criteria for council size. The proposed council size must:
- Give confidence that the council can make effective decisions across its entire range of responsibilities.
 - Allow the council to maintain its good work on scrutiny in relation to its own decision making and fulfil its responsibilities to outside bodies.
 - Ensure that the councillors have an effective representational role in the local community and are able to engage with local people and communities.
- 2.4 It should be noted that the report included in Appendix A is the draft submission on Council Size and as part of the review process, the LGBCE will make initial comments on our consideration before the final submission on 10 August 2018.
- 2.5 Reasons and evidence for the recommended number of councillors are as detailed in the submission set out in Appendix A. To ensure that Barnet residents have the correct representation into the future, the Council are required to make a submission to the Boundary Commission in accordance with their Review timescales.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The council must engage with the Local Government Boundary Commission by law and we must submit a submission and supporting evidence, therefore no alternative options have been considered.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The deadline for council to submit their final submission for Stage 1 of the electoral review is 10 August. The Council will be informed of the LGBCE decision on Council Size following their board meeting 18 September.
- 4.2 Stage 2 of the Electoral Review determines the ward patterns will be carried out in two phases of public consultation between September 2018 and April 2019. The council will form a proposal on new warding patterns by the close of the first consultation phase on 2 December.

- 4.3 LGBCE will publish their final recommendations on 11 June 2019 and the outcome of the complete Electoral Review will be implemented in time to take effect at the May 2022 scheduled elections (i.e. these elections will elect Councillors to the new wards for the first time).

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The 2015-2020 Corporate Plan of has the following principles:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 5.1.2 Periodically reviewing ward boundaries ensures that Barnet has the correct number of elected Members and ward sizes. This ensures that councillors can discharge their various roles and responsibilities including monitoring delivery of the Corporate Plan principles and priorities via key performance indicators reported to committees.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 There are no resource implications arising from the council's stage 1 submission other than officers time from Electoral Services, Governance, GIS and Re

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 None

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 Section 56 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) requires that the LGBCE review 'from time to time' every principal local authority in England and make recommendations about electoral arrangements (but not their external boundaries).

- 5.4.2 The Stage One review has been undertaken in accordance with the advice and guidance provided by the LGBCE.

- 5.4.3 General Purposes Committee terms of reference includes to: "Electoral Services including: elections and electoral registration performance; and polling places and polling district boundaries and to make recommendations thereon to the Council." Due to the significance of the Boundary Review to all Members, decisions on this matter will be referred to Full Council which can "Make decisions on matters normally reserved to committees (except for planning and

licensing matters) where an urgent decision is required or where the matter is so significant that it requires all Members to determine.”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 If ward boundaries are not periodically reviewed to ensure that Barnet has an appropriate number of councillors then there is a risk of there being an inequity in councillors case work across the borough. Moving ward boundaries and/or creating or removing wards enables ward boundaries to have a broadly consistent number of residents and electors in each ward.

5.5.2 If the council do not complete the review within the LGBCE timescales, the council would fail to comply with the requirements of this statutory review and there is a risk of reputational damage.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- Foster good relations between people from different groups

5.6.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 None

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 Senior Officers and the two political groups have been consulted on the Stage 1 – Council Size Submission, and comments and amendments made have been taken into account in the drafting of the report.

5.8.2 The Stage One review, if agreed with the LGBCE, will trigger a comprehensive Stage Two part of the review which will involve detailed options of how the revised council size might be distributed across wards to enable the revised council size to be implemented.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 The population growth forecasts used for this Electoral Review are taken from the London Borough of Barnet’s Borough Preferred Option (BPO) projection¹, which are based upon the Greater London Authority (GLA) Intelligence Unit’s

¹ <https://files.datapress.com/barnet/dataset/borough-preferred-option-projection-reports/2017-05-15T15:31:48.70/Borough%20Preferred%20Option%20FAQ.pdf>

annually updated Housing Led projection. The Barnet BPO projection incorporates the latest 5-year housing trajectory data, produced by the borough's planning and development service (Re).

5.9.2 The GLA Intelligence Unit's annually updated population projections² are accepted and utilised by all London Local Authorities. The projections are similar to the ONS projections, but also take account of development information provided by the London boroughs as well as other intelligence about the authorities.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None

² <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/9c43750a-1350-4207-9b47-f089ae2626b4/gla-population-and-household-projections>

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**Electoral Review
of the
London Borough of Barnet**

Stage 1 – Council Size

-DRAFT-

Submission to the Local Government Boundary
Commission for England

July 2018

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of the London Borough of Barnet's electoral arrangements. This will be the first review of the ward boundaries in the borough since 1999.
- 1.2 The review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for the whole local authority, and will take decisions upon:
 - The total number of councillors to be elected to the council - council size
 - The names, numbers and boundaries of wards
 - The number of councillors to be elected to represent each ward.
- 1.3 The statutory criteria that the LGBCE will apply when making its proposals and decisions are:
 - Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per councillor)
 - Community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities) and
 - Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).
- 1.4 The outcome of the review will be implemented in time to take effect at the May 2022 scheduled elections (i.e. these elections will elect councillors to the new wards for the first time).
- 1.5 The review was initiated in May 2018 and the preliminary stage of the review will determine the future council size. The provisional decision on council size by the Boundary Commission will then inform the next stage of the review, which will consider size and numbers of wards, ward boundaries and the number of councillors to represent each ward.
- 1.6 The Commission will form its view about the right council size for an authority by considering the three following areas:
 - The governance arrangements of the council and how it takes decisions across the broad range of its responsibilities
 - The council's scrutiny functions relating to its own decision making and the council's responsibilities to outside bodies
 - The representational role of councillors in the local community and how they engage with people, conduct casework and represent the council on local partner organisations.

2. Summary and recommendations

- 2.1 The council considers 63 to be the optimum number of councillors required to ensure effective governance and scrutiny for the authority. Based upon the current electorate this number also offers an electoral ratio that enables councillors to offer fair representation to their Ward constituents.
- 2.2 The council has carefully considered the various factors outlined in the Boundary Commission's guidance documents to determine this recommendation.
- 2.3 Before reaching this conclusion the council also considered the impact of increasing the number of councillors to 66. An increase to 66 would improve the level of representation for electors and residents as the population grows, and may give members more opportunity to work on scrutiny. However, on other factors around cost, governance and oversight we do not see evidence to suggest an increase is necessary.

- 2.4 Barnet is a well-run and effective council, with good engagement by members who play a full and active role as local representatives. We have strong governance and scrutiny and members are central to delivering this good governance.
- 2.5 In coming to its recommendation, the council has assumed that overall governance arrangements will remain largely the same as they are shown to be working well. While members work hard to deliver in their roles, the council has shown it works effectively with 63 members. This view is supported by both political groups represented on the council.
- 2.6 Barnet's full electorate as at 1 December 2017 was 257,831 (excluding overseas electors) and this equates to an electoral ratio of 4093 electors for each councillor in 2018. The electorate is forecast to grow to 276,720 by 2024 and equate to an electorate ratio of 4392 per councillor.
- 2.7 This increase in the number of electors up to 2024 has been forecasted utilising the Local Government Boundary Commission's preferred forecasted methodology, the Greater London Authority's (GLA) population growth forecasts (accessed through Barnet's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment¹) and also takes into account planned housing development, as well as planned and statutory activities to ensure that the borough's register of electors is as complete and accurate as possible (see 5.6 for the electoral forecast methodology).
- 2.8 Barnet's current estimated total population, as opposed to just registered electors, is 389,400 (GLA) and councillors represent approximately 6180 ward constituents each. Based upon the GLA's data, Barnet's population will grow by just over 6.8% (to 416,035) over the next five years and councillors would then represent approximately 6604 Ward constituents each by 2024.

3. London Borough of Barnet Profile

- 3.1 Our overall purpose as a council is to work together for residents and businesses, to ensure successful places, great outcomes, quality services, and resilient communities.
- 3.2 Barnet is an ambitious council that aspires to deliver excellent modern services to residents at the best possible value to the tax payer. The diverse borough has some of the best primary and secondary schools in the country. Our focus is on reaching the best outcomes for our residents and working with a range of public, private, and voluntary sector organisations to achieve this. We will always support our vulnerable residents and will target our resources at those most in need, whilst ensuring that everyone can benefit from the opportunities that growth and investment will bring to the borough. Our aim is to support residents to stay independent for as long as possible. This means equipping residents with the skills to help themselves and intervening early to address and respond to issues as they arise.
- 3.3 The London Borough of Barnet is a leafy suburban borough in North London. It is the largest London borough by population with 389,400 inhabitants and covers an area of 86.74 square kilometres (33 sq mi), the fourth highest. It has over 200 parks and open spaces, and a comprehensive regeneration programme with 7 major regeneration schemes currently transforming the borough. The borough is made up of suburban residential areas and 20 traditional town centres, including a major retail location at Brent Cross.

¹ Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – 2017/18 <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/jsna-home>

- 3.4 Barnet has high levels of car ownership as well as high levels of public transport usage. Many of Barnet's residents travel to work in central London and use the radial underground services of the Northern and Piccadilly lines as well as Network Rail services. A new station on Thameslink at Brent Cross West by 2022 will increase accessibility to and from Central London.
- 3.5 Changing demographics and a growing population - particularly among the very young and the very old - continues to put pressure on local public services. The council operates on a sound financial footing, despite continued reductions to our budget and an ever-increasing demand for services. And with the highest population of any London borough – currently estimated at 389,400 - this is a great achievement.
- 3.6 As we continue to reduce the day to day running costs of the council to make savings, we are investing heavily in the future infrastructure of the borough. As well as building new housing, leisure centres, schools and community buildings, the council is also investing in improvements to our pavements and roads and our green spaces. The council's regeneration programme will see £6bn of private sector investment over the next 25 years, which will create around 20,000 new homes, up to 30,000 new jobs and additional income for the council. The schemes at Colindale, Stone Grove, West Hendon and Dollis Valley are well on the way to completion whilst plans are well advanced at Brent Cross to modernise the shopping centre and build new homes.
- 3.7 A significant socio-economic shift since the last review of the borough's ward boundaries in 1999 has been the growth and development of the internet and online communication. In 1999, only about 13% of households had internet access, while 44% had access to mobile phones, most of which sent and received calls and SMS messages only. Today upwards of 90% of households have access to the internet at home while 95% have smartphones with access to the internet and email.
- 3.8 To deliver our priorities we use the principles of Fairness, Responsibility and Opportunity which are the centre of our whole approach. These principles are underpinned by a commitment to continual improvement in our customer services and to be as transparent as possible with the information we hold and our decision-making. Our staff are also a core part of how we deliver our services and priorities, and achieve our outcomes here at Barnet. A set of values are in place that guide the way we work with partners and customers - whether we are commissioning services or delivering them on the front line, our values are at the heart of what we do:
- We care - about Barnet, its people and businesses, and those we work with
 - We can be trusted - we are open, honest, act with integrity, and are dependable
 - We work together - we actively listen, respond, collaborate and share ideas to achieve the best outcomes with residents, businesses and colleagues
 - We embrace change and innovation - we continually ask what we can do better, or differently. We encourage creativity and value ideas. We will celebrate our success and learn from mistakes.
 - We value diversity - we value different perspectives, individuality and treat everyone with respect. We will always strive to ensure the organisation embraces the richness of our community.

