

Business Planning 2015/16 - 2019/20

Consultation Headline Findings Housing Committee and Commissioning Plan

1. Online Survey on 2015/16 Budget

Comments on savings proposals;

- Homelessness is increasing (2 respondents)
- Housing should be expanded (2 respondents)
- Do not sell council housing - results in rise of cost of housing and investment for income and capital profit only (2 respondents).

Other suggestions were;

- Increase Council Tax (1 respondent)
- More and better social housing to offset housing benefit paid to those with private landlords (1 respondent).

2. Workshops for Strategic Plan to 2020

The housing service considered at the workshop was providing emergency temporary accommodation for homeless people and it was a service that residents saw as a priority. Some of the residents' comments reflected their concern and sympathy for this group of people.

"These are the most vulnerable people in our society. If we can't help them what's the point?"

"More people on the streets, people living there longer – let's get them back into the care package"

The lack of social housing was seen as part of the problem;

"We need to build more houses"

"The council needs to look to manage the private market because we have dodgy landlords. Housing is crucial. Because if social housing is not sorted then there is an impact on health (particularly, mental health)"

3. Online Survey on Strategic Plan to 2020

Housing Committee's Priorities

In terms of priorities, the majority of respondents (6 out of 9 respondents) agreed with "Facilitating growth and the success of residents by delivering a sufficient long term supply of new housing of all types and tenures", whilst only 4 out of 10

respondents agreed with “Enabling those who add to the economic, civic or cultural life of the borough to have the opportunity to live in Barnet”.

Those who thought priorities had been missed stated that the council should protect the council housing stock / provide more social housing and that Barnet should cater for all residents – not just the rich.

Housing Committee’s Outcomes

In terms of outcomes identified by the Housing Committee, the majority (5 out of 9 or more) agreed with all of the outcomes identified by the Committee. No residents left any further comments.

Housing Committee’s Approach

In terms of the approach, the majority (5 out of 9 or more) agreed with all 3 elements of the approach identified by the Housing Committee.

One respondent who disagreed with the approach stated that the council should ensure that new properties are carbon neutral with lower build and running costs.

Balance of savings

Respondents were asked how much they agreed that the Committee has identified the right balance of savings in order to achieve its priorities. There was a mixed response; 4 out of 10 disagreed, while 3 out of 10 agreed and the remaining 3 did not have a view either way.

Suggestions for savings included focusing more on revenue and bringing Barnet Homes back in house.