



Health and Wellbeing Board

16th January 2020

Title	Barnet's Local Plan (Regulation 18) and Barnet's Local Development Scheme
Report of	Deputy Chief Executive, Barnet Council
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A - Barnet's Local Plan – Preferred Approach (Reg 18 stage)
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Summary

The main challenge faced by the Local Plan is a need to deliver an increased housing target of 46,000 additional homes in response to population growth. The Growth and Spatial Strategy section sets out how this housing growth will be distributed across regeneration areas in Brent Cross and Colindale together with growth areas in Barnet's town centres, around transport nodes and along major thoroughfares.

As with the previous Local Plan the key challenge for Barnet is to accommodate further growth and respond to the needs and pressures of demographic change, while maintaining the distinctive character and attractive qualities of the Borough.

A key objective of the Local Plan is to promote healthy living and wellbeing. Health and wellbeing is strongly determined by the surrounding environment in which people live, including factors such as housing, education, air quality, unemployment, transport/connectivity and social inclusion. Planning policies can contribute greatly to many of these determinants of health, which is a further challenge over the plan period.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) provides a background to understanding

the needs of the population. Whilst the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets the vision and priorities on how the Council can help create a healthy place that supports people in living healthy and happy lives and staying as independent as long as possible.

A key ambition for the Local Plan is delivering the Healthy Streets Approach. As outlined in the draft London Plan this promotes the use of public space to improve health and reduce health inequality.

Policies on Growth and Spatial Strategy (in particular ones on Brent, Cross, District Town Centres and Transport Infrastructure set out how the Council is delivering the Healthy Streets Approach

Policy (GSS13) on Strategic Parks and Recreation emphasise impact of new strategic leisure and recreation facilities on physical and mental wellbeing.

Policy CHW02 sets out a further 15 Local Plan policies that are promoting health and wellbeing in terms of Neighbourhood Design, Housing, Food Environments, Natural and Sustainable Environments and Transport.

Specific policies relevant to health and wellbeing include:

- Access to social infrastructure such as provision of water fountains and public toilets as part of improvements to public realm. This is reflected in a new policy (CDH03) on Public Realm which highlights that development be designed to meet Healthy Street Indicators, promote active travel and discourage car usage.
- A new policy (TOW03) on the clustering of takeaways and shisha bars has been introduced with a requirement to comply with the emerging Healthier Catering Commitment.
- Mitigating Climate Change (ECC01) is a new explicit policy that sets out how the Local Plan will seek to minimise the Borough's contribution to climate change.
- Policy on specialist housing seeks to deliver housing choice for people with social care and health support needs.
- Sustainable and Active Travel (TRC01) highlights sustainable modes of travel including walking and cycling as well as improving air quality.
- Within town centres, responding to national trends the Local Plan there is stronger promotion of town centres as locations for community uses including health facilities that contribute to vitality and viability (TOW02).

The Local Plan Schedule of Proposals sets out proposals for 68 sites. Proposals are largely residential led and currently without planning consent. In total these proposals are capable of generating 16,000 new homes.

Barnet's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) – which is an important supporting document for the Local Plan and the CIL Charging Schedule which is currently under review. The IDP sets out what new social infrastructure will be required over the Local Plan period, with details of its broad location, the anticipated cost and how it will be funded.

Officers Recommendations

- 1. This paper highlights the forthcoming public consultation on the Local Plan starting on January 27th and lasting 6 weeks and would welcome formal response from HWB Board on this draft document.**
- 2. For the Board to note that the Local Plan document has just started its regulatory journey. There will be further opportunity to input at the next regulatory stage (Reg 19) in late 2020.**

The scope of change will narrow at each stage.

- Reg 19: Publication of Local Plan and Consultation – Autumn 2020**
- Reg 22: Submission – Winter 2020/21**
- Reg 24: Examination in Public – Summer 2021**
- Reg 26: Adoption – Winter 2021/22**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Local Plan shapes the future of Barnet as a place, looking ahead to 2036, providing the overarching local policy framework for delivering sustainable development. It is a strategic document that acts as the spatial expression of corporate strategies including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. This version (as approved by Policy and Resources on Jan 6th 2020) which consists of 51 policies and 67 site proposals, will replace the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies documents adopted in 2012.
- 1.2 The Reg 18 document has been subject to a Health Impact Assessment – produced in co-operation with the Public Health Team. This forms part of a wider Integrated Impact Assessment (including Equalities Impact Assessment).
- 1.3 This is the first formal stage for the Local Plan (Regulation 18) setting out the Preferred Approach. Evidence gathering has been underway since 2016 to justify the approach of the Local Plan, ensuring alignment with the new Mayor's London Plan as well as consistency with new national planning policy. Engagement with service leads commenced with visioning workshops in October 2017. Dialogue has been ongoing and has involved close working with Public Health

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Failure to progress a review of the Local Plan will delay the delivery of sustainable development and infrastructure, while reducing the Council's power to protect and enhance the Borough through planning decision making. The Council and Barnet residents and businesses will have less of a say on the future of the Borough as important planning decisions are made by the Mayor of London and the Planning Inspectorate in an incremental fashion.