Councils partnership arrangements

3.9 We work with several external partners who provide services on our behalf:

- Barnet Group (Barnet Homes) - a local authority trading company, owned by Barnet Council, which - delivers full housing services across 15,000 homes and homelessness services to the whole of the borough
- Customer and Support Group (CSG) - provides services that include Finance, IT, Procurement, Insight, Customer Services, HR (including payroll and pension), Revenues and Benefits, Estates and Health and Safety
- Re - a joint venture between the council and Capita which provides development and regulatory services (DRS) to residents in Barnet and the South East. This venture is currently under review.
- Cambridge Education (Education and Skills) - provides services in four key areas that include School Improvement, Education Partnerships and Commercial Services, Special Educational Needs and Inclusion and Post-16 Education
- HB Public Law - joint legal service launched by Barnet and Harrow councils.

4 Population growth

- 4.1 The population growth forecasts used for this Electoral Review are taken from the London Borough of Barnet's Borough Preferred Option (BPO) projection², which are based upon the Greater London Authority (GLA) Intelligence Unit's annually updated Housing Led projection. The Barnet BPO projection incorporates the latest 5-year housing trajectory data, produced by the borough's planning and development service (Re).
- 4.2 The GLA Intelligence Unit's annually updated population projections³ are accepted and utilised by all London Local Authorities. The projections are similar to the ONS projections, but also take account of development information provided by the London boroughs as well as other intelligence about the authorities.
- 4.3 The BPO population forecasts have proved to have a good level of accuracy in recent years and Barnet has an ongoing reliance upon them for the planning of many services such as; provision of school places, demand for Adults and Children's social care services, Health and Wellbeing Service provision and Special Educational Needs planning.
- 4.4 The 'Delivering for Barnet' programme of regeneration and development is taking place across the borough over the next 15 years. Barnet's housing trajectory enables all major developments of 10+ units to be taken into account when forecasting the distribution of growth in the borough within individual wards and polling districts.
- 4.5 Barnet is the largest borough in London by population and is continuing to grow. The BPO population projection forecasts that Barnet's population will increase by a further 6.8% between 2017 and 2024, taking the number of residents to 416,035 (see Table 1).

² <https://files.datapress.com/barnet/dataset/borough-preferred-option-projection-reports/2017-05-15T15:31:48.70/Borough%20Preferred%20Option%20FAQ.pdf>

³ <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/9c43750a-1350-4207-9b47-f089ae2626b4/gla-population-and-household-projections>

Table 1: Barnet population growth forecast from 2017 to 2024

Year	Total Population	% Growth (compared to 2017)
2017	389,400	-0-
2018	394,900	1.3
2019	400,645	2.9
2020	404,916	4.0
2021	408,659	4.9
2022	411,875	5.8
2023	414,480	6.4
2024	416,035	6.8

Source: Greater London Authority⁴, Borough Preferred Option population projections, 2018.

- 4.6 Over the next 6 years, the highest rates of population growth are forecast to occur in areas of redevelopment in the west of the Borough, with 89% growth in Colindale, 28.7% in Mill Hill, 13.8% in West Hendon, 12.7% in Edgware and 12.1% in Golders Green.

Table 2: Barnet population* forecast growth by ward, from 2017 to 2024

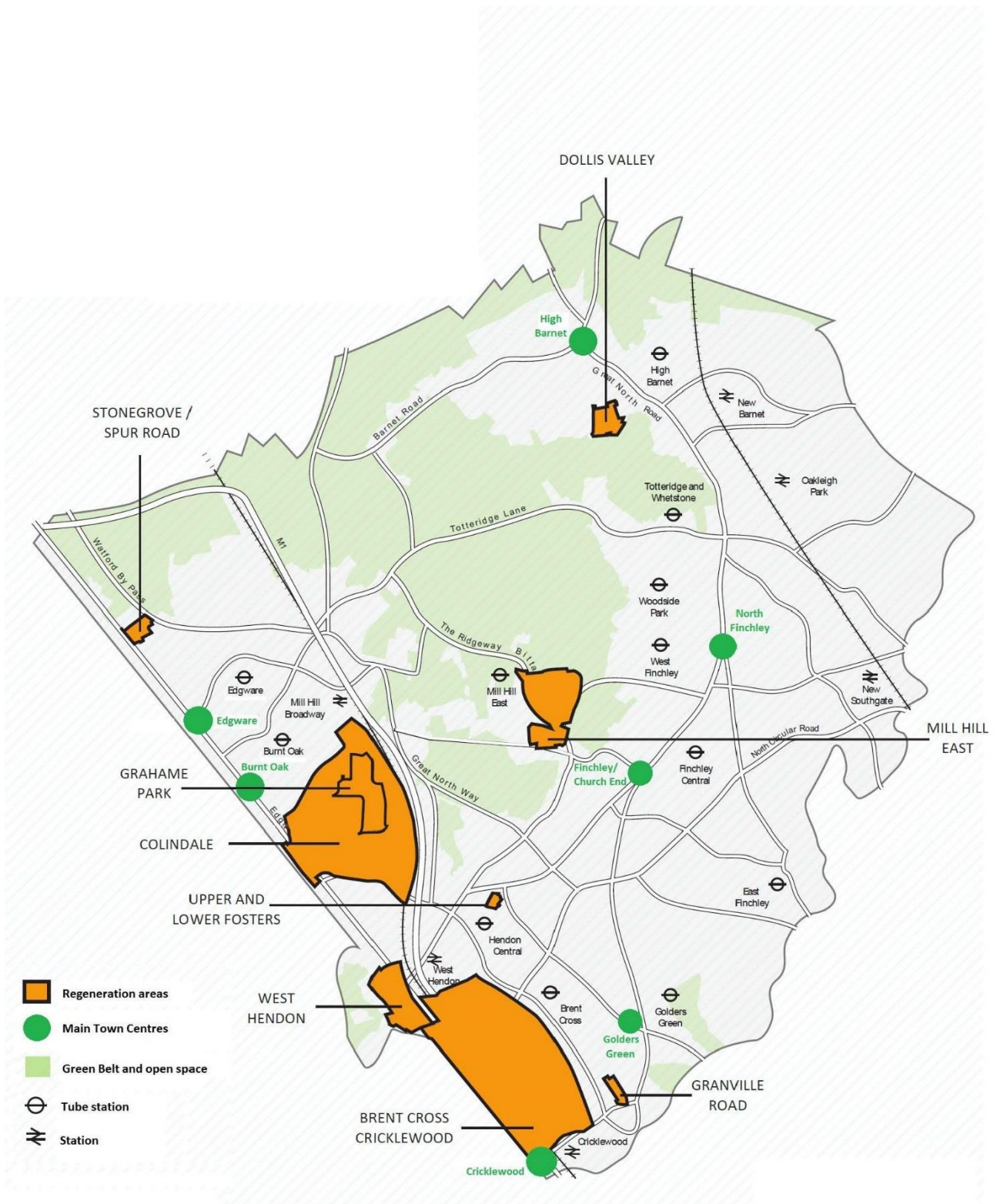
Ward	Population		2017-2024	
	2017	2024	Change (no.)	Change (%)
Brunswick Park	17,250	18,300	1,050	6.1%
Burnt Oak	19,600	19,450	-150	-0.8%
Childs Hill	22,350	22,850	500	2.2%
Colindale	20,000	37,800	17,800	89.0%
Coppetts	18,600	17,350	-1,250	-6.7%
East Barnet	17,450	17,600	150	0.9%
East Finchley	17,650	16,850	-800	-4.5%
Edgware	18,450	20,800	2,350	12.7%
Finchley Church End	17,000	17,100	100	0.6%
Garden Suburb	17,300	16,350	-950	-5.5%
Golders Green	21,100	23,650	2,550	12.1%
Hale	19,000	18,300	-700	-3.7%
Hendon	20,700	19,600	-1,100	-5.3%
High Barnet	16,150	15,900	-250	-1.5%
Mill Hill	20,200	26,000	5,800	28.7%
Oakleigh	17,250	16,800	-450	-2.6%
Totteridge	16,600	18,000	1,400	8.4%
Underhill	16,500	16,400	-100	-0.6%
West Finchley	18,200	17,450	-750	-4.1%
West Hendon	18,900	21,500	2,600	13.8%
Woodhouse	19,100	18,200	-900	-4.7%

Source: Greater London Authority, Borough Preferred Option population projections, 2017.

*Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 50

⁴Projections used within this report are taken from the 2015 GLA Borough Preferred Option Projections. These are based on Barnet's actual future development plans that have been provided by LBB to the GLA. The GLA produces a variety of different projections, <https://londondatastore-upload.s3.amazonaws.com/1Ys%3Dtechnical-note-guide-gla-popproj-variants.pdf>

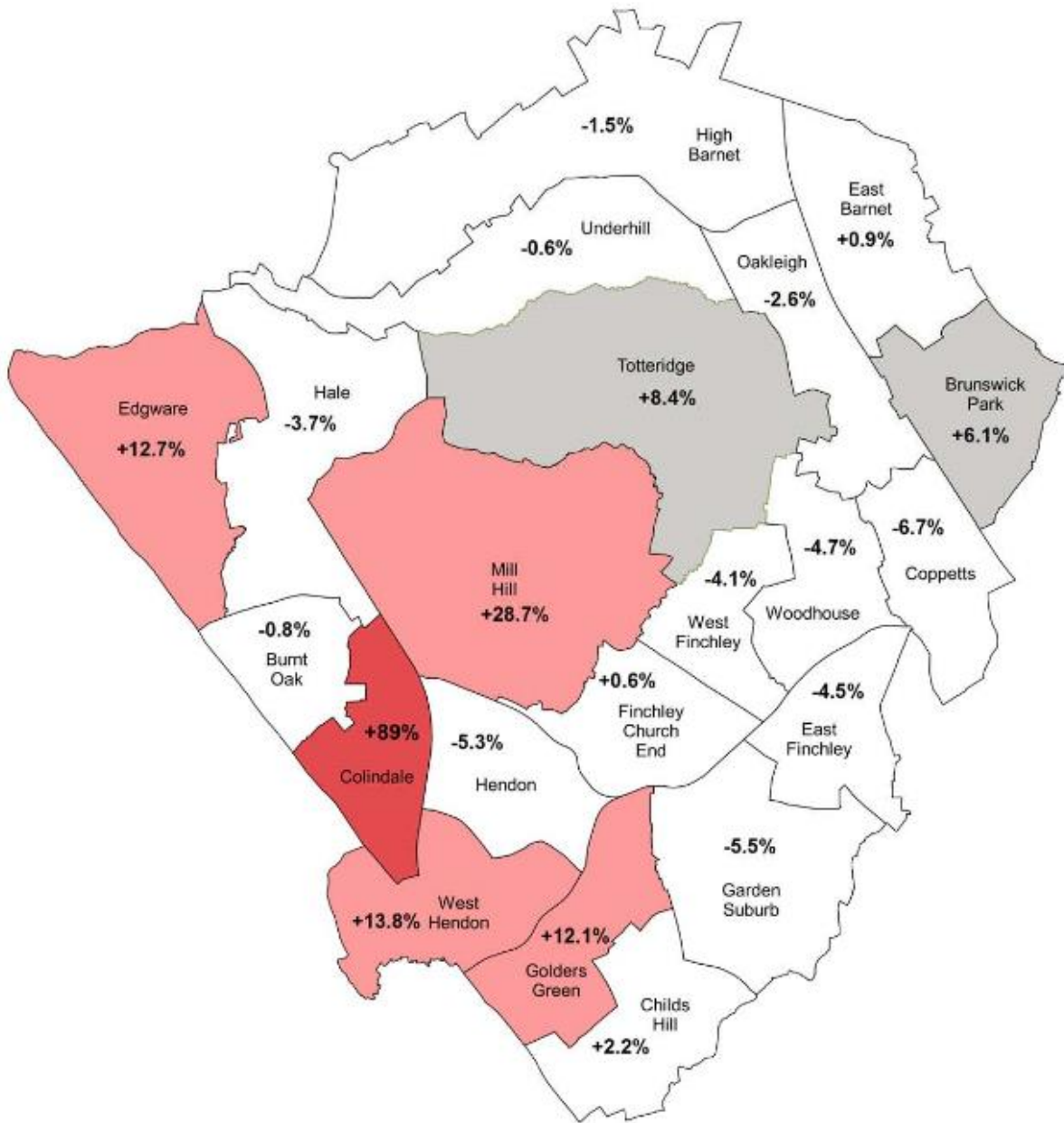
Figure 1: Barnet areas growth and regeneration programme



Source: Barnet Council, Annual Regeneration Report⁵, 2017-18

⁵ [Barnet Council, Annual Regeneration Report 2017-18](#)

Figure 2: Barnet population forecast growth by ward, from 2017 to 2024



5 Barnet's Electorate and Equality of Representation

- 5.1 The London Borough of Barnet has the second highest electorate in London and was recorded at 257,831 at the time of annual publication on 1 December 2017. Since the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in June 2014, published figures for the electorate are subject to rapid and continual change as electors can now more rapidly change where they are registered when they move home, whether within the borough or into, or out of the borough.
- 5.2 Following the high-profile EU Referendum 2016 and the Parliamentary Elections in June 2017, Barnet's Electoral Registers reached its highest ever level in December 2017. Planned and statutory activities will continue to ensure that the register of electors is maintained as completely and accurately as possible. The Electoral Services team are specifically tasked with identifying and engaging with 'under-registered groups' (URGs) to maintain and grow registration levels within those sections of the community that are historically less likely to engage in the democratic process.
- 5.3 Table 3 shows Barnet's electorate and those of the most comparable other London Boroughs (statistical 'nearest neighbours'⁶). The table also shows the average number of electors each Councillor currently represents in each of these boroughs.

Table 3: Barnet's total population, electorate and average electorate against comparative London Boroughs

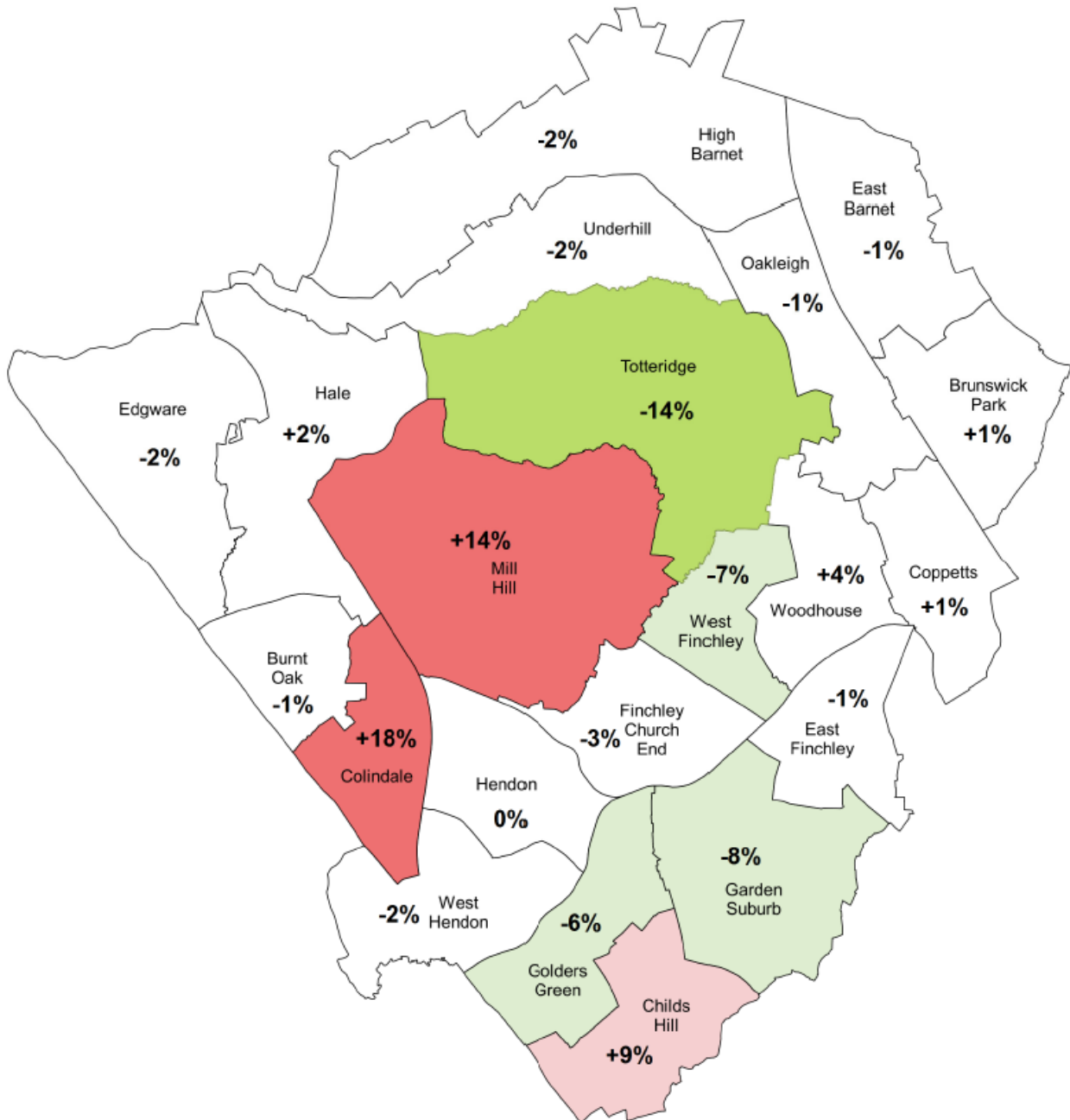
Local Authority	Electorate (Dec 2017)	No. of councillors	Avg. Electorate per Cllr
<i>Barnet</i>	<i>257,831*</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>4,093</i>
Bromley	240,585	60	4,010
Bexley	175,368	45	3,897
Wandsworth	230,545	60	3,842
Croydon	267,312	70	3,819
Brent	224,176	63	3,558
Ealing	235,295	69	3,410
Enfield	214,759	63	3,409
Redbridge	212,374	63	3,371
Hounslow	189,982	60	3,166
Hillingdon	202,646	65	3,118
Harrow	185,181	63	2,939
Sutton	150,645	54	2,790
Richmond-upon-Thames	141,428	54	2,619
Merton	150,898	60	2,515
Kingston-upon-Thames	116,960	48	2,437

**electorate figure used here does not include registered 'overseas electors' (that do not live in the UK).*

⁶ CIPFA 2018 list of statistical 'nearest neighbours'

- 5.4 Due to the growth of Barnet’s population, regeneration and housing developments and the changing diversity of ethnicities and nationalities in different wards across the borough over the past 20 years, there are now several wards that have a high degree of inequality in their electoral representation.
- 5.5 Figure 3 identifies the difference in electoral representation (electorate per Councillor) by Ward, based upon the 1 December 2017 register of electors.

Figure 3 - Electorate variance to average by Ward (1 Dec 2017)