- 2.2 Local Plan provides a good opportunity to use built environment to improve health and wellbeing of residents. It is therefore necessary for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider ways in ensuring that there is a good link between Local Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as Primary Care Estate Strategy.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 **N/A**

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Following approval of the Reg 18 document the Local Plan will be subject to a six week period of public consultation. The next stages are set out below
- Reg 19: Publication of Local Plan and Consultation – Autumn 2020
 - Reg 22: Submission – Winter 2020/21
 - Reg 24: Examination in Public – Summer 2021
 - Reg 26: Adoption – Winter 2021.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Local Plan is the statutory spatial expression of corporate strategies including the Corporate Plan, Growth Strategy, Housing Strategy, Long Term Transport Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It will deliver against the three main outcomes and their underlying priorities as follows

A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in –

- In keeping Barnet clean the Local Plan addresses environmental problems that arise from the clustering of uses such as hot food takeaways, shisha bars and betting shops;
- In keeping the Borough moving the Local Plan utilises Healthy Streets Indicators such as good street lighting to help promote walking, cycling and use of public transport;
- Policies in the Housing and Character, Design and Heritage Chapters seek to ensure access to decent quality affordable housing;
- Chapter on Delivering the Local Plan sets out mechanisms for securing funding from growth to invest in social infrastructure to support a growing population. The emerging Infrastructure Delivery Plan will set out the needs, gaps and deficits in provision, along with the costs of providing the infrastructure; and
- The Local Plan approach to delivering sustainable growth demonstrates responsible delivery of Barnet's major regeneration schemes to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the Borough, in particular it's suburban qualities.

Our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected -

- In ensuring the needs of children are considered the Local Plan seeks to tackle childhood obesity by not allowing any new hot food takeaways within 400 metres

- of a school or youth centre. It also seeks to deliver new high quality homes that meet space standards as well as ensuring delivery of highlighting requirements for children's play facilities arising from growth;
- Policies on Housing support accommodation for vulnerable people helping them to live independent lives;
- Policy on promoting health and wellbeing cross-refers to a range of policies supporting healthier lifestyles including Sustainable and Active Travel as well as protecting public houses in recognition of their contribution to community cohesiveness;
- Specific policy on Local Jobs, Skills and Training sets out how the Local Plan will help people access the employment opportunities generated by growth; and
- The Infrastructure Delivery Plan which supports the Local Plan together with contributions from development through S106 and Community Infrastructure Levy helps to ensure the Council has good schools and enough school places so all children have access to a great education.

Safe and strong communities where people get along well -

- The Local Plan has specific policy on Making Barnet a Safer Place. The use of Designing out Crime is highlighted throughout the Local Plan and reference is made to the Secured Resilient Design Tool for places where crowds may congregate.
- Creating a sense of place that encourages social interaction and physical activity is an aim of the new policy on Public Realm. Making public realm more accessible and welcoming can help, as a consequence of development, create or improve public space that can serve as a venue for celebrating Barnet's diversity and tackle anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. As can the policy on Managing Clustering of Town Centre Uses such as hot food takeaways, betting shops, payday loan shops and shisha bars.
- Ensuring we are a family friendly borough is reflected throughout the Local Plan in particular policies on Mitigating Climate Change, Housing Mix and Barnet's Parks and Open Spaces as well as Sustainable and Active Travel.
- Policies on A Vibrant Local Economy and Affordable Workspace help to safeguard existing employment floorspace and secure new affordable floorspace from development. Utilising vacant space in town centres for meanwhile uses is supported when it contributes to vitality and viability.

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

- 5.2.1 The cost of producing the Local Plan is included in the Re contract. The Local Plan is supported by an extensive evidence base, the requirements of which are subject to change. The Council agreed to fund additional evidence requirements that were not specified in the original Re contract. This includes the Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land Study (£62k) and the Residential Conversions Study (£21k). Further additional evidence requirements and the need to update existing evidence may be highlighted as part of the Reg 18 public consultation.