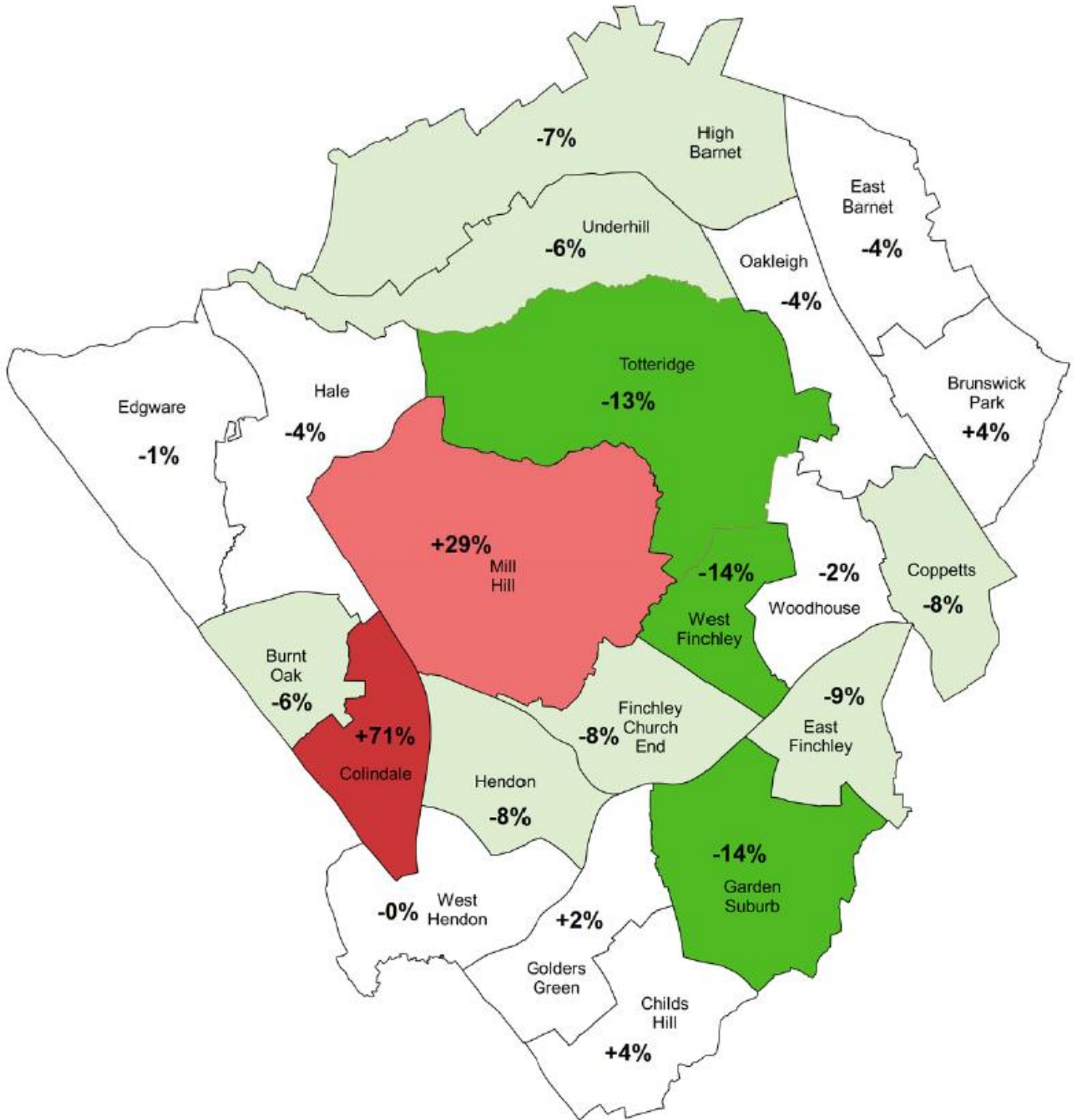
Projected Electorate for 2024

- 5.6 After using the LGBCE's preferred methodology as a base line, Barnet's Electoral Services has undertaken further work to ensure that there can be a high degree of confidence in the projected number of electors being forecast for 2024 (within the current wards and polling districts).
- 5.7 Following the LGBCE's approach, the current electorate (1 June 2018) by Ward was calculated as a percentage of the current (BPO projected) population per Ward. The percentage of the population in each Ward that are registered as electors was then used to calculate the expected number of electors of the forecast 2024 population that will be registered in each Ward (i.e. if 64% of the population are currently on the register in a particular Ward, 64% of the forecast 2024 population was taken as the registered electorate in that Ward in 2024).
- 5.8 Although the BPO population forecasts already incorporate housing developments across the borough, it was considered useful to compare the known Electors Per Household (EPH) figure per Ward to the forecast electorate and total in 2024. This was calculated by dividing the forecast electorate by the number of residential properties there will be in 2024 (e.g. actual 2017 properties + known housing development of 10+ units by 2023).
- 5.9 Using the figures generated by the activities in 5.7 and 5.8 above, the forecast growth in electorate was then applied to individual polling districts and compared to the known housing developments for the next five years. Where some inconsistency was apparent, appropriate smoothing was applied at polling district level (utilising relevant Ward EPH) to ensure that overall borough electorate growth was suitably constrained and remained within the forecasts at 5.7.
- 5.10 To ensure that the electorate forecast process was appropriately robust, a final review was made by comparing between the electorate forecast produced using the LGBCE's Polling district forecasting tool, the electorate based upon the BPO population forecast and the electorate number calculated from the number of properties that will exist in 2024. These figures were then compared and averaged by Ward to give the overall electorate forecast that is being submitted to LGBCE as the forecast to be used for this Electoral Review.
- 5.11 It is projected that the overall electorate for Barnet will increase by 7.2% between 2018 and 2024 (which is in line with the forecast 6.9% increase in the population over the same period) and will forecast to be approximately 276,268 by 1 December 2024. Given the recent surge in registration seen at both the June 2016 EU referendum and the June 2017 Parliamentary elections, it is likely that this forecast could be dramatically affected should any (currently unscheduled) national elections or referendums be called during the period to 2024.
- 5.12 Table 4 below shows Barnet's current electorate by Ward (1 December 2017) along with the forecast electorate for 2024 (as projected using the methodology laid out in 5.6 - 5.10 above). Figure 4 below then shows the level of electoral inequality by Ward that would exist if no changes were to be made by 2024.

Table 4 – Current and 2024 Forecast Electorate by Ward

Ward	Current Electors (1 Dec 2017)	Forecast Electors (1 June 2024)	Additional Electors	% Increase
Brunswick Park	12,477	13,671	1,194	9.6%
Burnt Oak	12,239	12,321	82	0.7%
Childs Hill	13,320	13,738	418	3.1%
Colindale	14,628	22,454	7,825	53.5%
Coppetts	12,427	12,100	-327	-2.6%
East Barnet	12,150	12,682	532	4.4%
East Finchley	12,045	11,919	-126	-1.0%
Edgware	12,054	13,031	977	8.1%
Finchley Church End	11,817	12,051	234	2.0%
Garden Suburb	11,207	11,251	44	0.4%
Golders Green	11,592	13,376	1,784	15.4%
Hale	12,517	12,576	59	0.5%
Hendon	12,239	12,088	-151	-1.2%
High Barnet	11,972	12,247	275	2.3%
Mill Hill	13,967	16,924	2,957	21.2%
Oakleigh	12,206	12,607	401	3.3%
Totteridge	10,593	11,443	850	8.0%
Underhill	12,089	12,406	317	2.6%
West Finchley	11,386	11,357	-29	-0.3%
West Hendon	12,102	13,159	1,057	8.7%
Woodhouse	12,799	12,869	70	0.5%
TOTAL	257,832	276,268	18,443	7.2%

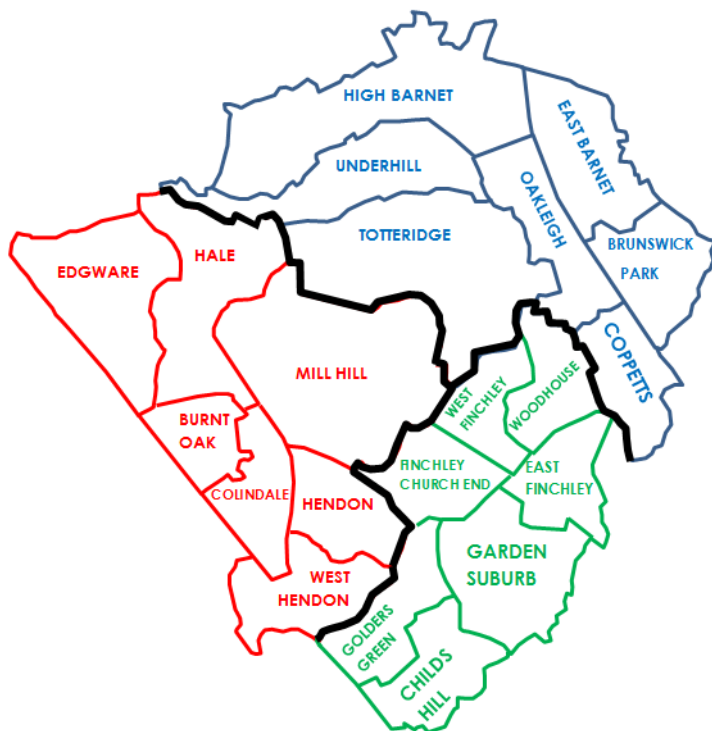
Figure 4 – Forecast Electorate variance to average by Ward in 2024



6 Governance arrangements

- 6.1 Barnet is made up of 21 wards with 3 councillors per ward and 7 wards per parliamentary constituency area (Red = Hendon; Green = Finchley and Golders Green; Blue = Chipping Barnet) giving a total of 63 councillors.

Figure 4: Barnet constituencies and wards



- 6.2 Following the May 2018 Local Election, the political balance of the council is 38 Conservative and 25 Labour. All councillors sit on Full Council which is the ‘supreme’ decision-making body of the council and is chaired by the Mayor.

7 Leadership Arrangements

Governance Operating Model

- 7.1 Following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 which allowed local authorities to revert back to a pre-Local Government Act 2000 ‘committee system’, Barnet opted to adopt that system and this was introduced after the 2014 local government election. In a committee system, decisions that would be made by a single party Cabinet (either by the whole Cabinet or by a Cabinet Member using delegated powers) are instead taken in cross-party politically proportionate committees. Backbench and opposition Members sit on these committees and are involved in decision-making and so scrutiny takes place at those committees (rather than in separate scrutiny committees). In a committee system, the committee workloads and responsibility for decisions is more evenly spread across the 63 Members than is the case in an executive system which enables key decisions to be taken by a small group of Members (the Executive) who are both empowered and accountable. A short summary of the executive system is detailed below to contrast with Barnet’s committee system.
- 7.2 Most local authorities operate an executive system of governance - this model is usually termed as Leader and Cabinet, or Executive arrangements. In this model, the Leader and Cabinet Members have high levels of delegated authority to make decisions - this makes

them personally accountable for decisions. Under these arrangements, the Leader and Cabinet are held to account for the decisions they make by cross-party overview and scrutiny committees whose membership is drawn from majority group non-executive Members (or backbenchers) and opposition Members.

- 7.3 Full Council is the supreme decision-making body. Legislation prescribes that certain decisions (including approval of the budget and certain statutory policies) are agreed by Full Council. All other decisions are delegated by Council to committees or officers. Details of those committee and delegations to officers are set out in later sections.

Appointments

- 7.4 Aside from agreeing the Budget and Policy Framework, Full Council also elects a Leader to serve for a four-year term, plus appoints of Chairman, Vice Chairman and members of committees and other regulatory bodies and approving their respective terms of reference (i.e. the delegation of functions).
- 7.5 Appointments are governed by the requirements of Section 15(1) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, to keep under review the representation of the different political groups on bodies appointed by the council. In allocating seats on committees and sub-committees of the council to political groups the following rules apply:
1. That not all seats on the committee/sub-committee are allocated to the same political group.
 2. That the political group having a majority of seats on the Council should have a majority on each committee and sub-committee.
 3. That, subject to 1 and 2 above, the number of seats on the council’s committees and sub-committees allocated to each political group, bears the same proportion to the total number of such committee/sub-committee seats as the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the Full Council, and
 4. That, subject to 1 and 3 above, seats will be allocated on each committee and sub-committee in the same ratio as exists on the Full Council.
- 7.6 Political proportionality is reported to Full Council to note and committee appointments are made based on the distribution of seats arising⁷. The political balance of the council and seat allocations are as detailed in the tables below:

Political Balance

	Council	Conservative	Labour
Members	63	38	25
Percentage	100	60.32%	39.68%

Committee Seat Allocations

		Conservative	Labour
Seats	141	85	56
Percentages	100%	60.28%	39.71%

⁷ Annual Council, 22 May 2018, Report of the Monitoring Officer, Political Proportionality: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141andMID=9449#AI25048>

- 7.7 Some committees are appointed to on a politically proportionate basis. There are several committees and other bodies where the proportionality requirements do not or need not apply. Other committees are appointed to on a ward or constituency basis. Details of these are set out in the political proportionality report referenced above and will be outlined in the 'Committee Structure' section below.
- 7.8 Council also makes appointments to outside bodies⁸. The purpose and functions of outside bodies varies but includes: Members appointments to the boards of companies that the council has an interest in; local charities; partnership boards; pan-London bodies (e.g. London Council's committees and panels); plus numerous forums and boards. Appointments to outside bodies generally take place following the local elections and are for a four-year term.

8 Decision-Making

Full Council

- 8.1 Full Council is the supreme decision-making body and is required by law to make certain decisions including approving the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, certain statutory policies (referred to as Policy Framework Documents) and approving/amending the Constitution (which includes delegations to committees and officers).
- 8.2 Full Council is also a key forum for debate on issues affecting the borough and a significant part of the agenda for each meeting is dedicated to 'Questions to the Leader' and 'Motions for Debate'. An average number of Questions to the Leader at each council meeting is approximately 80, but there have occasionally been over 140. An average number of Motions for Debate is five, but usually there is only time for two to be debated in full. The remainder voted on before the end of the meeting without discussion/debate.
- 8.3 There are seven Full Council meetings during each municipal year. Questions and Motions are considered at every meeting except Budget Council in March and Annual Council in May (which appoints the Mayor, committee chairman, committee members and representatives to outside bodies).
- 8.4 Committee responsibilities can be accessed in Article 7 of the Constitution [here](#). Categories of committees and the types of decisions that they make are set in the sections below.

Commissioning / Theme Committees

- 8.5 In Barnet the majority of strategic, policy and financial decisions are taken by what are referred to as commissioning or theme committees. In an Executive system of governance these kinds of decisions would either be made the Executive as a whole, or by an Individual Executive Member. Each committee has a specific portfolio of responsibilities and powers and, in addition, scrutinise performance information.
- 8.6 Each commissioning / theme committee meets between four and six times a year.
- [Adults and Safeguarding Committee](#)
 - [Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee](#)

⁸ Annual Council, 22 May 2018, Report of the Head of Governance, Appointments to Outside Bodies: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Clid=141&MID=9449#AI25051>

- [Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee](#)
- [Community Leadership and Libraries Committee](#)
- [Environment Committee](#)
- [Financial Performance and Contracts Committee](#)
- [Housing Committee](#)
- [Policy and Resources Committee](#)

Scrutiny in the Committee System

- 8.7 Scrutiny is an important element of the accountability framework in any governance system. Whilst in a Committee System this separation of powers isn't as explicit as is the case in executive arrangements (with a clear separation of powers between the executive and those that hold them to account through scrutiny committees), scrutiny does exist and is an important component of the commissioning / theme committee structure.
- 8.8 Up to May 2018 most scrutiny activity took place in a single Performance and Contract Management Committee which received all financial and corporate performance information across all the portfolios of council services and activity. These arrangements gave rise to a disconnect between the commissioning of services and the monitoring of delivery. Corporately it was recognised that the remit of the Performance and Contract Management Committee was too broad and performance monitoring should in fact be undertaken by the commissioning / theme committees.
- 8.9 From May 2018 onwards, key performance indicators will be reported to commissioning / theme committees, with ongoing financial monitoring and oversight of the council's major strategic contracts taking place in a [Financial Performance and Contracts Committee](#). Consequently most 'scrutiny' takes place within commissioning / theme committees themselves. Within these revised arrangements, the key mechanisms for scrutiny in Barnet's Committee System are:
- 1) Monitoring of KPIs via theme committees
 - 2) Monitoring of financial performance and key strategic contracts via the Financial Performance and Contracts Committee, and
 - 3) Via Members Items to commissioning / theme committees which allow alternative policy positions to be raised and debated, or significant issues relating to the responsibilities of a committee to be highlighted.
- 8.10 Under our current committee and decision-making arrangements there is currently congruousness between the parliamentary consistency boundaries and area based decision-making. Whilst it is recognised that population increases within certain wards mean that ward boundaries have to change, it is important to highlight that this will impact on area-based decision-making as the constituency and ward alignments that currently exist will inevitably be lost.

Details of area-based decision-making are set out below:

Area Based Decision-Making

- 8.11 Legislation allows for some committees to be appointed to based on wards rather than the relative strength of a political group on the council (proportionality). This therefore enables the council to have area based decision-making arrangements. Broadly speaking, this means that each area based committee has seven Members with the membership comprising one Member and one Substitute Member per ward. These arrangements apply to Area Planning Committees and Area Committees. For example, the Chipping Barnet committees will have

representatives from the following wards: Underhill; High Barnet; East Barnet; Oakleigh; Brunswick Park; Coppetts; and Totteridge. In addition to these, there are three Residents Forums which are constituency based. The Forums are consultative bodies only and do not have any delegated authority to make decisions except to refer an issue into an Area Committees. Additional information on these arrangements are set out below.

Planning Committee and Area Planning Committees

8.12 Barnet is by population and geography is one of the largest boroughs in London. Over 8,000 planning applications are processed per year. Most planning decisions are taken by officers under delegated powers. However, if an application receives 5 or more objections, or it is 'called-in' by any councillor it will be referred to an area planning committee for determination. Whilst a relatively small percentage of the total number of applications are referred to or determined the Planning Committee or area planning committees, the ones that do are either major schemes which require substantial scrutiny or they are applications which are locally controversial. Planning Committee meetings are often contentious and Members who sit on them make difficult decisions and have to balance local and national planning policy and the need to provide housing within the borough. In addition to attending the Planning Committee Members will undertake site visits to some or all of the application sites so that they are able to understand the key issues before making a determination.

- [Chipping Barnet Area Planning Committee](#)
- [Finchley and Golders Green Area Planning Committee](#)
- [Hendon Area Planning Committee](#)

8.13 Area Planning Committees meet approximately 10 times a year and, on average, determine the following number of applications:

- Chipping Barnet = 8
- Finchley and Golders Green = 10
- Hendon = 7

8.14 In addition to the area based planning committees, there is also a main [Planning Committee](#) which is responsible for determining major planning applications and considering referrals from area planning committees. Again, this meets approximately monthly and determines on average five applications per meeting. The applications determined by this committee tend to be large schemes such as those linked to Barnet's regeneration estates. Decisions taken by this committee are often controversial and decisions may occasionally be referred to the Mayor of London or Secretary of State.

Area Committees and Residents Forums

8.15 In addition to the area-based planning committees, there are constituency specific area committees and residents forums.

8.16 Residents forums allow the public to raise matters affecting the area and to receive a response from the council. The membership of the forums is chairman and vice-chairman only, but councillors from across the constituency area often attend the forums as observers to hear the issues raised by residents. The format of the forums is for residents to raise an issue in advance and to receive a written response. The issue is then further discussed and debated at the forum. Following the debate, the forum chairman has the discretion to

determine issues in the following ways: close down the issue; ask an officer to respond; or refer the issue to an area committee if they consider it appropriate.

- [Chipping Barnet Residents Forum](#)
- [Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum](#)
- [Hendon Residents Forum](#)

8.17 The area committees are responsible for constituency specific matters relating to street scene (parking, road safety, transport, allotments, parks, trees and town centre regeneration). They also consider referrals from the residents forum. In addition, area committees have delegated authority to determine the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for minor schemes and projects. The committees are only able to approve funding up to £25K and so there is a link into the Environment Committee which frequently is required to part-fund some of the local schemes agreed by area committees. The CIL funding framework provides Members with a degree of local discretion regarding the resourcing of projects that would otherwise not progress as they are not a priority under the borough-wide Highways Works Programme.

- [Chipping Barnet Area Committee](#)
- [Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee](#)
- [Hendon Area Committee](#)

Other Committees

- 8.18 Barnet have several other committees which covers areas including audit, constitution and ethics, Member Development, HR, licensing and pensions.
- 8.19 The [Audit Committee](#) provides independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.
- 8.20 The [Constitution and General Purposes Committee](#) is responsible for reviewing and updating the Constitution and making recommendations to Full Council, overseeing standards and conduct matters, elections, human resources, health and safety and Member Development.
- 8.21 Despite Barnet having a committee system which does not include any overview and scrutiny arrangements, legislation requires that health scrutiny is retained in a committee system. As such, Barnet have retained an outwardly focused [Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#) which scrutinises the performance of Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group and primary and acute health services in the borough. As NHS trusts operate across borough boundaries, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee also represent Barnet on the North Central London [Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee \(JHOSC\)](#). The JHOSC scrutinise the broader strategic changes relating to health service provision across the five constituent boroughs of: Barnet; Haringey; Camden; Islington; and Enfield.
- 8.22 The [Licensing Committee](#) only meets twice a year but is overall responsible for all aspects of licensing. The vast majority of the work of Members who sit on the licensing committee is discharged through licensing sub-committees which meet to consider applications for alcohol and/or entertainment licenses which have received objections, or licenses called in for review by a responsible authority (e.g. the police or licensing authority). [Licensing sub-](#)

[committees](#) comprise three Members drawn from the membership of the main licensing committee. During 2017/18 a total of 25 sub-committee hearings were convened, but 10 of these were cancelled, postponed or withdrawn due to the objections being withdrawn or the license holder agreeing conditions outside of the formal hearing environment. Notwithstanding that, Members still need to make themselves available and review papers for the meetings.

- 8.23 The [Pension Fund Committee](#) has specific legal responsibilities in respect of the Barnet Local Government Pension Scheme including agreeing the investment strategy, approving key governance documents, appointing advisors, actuaries and performance managers, and consider valuations. As pension fund administration is a technical area, Members who sit on the committee will ideally have a finance background or will attend training to ensure that they have the requisite knowledge and skills.

Boards, Panels and Partnership Groups

- 8.24 Barnet either leads or participate in several boards, panels and partnership bodies as detailed below. These type of bodies tend to be established as a result of specific legislation.
- 8.25 [Barnet Children's Partnership Board](#) brings together all services for children and young people in the borough and has been convened due to the duty to cooperate and improve the well-being of children as required in the Children Act 2004. The organisations which participate in the Board have committed to supporting delivery of the Children and Young People Plan and the Board retains oversight of delivery. Current partners are: Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group; CommUNITY Barnet (voluntary sector); Barnet and Southgate College; Metropolitan Police; and Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.
- 8.26 [Health and wellbeing boards](#) were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to act as a forum in which key leaders from the local health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population. Whilst it is a council committee, its members are Members, officers and partners including the clinical commissioning group, a Barnet Healthwatch representative, the chairs of the adults and children's safeguarding boards, NHS England. The main responsibilities are to undertake an assessment of the health and social care needs of the local population, agree the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and oversee the allocation of joint resources.
- 8.27 The [Local Pension Board](#) is responsible for assisting with securing compliance with Local Government Pension Scheme regulations and ensuring the efficient and effective governance and administration of the Scheme. Membership of the Board comprises employer representatives, employee representatives and an independent member.
- 8.28 The [Local Strategic Partnership \(Barnet Partnership Board\)](#) is an advisory committee which brings together the key public, private and voluntary organisations within the borough to identify and articulate the needs and aspirations of Barnet's local communities and to provide a forum to assist the council by collectively reviewing and steering public resources, through identifying priorities in Sustainable Community Strategies. Current partners are: Metropolitan Police; Middlesex University; Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group; Community Barnet; Brent Cross Shopping Centre; Barnet and Southgate College; Job Centre Plus.
- 8.29 The [Safer Communities Partnership Board \(SCPB\)](#) is the inter-agency mechanism in Barnet to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and reoffending and promote social cohesion. It acts

as the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership as required by legislation. Current partners are:

- London Probation Trust
- National Probation Service
- London Fire Brigade
- Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group
- MOPAC (Mayor's Office Policing/Crime
- Barnet Safer Neighbourhood Board
- Middlesex University
- North West London Magistrates' Court
- Community Barnet; Victim Support and
- Department for Work and Pensions

8.30 The [Welsh Harp Joint Consultative Committee](#) is a joint body between Barnet and Brent which is focused on the management of the Welsh Harp reservoir which intersects the boundaries of both boroughs.

8.31 The Leader participates in the [West London Economic Prosperity Board](#) which is sub-regional economic prosperity board which works to maximise economic growth across the area. Current partners are: Barnet; Brent; Ealing, Harrow; Hounslow; and Hammersmith & Fulham.

Attendance at meetings

8.32 The average number of meetings attended per councillor per year is 27 formal committee meetings. Over a 4 year period, the highest average number per year is 46 and the lowest per year is 9. On average, members attend 92.5% of committees that they are appointed to.

8.33 Occasionally Members are appointed as a substitute to attend a committee if another Member is unavailable.

Outside Bodies

8.34 Members are also appointed to outside bodies⁹. There are a total of 33 outside bodies that the council make appointment to and a total of 64 seats. Some members serve on multiple outside bodies. The purpose of these bodies vary considerably and include: fostering or adoption panels; community trusts; charities; committees of London Councils; the Hampstead Heath Management Committee; 'friends of' groups; foundation trusts; and external partnership boards. Appointments can also be to companies that the council has an interest in such as the Barnet Group, the Regional Enterprise (a joint Capita and London Borough of Barnet company) and other companies linked with the council's regeneration estates/schemes. Requirements on Members in respect of outside bodies will vary considerably and be dependent on the requirements of the organisation in question. Appointments to companies can be challenging for Members as they are appointed to represent the council, but they also have a duty to act in the best interests of the body to which they have been appointed. The council has delivered some specific training to Members appointed to the boards of external companies and are intending to deliver more generic training on outside bodies during the current administration. In addition, the council indemnify Members when acting in these roles.