- 5.2.2 The cost of consulting on the Local Plan is met by Re. The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) adopted by the Council in October 2018 sets out consultation requirements for Local Plans. The Local Plan Consultation Strategy reflects the SCI. The cost of any additions to these requirements will be met by the Council.
- 5.2.3 The Local Plan promotes a number of sites that have been put forward through the Council Assets Disposal Programme. These sites have predominantly provided community uses. Through the Local Plan the Council can ensure that any future redevelopment is policy compliant and benefits from community engagement prior to any future planning application.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Local Plan will secure a range of social, economic and environmental benefits. These are set out within the body of this Report and detailed within the Sustainability Appraisal of the Reg 18 document.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, in particular Regulation 18 and 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, provides guidance on the preparation and adoption of Local Plan documents. Upon adoption the Local Plan becomes a statutory Development Plan Document that forms part of Barnet's formal planning policy framework.
- 5.4.2 Under the Council's Constitution, Article 7 - Item 7.5 (Responsibility for Functions) sets out that the Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Council including responsibility for Local Plans (except for matters reserved to Full Council). The Constitution, Article 4 (The Full Council) requires Full Council for approving the submission and adoption of Development Plan Documents comprising the Local Plan.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The Local Plan process faces a number of risks and these are managed by the Council's Strategic Planning Operations Board which meets monthly. The major identified risks are:
- the Local Plan being found unsound by a Planning Inspector. This can be mitigated by use of Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Local Plan Route Mapper & Toolkit for use when undertaking a review and update of local plan policies which includes guidance and checklists for ensuring soundness, legal compliance and a robust evidence base supporting the Local Plan;
 - another major soundness risk is on the failure to comply with MHCLG housing requirements and demonstrate exceptional circumstances. It is considered that such national requirements will become clearer in 2020 following the publication of the new London Plan. The Local Plan housing target is only slightly lower than the number that was in the Draft London Plan and which the independent Inspector Panel considered to be too high;
 - a failure to meet the legal requirements of duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities and statutory agencies such as Historic England and the Environment Agency is another major risk. Through early and ongoing engagement including working with the West London Alliance this can be mitigated. As evidence that engagement is underway the Council has produced a Duty to Co-operate Statement;

- another significant risk is that the GLA consider the Local Plan not to be in general conformity with the new London Plan. The Local Plan has been produced to reflect the draft London Plan and the Council will ensure ongoing engagement with the GLA's London Plan team;
- a lack of political and local support for the Local Plan can be addressed through the cross-party Members Advisory Group who act as a sounding board for issues that the Local Plan should address.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The Equalities and Diversity Act, 2010 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 of different groups; and
Foster good relations between people from different groups.
- 5.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 5.6.3 The Local Plan, once adopted, has the potential to impact on all of those who live, work and visit the Borough. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) (see Appendix B) has been undertaken as part of an Integrated Impact Assessment of the Local Plan. Policies contained within the Reg 18 document could potentially have significant effects on those individuals who share one or more of the nine protected characteristics identified under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly those which relates to housing, transport, employment, environment and inclusive design.
- 5.6.4 The EqIA identified that many of the policies would have a positive effect across equalities groups particularly those which relate to housing (e.g. the provision of affordable housing and specialist housing), high quality design (e.g. emphasis on inclusive design will be beneficial to disabled people), the promotion of employment and training opportunities to help reduce poverty and improvements within the built environment to make it more inclusive. However, the EqIA did note that there is potential for conflict in protecting heritage assets and making alterations to improve disabled access, e.g. ramps / lifts may not be considered appropriate in some listed buildings. Where significant effects are identified, appropriate mitigation strategies need to be put in place to avoid or reduce impacts.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

- 5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 Early engagement on the Local Plan commenced in late 2017 with a series of workshops with community representatives, Councillors and Chief Officers. This helped create the vision and objectives for the Local Plan.
- 5.8.2 The Reg 18 Local Plan document will undergo public consultation in early 2020 for a period of 6 weeks. Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the 2018

Statement of Community Involvement. A Reg 18 Consultation Strategy sets out more detail on engagement activities, including working with boroughwide groups under the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act as well as targeted events focused on locations where the Local Plan is proposing development.

- 5.8.3 To help better explain the Regulation 18 document a Glossary and Acronym Buster will be added to the Local Plan prior to the launch of public consultation. The Council will also provide a summary version of the 51 policies in the Local Plan.

5.9 **Insight**

- 5.9.1 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has been used to inform health and wellbeing aspects of the Local Plan.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Local Plan – Preferred Option (Reg 18 state)