⁹ Annual Council, 22 May 2018, Report of the Head of Governance, Appointments to Outside Bodies:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141andMID=9449#AI25051>

Member Roles

- 8.35 In addition to appointments to council committees and outside bodies, Members have a number of additional roles which relate to their wards and constituents, plus they can have specific roles within the political groups themselves.
- 8.36 For some roles, the council has developed role profiles and, where available (See Appendices 1 and 2):
- Leader
 - Deputy Leader
 - Leader of the Opposition
 - Committee Chairman
 - Member
 - Lead Member for Children's Services

Where there is no role profile available, a brief description of the role is provided in sections 8.37 and 8.38 below.

8.37 Other Political Roles:

- **Opposition Spokesperson** – the opposition group appoints opposition spokespersons for the main commissioning / theme committees. Broadly speaking their role is to lead articulate and promote the opposition standpoint or policy position on various issues within the terms of reference of a committee. The opposition spokesperson will often lead the scrutiny and challenge at committees on the various decisions being taken. In addition, the opposition spokesperson may put forward alternative policy positions or raise issues via Members Items to committees. They may also be quoted in press releases from the opposition group.
- **Group Secretary** – the Group Secretary is, broadly speaking, responsible for the organisation and management of each political group. They will organise party group meetings (usually held on the Thursday that precedes Full Council meetings) and ensure that party group procedures are adhered to in relation to group matters. They will also play a key role in supporting the Leader to make nominations for committee appointments.
- **Group Whip** – the Group Whip works closely with the Leader and Group Secretary on the organisation of party group meetings, procedural matters and appointments to committees and outside bodies. They are responsible for articulating the group position on various matters and ensuring that Members vote along party lines in respect of certain matters.
- **Group Chairman** – both Groups will have a Group Chairman who is responsible for: calling and chairing party group meetings; compliance with party group rules and procedures; and attend briefing meetings with the Committee Chairmen if invited so to do by the Group Leader.
- **Treasurer** – both Groups will have a treasurer who is responsible for: collecting subscriptions from group members; managing group finances; and presenting accounts at the AGM.

8.38 Ward Member roles

Ward Members lead and champion the interests of the ward and its constituents; meet and liaise regularly with interested parties and involve and consult them on key council decisions; support and promote citizenship locally; undertake case work for constituents and act as an advocate in resolving concerns; communicate with local people; attend Ward Surgeries along with ward colleagues; have a knowledge and understanding of the ward and the issues affecting it.

8.39 Case work:

In developing this submission, both Political Groups have been consulted on case work (including Ward Surgeries) to provide context on how much of a draw on Members' time this can be.

- The public are more frequently contacting Members by email and phone, or via residents meetings, or group constituency offices. Ward surgeries are now only one source of casework for Members.
- Most councillors hold monthly ward surgeries with the duration being on average between 1 hour to 1.5 hours. The frequency of surgeries is variable - some have weekly surgeries, others twice per month and others monthly. The average across all wards is two surgeries per month. Attendance at surgeries is usually organised by the Ward Members amongst themselves. Some Wards are split wards and in these cases the two political groups will have separate arrangements for surgeries.
- Volumes of case work can be highly variable. Wards which have higher levels of deprivation tend to have higher levels of case work. The volume of case work generally speaking correlates to the relative deprivation of the Wards, with the more deprived Wards having higher levels of case work.
- On average, each councillor:
 - Holds 1.5 advice surgeries a month of 1.5 hours
 - Attends two meetings with residents a week of roughly an hour (whether groups of residents or individual residents)
 - Responds to at least 10 email case work enquiries a week
 - Spends two hours a week progress chasing open cases
 - An estimate of the amount of time that a typical councillor spends on case work per week is 10 hours.
- Members feel that current case work volumes are manageable. An increase in size of their ward up to 20% could be accommodated with the existing number of wards and councillors, but any increase above that would make the volume of case work unmanageable.

8.40 Other Member Roles

- Party Group – aside from the political / party group roles referred to above, Members have a wider duty to their Group. The local parties tend to be structured on a constituency basis (with each of the main parties having a Chipping Barnet, Finchley and Golders Green and Hendon branches) each with their own party group officers and procedural rules. In addition to the Barnet party group meetings, Members may well be required to attend local constituency meetings.
- Civic Mayor – at each Annual Council meeting, Members will be appointed as the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor with the following responsibilities: promote public involvement in the council's activities; to be the first citizen of the borough and act as an ambassador for the council within and outside of the borough; chair Full Council meetings; preside over citizenship ceremonies; and attend civic and ceremonial functions. Past mayors are also expected occasional civic or mayoral events when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are unavailable.
- Civic Events – there is a general expectation that Members will attend some of the civic events held during the year which include (but are not limited to): Holocaust Memorial Day; Armed Forces Day; Civic Service; Remembrance Sunday; and Civic Awards.
- Member Development – to ensure that Members have the requisite knowledge, skills and experience to be effective in their various roles, a comprehensive Member Development Programme has been agreed. Attending training can require attendance at numerous sessions in addition to committee meetings and all of the other requirements referred to above.
- Corporate Parents – all Members are corporate parents for looked after children and children in care. Barnet take these responsibilities very seriously and there is a requirement for all Members to attend mandatory training on corporate parenting and safeguarding. In addition to this, Barnet has a Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel which Members and officers participate in and is an important forum in ensuring that the council is being effective in supporting children and young people in its care.

Member Support

- 8.41 Members have dedicated support from the Governance Service in respect of council committee meetings, outside bodies and various other administrative matters. All Members are provided with a smartphone and laptop/tablet hybrid with committee papers application to allow them to access emails, committee papers and other key documents. Most receive hard copy agendas via a twice weekly courier.
- 8.42 Members have a dedicated Members Enquiries service which allows them to raise specific service requests and to receive a response within 5 days. This supports them to progress case work and other matters that they wish to raise. Between April 2017 and March 2018, the council received 6428 Member Enquiries giving an average of 535.6 per month (8.5 per councillor per month). Of this total, 42% of member enquiries are about street based services or Re (development and regulatory services) and 15% for Barnet Homes.
- 8.43 Senior administration and opposition Members will also have access to chief officers and their direct reports to varying degrees.

9 Financial Impact of council size proposal

- 9.1 The budget allocated for Members' Allowances for 2018-2019 is £1,106,150. In addition, a small budget of £20K is provided for Member Development. There is a provision of £63K which covers the costs of Members IT, mobile phones, stationary and other miscellaneous costs.
- 9.2 The major part of the £1,106,150 budget is allocated for the Basic Allowance, which is currently paid at £10,597 per Councillor, plus the Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) paid to councillors who either hold leadership roles or as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's committees. The total expenditure for Members' Allowances for the last financial year, 2017/18, was £1,105,234.89.
- 9.3 Assuming that the level of allowances paid to individual councillors remained the same going forward, any reduction in total spend would relate to £10,597 (Basic Allowance) for each Member and any SRAs that were either reduced, or cancelled.
- 9.4 An increase of the number of councillors would result in an additional pressure on Members Allowances of at least an addition of the basic allowance to the number of councillors increased by. In terms of the cost of increasing the number of councillors would be a least £15K per annum per Member (basic allowance of £10,597 plus on-costs, for example, governance support, IT, mobiles, training/development, etc.).
- 9.5 The cost of 3 additional councillors would be at least £45K per annum, or £180K per administration (e.g. 2022-2026). The cost of 6 additional councillors would be around £90K per annum, or £360K per administration (e.g. 2022-2026).
- 9.6 In light of the council's financial position (reduced funding, increased demand upon services, and uncertainty about future funding) any additional pressures upon the revenue budget would have serious consequences for our ability to deliver our statutory responsibilities and a legal budget. The council is facing a forecast budget gap of £62m over the next five years (2019/20 - 2023/24) and closing this gap will require some difficult decisions about prioritising our limited resources. Within this context, it is unlikely that an increase in councillor costs could be recommended.
- 9.7 Any reductions or additions to SRAs would be made via Member decision. Reductions could only be achieved by reducing the SRA itself or by reducing the number of SRAs (e.g. by consolidating the number of committees to reducing the number of SRAs, or deleting some SRAs from the Members Allowances Scheme). Additions to SRAs may be required if there were more committees created. These could only be accommodated if there was an increase in the Members Allowances Budget.
- 9.8 Other financial considerations including cost of Elections. The overall cost of the recent borough-wide Local Government elections (held 3 May 2018) is projected to be approximately £630,000, giving an election cost per Councillor of £10,000. Where by-elections are required (e.g. single Councillor elections that might be necessary between all-out elections held every four years), the costs are much higher and are typically in the region of £30,000. An increase in councillors would certainly increase the cost of the borough-wide elections and would to some degree raise the likelihood of individual by-elections being necessary between.

10 Conclusion - Proposed Council Size

- 10.1 Before arriving at a proposal on council size, all the information and context provided in the previous sections of this report relating to Barnet's; Population, Electorate, Governance and Decision-making arrangements and financial implications have been researched and reviewed. We have considered this information in relation to the Commissions criteria for council size. The proposed council size must:
- Give confidence that the council can make effective decisions across its entire range of responsibilities.
 - Allow the council to maintain its good work on scrutiny in relation to its own decision making and fulfil its responsibilities to outside bodies.
 - Most significantly, ensure that the councillors have an effective representational role in the local community and are able to engage with local people and communities.
- 10.2 Barnet is a well-run and effective council, with good engagement by members who play a full and active role as local representatives. Barnet has a sustainable model of strong governance and scrutiny and members are central to delivering this leadership and oversight. Based upon this we believe that 63 is the optimum number of councillors required to ensure effective governance and scrutiny.
- 10.3 However, Table 3 (page 10) shows with the current 63 councillors each represent 4093 electors. This means that Barnet's councillors represent a higher number of electors than any comparable London Borough. With the forecast increase in population and electorate shown in Table 4 (page 13) this ratio will rise to 4385 per councillor by 2024.
- 10.4 An increase in the number of councillors to 66 would reduce the ratio to 4186 electors per councillor in 2024. This is still likely to give Barnet one of the highest number of electors per councillor in London. However, feedback from the two political parties represented shows that the current cohort of councillors considers that their current workload is manageable and that they do effectively represent the interests of Barnet residents.
- 10.5 Whilst we are satisfied that 63 members remains an appropriate number of councillors we recognise that a small increase may be helpful in achieving good electoral equality across the new warding pattern that will be necessary in Stage 2 of this Electoral Review.
- 10.6 Residents preference to contact councillors via email has revolutionised the way in which Members and Council Officers work and has vastly increased efficiency. In 1999 Member casework was largely by received by post and at ward surgeries whilst today Members report the vast majority of their casework arriving by email, which can be easily forwarded to the relevant Officer or Members' Enquiries.
- 10.7 As the population is forecast to continue growing beyond 2024, a small rise in the number of councillors could help to ensure levels of representation are maintained into the longer-term future.
- 10.8 Technological changes such as council provided smartphones and laptops also means that Members now work more flexibility and efficiently than was previously the case, which has largely offset the extra casework arising from the 25% growth in population since 1999.
- 10.9 In addition to this, Members have access to a Members Enquiries service which enables them to raise enquiries on behalf of constituents and have these progressed and resolved effectively.

- 10.10 The projected 6.8% increase in population by 2024 is not expected to significantly alter this balance as residents use technology and social media to communicate with their elected members and councillors are able to respond and resolve issues more quickly.
- 10.11 Any increase in the number of councillors would be a financial burden to the council. We have concluded that this is difficult to justify at a time when budgets and services are under growing financial and demand pressures.
- 10.12 We have rejected the idea of a reducing the number of councillors as with the forecast increase in population and changes in the borough in the coming few years, any reduction will have a detrimental impact on the representational role of members.
- 10.13 It is clear that any reduction would reduce the level of scrutiny and effectiveness of the governance structure that its critical to the council decision making processes and oversight of service delivery.
- 10.14 After considering all of the evidence that has been compiled and reviewed, the council has concluded that a figure of 63 to 66 is the appropriate and financially viable number of councillors required.

Appendix 1 - Councillor Role Profiles

Leader of the Council

Purpose

- Provide effective political leadership for the executive and the council.
- Develop and provide strategic direction for the executive and the council.
- Ensure that the council delivers high quality, value for money services.
- Leadership/Strategic Direction
- Lead the executive and be responsible for the executive's and the council's corporate and resource strategies.
- Develop the policy framework for the executive and the council.
- Communicate the administration's policies and priorities to residents and other stakeholders.
- Communicate with the senior officer management team and receive their professional advice.
- Ensure that the executive operates effectively and fulfils its terms of reference both collectively and as individual portfolio holders.
- Champion the long term financial, business and economic stability of the council.

Good Governance

- Work to the highest standards of probity and corporate governance for the wellbeing of the borough.
- Promote adherence to the relevant codes of conduct in the interest of achieving the highest standards of behaviour in public office.
- Ensure that the interests of the borough and its citizens are taken into account when developing policy and strategies.

Representation

- Be the representative voice of the council in its dealings with central government, other local authorities and outside organisations.
- Knowledge Develop necessary skills and knowledge in order to effectively carry out your role.
- Encourage councillors to develop and maintain skills and knowledge to contribute to the work of the council.

Relationships

- Build effective and respectful relationships with Members, officers and representatives of outside organisations and work with them in developing policy and strategic direction.
- Be aware of issues of importance to residents of the borough and other council stakeholders.

Deputy Leader

As Deputy Leader of the Council the post holder is required to work to the role profile of a councillor and, as appropriate, that of an Executive Member.

When acting up to the position of Leader of the Council the Deputy Leader will follow the role profile of the Leader of the Council, to the extent appropriate to both the length of time and the terms under which the deputisation is taking place.

Leader of the Opposition

Purpose Provide strong, clear political leadership for the largest opposition group on the council.

Leadership/Strategic Direction

- Lead on the coordination of proposals on service delivery policies, corporate and resource strategies for the largest opposition group.
- Ensure the Shadow Cabinet operates effectively both collectively and as individual portfolio holders.
- Coordinate the participation of the opposition group in the business of the council and its committees.

Good Governance

- Work to the highest standards of probity and corporate governance for the wellbeing of the borough.
- Promote adherence to the relevant codes of conduct in the interest of achieving the highest standards of behaviour in public office.
- Ensure that the interests of the borough and its citizens are taken into account when developing proposals for opposition policy and strategy.

Representation

- Be the principal representative voice of the council's largest opposition group.

Knowledge

- Develop necessary skills and knowledge in order to effectively carry out the role.
- Encourage councillors to develop and maintain skills and knowledge to contribute to the work of the council.

Relationships

- Build effective and respectful relationships with Members, officers and representatives of outside organisations and work with them in developing opposition policy and strategic direction.
- Be aware of issues of importance to residents of the borough and other stakeholders.

Challenge and Oversight

- Provide constructive challenge of the executive's vision, policies, strategies and delivery of services.

Committee Chairman

Purpose

- Chair committee meetings and ensure the committee works within its terms of reference.
- Provide leadership of and direction to the committee.

Leadership/Strategic Direction

- Identify the priorities for the work of the committee and ensure there is a manageable and achievable agenda for each meeting.
- Encourage all members of the committee to engage in its activities.
- Keep the meeting to time.
- Encourage citizens to engage with the work of the committee within the council's procedures for public participation.

Good Governance

- Work to the highest standards of probity and corporate governance for the wellbeing of the borough
- Promote adherence to the relevant codes of conduct in the interest of achieving the highest standards of behaviour in public office.

Knowledge

- Develop and maintain a working knowledge of the professional disciplines, services and constitutional requirements relevant to the work of the committee.
- Develop necessary skills and knowledge in order to effectively carry out your role.

Relationships

- Build effective and respectful relationships with Members, officers and representatives of outside organisations in order to carry out your role.
- Be aware of issues of importance to residents of the borough and other stakeholders concerning matters within the terms of reference of the committee.

Councillor

Purpose

- Participate in and support the good governance of the borough.
- Represent the interests of the ward which elected you and the borough as a whole and act as link between the council and its citizens.
- Contribute to the development of the authority's policies, budget, strategies and service delivery.

Good Governance

- Take an active part in the democratic, decision making processes of the council.
- Act with openness and integrity, abide by the standards of conduct required by the council and observe all legal requirements for a local authority councillor.
- Promote and support open and transparent government.
- Maintain the security of information held and managed by the council.

Representation

- Work to improve the economy, environment and quality of life of citizens of the borough.
- Actively encourage participation in the council's democratic and consultative processes.
- Effectively communicate your actions and activities as a councillor to those you represent.
- Run regular surgeries to meet with residents of your ward and address their issues.
- Act as a council representative on any outside body to which you are appointed, and provide communication between the organisations.

Committee Membership

- Be an effective member of any committee or panel to which you are appointed.
- Knowledge Endeavour to have a working knowledge of the council's services, powers and duties.

Relationships

- Have respectful, appropriate and effective working relationships with Members, officers and representatives of outside organisations.
- Support partnership working within the borough and between public bodies.

Challenge and Oversight

- Offer oversight and constructive challenge of council policies and budget and their effectiveness in achieving the strategic objectives of the council.

Appendix 2 - Member Attendance Statistics (2014-2018)¹⁰

Key:

Expected: The number of meetings that the councillor was expected to attend in their capacity as member of that committee.

Present: The number of meetings that the councillor attended in their capacity as member of that committee.

In attendance: The number of meetings that the councillor attended in a capacity other than committee member, for example a voluntary attendance out of personal interest for a topic being discussed.

Councillor	Expected	Present	In attendance
Councillor Maureen Braun	152	132	0
Councillor Jess Brayne	34	33	0
Councillor Rebecca Butler (nee Challice)	54	45	0
Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb	87	85	0
Councillor Dean Cohen BSc (Hons)	95	91	0
Councillor Jack Cohen	56	52	1
Councillor Melvin Cohen LLB	148	132	0
Councillor Philip Cohen	96	88	1
Councillor Geof Cooke	112	109	0
Councillor Alison Cornelius	190	186	1
Councillor Richard Cornelius	142	130	1
Councillor Tom Davey	115	100	1
Councillor Val Duschinsky	92	87	0
Councillor Paul Edwards	83	71	0
Councillor Claire Farrier	165	148	0
Councillor Anthony Finn BSc (Econ) FCA	98	95	0
Councillor Brian Gordon LLB	101	96	0
Councillor Eva Greenspan	133	114	0
Councillor Rohit Grover	71	68	0
Councillor Helena Hart	124	123	4
Councillor John Hart BA (Hons) MA	112	109	0
Councillor Ross Houston	99	93	1
Councillor Anne Hutton	90	87	0
Councillor Andreas Ioannidis	67	61	0

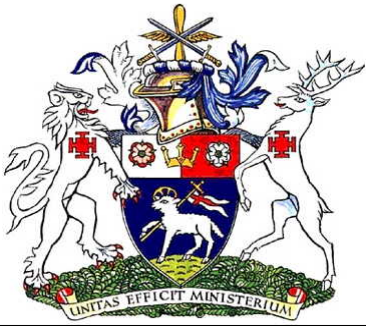
¹⁰ <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgUserAttendanceSummary.aspx>

Councillor	Expected	Present	In attendance
Councillor Dr Devra Kay	102	78	1
Councillor Sury Khatri BSc (Hons) MSc (Lond)	151	148	0
Councillor Adam Langleben	79	74	1
Councillor Kathy Levine	131	119	0
Councillor David Longstaff	122	120	0
Councillor Kitty Lyons	51	35	0
Councillor John Marshall MA (Hons)	133	125	0
Councillor Kath McGuirk	78	72	0
Councillor Arjun Mittra	150	146	0
Councillor Alison Moore	115	110	0
Councillor Ammar Naqvi	81	78	0
Councillor Nagus Narenthira	84	77	0
Councillor Charlie O-Macauley	78	67	0
Councillor Graham Old	136	134	0
Councillor Alon Or-bach	89	77	0
Councillor Reema Patel	97	83	1
Councillor Bridget Perry	88	82	0
Councillor Wendy Prentice	160	144	0
Councillor Sachin Rajput	107	97	0
Councillor Barry Rawlings	175	172	1
Councillor Hugh Rayner	107	96	1
Councillor Tim Roberts	135	119	0
Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg	96	94	0
Councillor Lisa Rutter	66	61	0
Councillor Shimon Ryde BSc (Hons)	113	111	0
Councillor Brian Salinger	109	105	0
Councillor Gill Sargeant	68	58	0
Councillor Joan Scannell BEM	105	92	0
Councillor Alan Schneiderman	103	101	0
Councillor Daniel Seal	31	14	0
Councillor Mark Shooter	109	91	0
Councillor Agnes Slocombe	168	161	1
Councillor Stephen Sowerby MA	138	120	0
Councillor Caroline Stock	82	81	2

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Councillor	Expected	Present	In attendance
<u>Councillor Daniel Thomas BA (Hons)</u>	147	138	0
<u>Councillor Reuben Thompstone</u>	145	129	1
<u>Councillor Jim Tierney</u>	157	154	0
<u>Councillor Amy Trevethan</u>	33	29	0
<u>Councillor Laurie Williams</u>	129	124	1
<u>Councillor Peter Zinkin</u>	130	127	1
<u>Councillor Zakia Zubairi</u>	56	51	0

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	<p>COUNCIL</p> <p>31 July 2018</p>
Title	Report of Head of Governance
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A – Changes to Calendar of Meetings Appendix B – Appointments to Committees
Officer Contact Details	Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

This item presents various constitutional and administrative matters for Council's agreement. Full details are as set out in the appended reports.

Recommendations

- 1. That Council notes the changes to the calendar of meetings as set out in Appendix A.**
- 2. That the Council approve the change of membership of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Committee as set out in Appendix B.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Head of Governance report seeks Council's approval for various matters of business relating to the Council's statutory and constitutional functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As set out in the attached appendices.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 N/A.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Council decisions will be minuted and implemented through the Head of Governance.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As set out in attached appendices.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 Any specific implications are set out in the attached appendices.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 Council Constitution, Full Council Procedure Rules – requires that Council “Agree the Council Calendar of meetings including for ordinary meetings of the Council”. As these are in year changes they are for noting only.

5.3.2 Council Constitution, Article 4 – The Full Council – states that the Council is responsible for “Agreeing and amending the terms of reference of committees, deciding their composition and making appointments to them.”

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None specifically arising from this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 None specifically arising from this report.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None specifically arising from this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.

Changes to Calendar of Meetings – 2018/19 Municipal Year

Committee	Originally Scheduled Date of Meeting	New Meeting Date
Policy & Resources Committee*	3 October 2018	23 October 2018
Policy & Resources Committee*	26 November 2018	11 December 2018
Policy & Resources Committee*	12 March 2019	20 February 2019
Financial Performance & Contracts Committee	18 September 2018	9 October 2018
Financial Performance & Contracts Committee	3 December 2018	28 November 2018
Community Leadership & Libraries Committee*	N/A	21 November 2018
Environment Committee	12 December 2018	28 November 2018
Environment Committee	N/A	21 January 2019
Adults & Safeguarding Committee	11 December 2018	26 November 2018
Housing Committee	N/A	27 November 2018 (6.30pm)
Housing Committee	21 March 2019	1 April 2019

Chipping Barnet Area Committee	6 March 2019	27 March 2019
Chipping Barnet Area Committee	9 January 2019	23 January 2019
Chipping Barnet Area Committee	17 April 2019	N/A – Cancel
Hendon Area Committee	30 April 2019	N/A – Cancel
Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee	6 September 2018	17 October 2018
Residents Forums (Chipping Barnet, Finchley & Golders Green and Hendon)	17 October 2018	6 September 2018
Residents Forums (Chipping Barnet, Finchley & Golders Green and Hendon)	23 January 2019	9 January 2019
Residents Forums (Chipping Barnet, Finchley & Golders Green and Hendon)	27 March 2019	6 March 2019
Constitution & General Purposes Committee	N/A	22 October 201
Constitution & General Purposes Committee	N/A	17 January 2019
Constitution & General Purposes Committee	N/A	9 April 2019
Planning Committee	28 November 2018	11 December 2018

**Dates that are proposed by not yet agreed with Chairman and Committee Members*

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Change of Membership of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Committee

The Labour Group have indicated that they wish to make the following change to the membership:

. Committee	Current Member	Replacement Member
Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Committee	Councillor Geof Cooke (Substitute)	Councillor Anne Hutton (Substitute)

RECOMMEND that the above change in membership of the Finchley & Golders Green Area Planning Committee be approved

2. North London Waste Planning Group

The Conservative Group have indicated that they wish to make the following change to the membership:

Outside Body	Current Member	Replacement Member
North London Waste Planning Group	Councillor Peter Zinkin	Councillor Melvin Cohen

RECOMMEND that the above change in membership of the North London Waste Plan, be approved

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Boycott the antisemitic BDS movement

On 31st January 2017, Barnet became the first local authority to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s definition of antisemitism and its corresponding guidance, which recognises that antisemitism takes many forms including, in certain circumstances, targeting of the State of Israel.

The IHRA's guidance rightly points out that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled [sic] against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic". However, Council believes the aims, methods, and rhetoric of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement and believes its go well beyond this, and are consistent with the IHRA's guidance on the definition of antisemitism. Specifically:

- A completely disproportionate focus on the State of Israel to the exclusion of all other territorial disputes and ethnic conflicts in the world, e.g. the Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara, the Chinese occupation of Tibet, or the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus;
- "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor [sic]";
- Frequently reported incidents of BDS activists "Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions" and "Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism to characterize Israel or Israelis."
- "Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis."

Following similar action being taken by the City Council of Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on 25th August 2017, Council instructs Officers to ensure:

- The London Borough of Barnet does not provide any space or areas for clubs, organizations or even individuals who support the activities of the antisemitic BDS movement.
- The London Borough of Barnet instructs its companies not to provide or rent any space for affiliates, organizations or individuals who support the activities of the antisemitic BDS movement.
- The London Borough of Barnet appeals to landlords of event venues in the borough not to provide or rent any space for clubs, organizations or even individuals who support the activities of the antisemitic BDS movement.

- The London Borough of Barnet does not make any donations or grants to associations, organisations or other groups which support the activities of the antisemitic BDS movement.

- In doing so, Council also reaffirms its commitment to fight all forms of prejudice, whether against religion, race, sex, gender, or age.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

Full Council: 31 July 2018

Opposition motion in the name of Cllr Jo Cooper

AGENDA ITEM 14.2

Pesticide free Barnet

Council notes that pesticides and herbicides like Glyphosate that are used in our parks and public spaces can cause harm to people, animals and the environment.

Council notes that LB Hammersmith & Fulham have gone pesticide free, and other councils are now taking the pesticide free route.

Council requests that the Environment Committee investigate the best way for LB Barnet to go pesticide free, and report back to Full Council with options.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Administration motion in the name of Cllr John Marshall

Conserve our family homes

Council, recognising that the untrammelled conversion of family homes into flats can change the character of an area, and believes the borough should place a ceiling upon the extent to which such conversions can take place on any road.

Council instructs Officers to investigate how this can be achieved and to present their findings to the Housing Committee.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Jess Brayne

Equality in Mental Health Services for BAMER Communities

Adults who use Barnet's Adult social care services increasingly have complex needs. There is a strong correlation between mental and physical health, and those accessing our support services will increasingly need support with both their mental and physical health. All Councillors have a responsibility to promote good mental health for all those living in our Borough. As such, I ask Council to support Race on the Agenda's commitment for Councillors, and to invite them to speak to us about their work, and how we can work together.

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) in partnership with BAMER organisations are calling for an end to unequal provision and access to Mental Health services for Black, Asian and Minority, Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) communities.

Research has shown that BAMER communities face disadvantage, reduced opportunities and structural and institutional racism (Kindred Minds, 2018: 3). People from BAMER backgrounds with mental health support needs are less likely to have access to suitable services, in particularly primary care, therapeutic and psychosocial services (Keating, Robertson, McCulloch and Francis, 2002; Sashidharan, 2003 in NSUN, 2017), such as counselling or group work that is culturally appropriate, or in community languages, and pathways into secondary mental healthcare services are often too rigid. This leads to increased inequality in the mental health of BAMER communities. Culturally sensitive, holistic mental health services are key to improving mental health outcomes for BAMER people.

This year the Mental Health Act, which governs how people are supposed to be treated and protected, is under review. A January 2018 Care Quality Commission (CQC) report shows that detention rates for the 'Black or Black British' population group are more than four times that for the White population group and 'any other Black background', are over 10 times the rate of the White population group.

Differences in provision between mental and physical health services are also well documented. Creating parity of esteem is supported by all political parties, has been highlighted as a priority by the Prime Minister and Princes William and Harry, and has broad support from the third sector and clinical professionals. Only recently Clare Murdoch, NHS England's National Mental Health Director, ordered Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to increase their spending on services for people with mental health support needs or face sanctions.

As a Council we commit:

1. To always consider the need to provide appropriate, sustainable services for my BAMER constituents with mental health support needs

2. To recommend to Barnet's Health and Well-being board that they work with Race on the Agenda (ROTA) in partnership with BAMER organisations in order to deliver better mental health services for BAMER service users
3. To inviting Race on the Agenda (ROTA) to speak with Councillors about their work and how we can provide better mental health services for our BAMER constituents.

Council asks all Barnet Councillors to commit to the six points below that have been co-authored by Experts by Experience, user-led VCS and BAMER NGOs, to improve the design, commissioning and delivery of mental health services for BAMER communities and, therefore, reduce mental health inequality:

1. Highlighting the need to provide appropriate, sustainable services for my BAMER constituents with mental health support needs in my work as a local Councillor.
2. Addressing the multiple forms of marginalisation faced by BAMER services users and understanding how a broad range of policies such as housing, benefits reform, education, policing impact BAMER mental health and wellbeing. In line with Kindred Minds Call for Social Justice, develop a consideration of gender, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, refugee or asylum seeker status and levels of English proficiency.
3. Holding my statutory colleagues, in the Local Authority and NHS, to account for meeting their duties under the Equality Act (2010) and the Statutory Public Sector Equality Duty (2011) in service design, commissioning, delivery and access, including the timely publication of Equality Objectives (EO) and Equality Delivery Systems (EDS). Proper and rigorous Equality Impact Assessments should inform decisions around making cuts to services to ensure that BAMER communities are not disproportionately affected.
4. Championing the specialist, holistic services provided by local, user and community-led Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) for BAMER people with mental health support needs and advocating for the proper funding of the BAMER voluntary sector. Community organisations provide safer, more accessible, responsive, efficient and cost effective services that reduce health inequality and play an important role in preventing minor mental health problems from becoming more serious, thereby reducing health crises, costs to the NHS and Public Health and improving planning of delivery.
5. Always reminding stakeholders that my BAMER constituents are not from 'hard to reach communities' and that genuine outreach and engagement will overcome structural barriers and unconscious bias.
6. Ensuring Experts by Experience are involved in all stages of mental health service procurement, delivery pathways and mental health policy by signing up to and rolling out NSUN's 4Pi National Involvement Standards to ensure effective co-production, and improving experiences of services and support.

Council calls on all members of Barnet Council to show their support by replying to this open letter or by pledging their commitment here:

<https://www.rota.org.uk/content/mental-health-equality-bamer-communities-london> and tweeting #MHEquality #MentalHealth4All #HardlyHardToReach

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Administration motion in the name of Cllr Lisa Rutter

Reunify Cyprus — Allow Refugees Home

Barnet has a large Greek and Turkish Cypriot community. Many of these residents are refugees or descendants of refugees from the illegal invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus in 1974.

As these residents' elected representatives, in a borough twinned with the occupied town of Morphou, Council believes we all have a vested interest in the Cypriot peace process. Presently, many Barnet residents from both communities are unable to return to their ancestral homes, which remains a source of considerable distress.

On 17th July the United Nations Security Council urged all sides to resume talks on a settlement for the island "towards a bizonal, bicomunal, federal solution" and sent an envoy of the Secretary-General to meet leaders last week.

Council supports these efforts and joins MPs and Peers in calling for the reunification of Cyprus through a just and viable settlement, including the removal of Turkish troops, in the interests of all displaced Cypriots in Cyprus, Barnet and around the world.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings

Broken Election Promises in Broken Barnet

Council notes that the Conservative administration has already broken two of their five key election promises within weeks of the local elections - specifically pledges to maintain weekly bin collections and keep council tax 'low'.

Council notes weekly food waste collections, and weekly green waste collections have already been binned, and the maximum increase in council tax allowable by law has been proposed in the medium term financial strategy every year for the next three years.

Council notes that these decisions are a direct result of the Barnet Conservatives' appalling mismanagement of the Council's budget which they overspent last year by £13.5 million resulting in a raid on reserves of over £20 million, and leaving the Council facing financial armageddon with a budget gap of £62 million by 2024.

Council notes the damning Audit report giving LB Barnet 'limited assurance' across all services because of serious weaknesses in the Council's control environment.

Council notes that LB Barnet is having to re-procure the implementation partner for the Council's case management IT system for adults social care after Capita failed to deliver the full functionality and left the system not fit for purpose.

Council notes that there are serious performance, value or strategic control issues in nearly half of the services the Barnet Conservatives outsourced to Capita including finance, highways, regeneration and estates.

Council notes that all of these failures have an impact on Barnet's residents and local services.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to formally apologise to Barnet's residents for these broken promises and failures.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Ross Houston

People's Vote on the Final Brexit Deal

Council notes that 62% of Barnet residents voting in the EU Referendum voted to remain in Europe.

Council also notes that whatever is in the final Brexit deal, it will have implications for local businesses, our local economy, public services including our local NHS, local partners including Middlesex University, local jobs and our residents including circa 29,000 EU citizens and their children living in Barnet.

Council notes that it is not clear whether there will be a soft Brexit, hard Brexit or no deal at all.

Council therefore calls on the Government to give the British people, including Barnet residents, a vote on the final deal.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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