

<b><u>Meeting</u></b> <b>Environment and Climate Change Committee</b>
<b><u>Date and time</u></b> <b>Tuesday 14th March, 2023</b> <b>At 7.00 pm</b>
<b><u>Venue</u></b> <b>Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ</b>

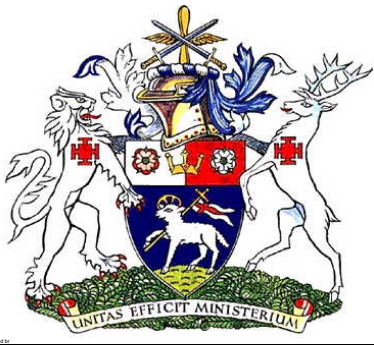
Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
10	Tree Policy Update and Planting Programme	3 - 56

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# Environment and Climate Change Committee

AGENDA ITEM 10

14 March 2023

<b>Title</b>	<b>Barnet Tree Policy</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chair – Environment and Climate Change Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Key
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A – Draft Tree Policy (2023) Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment
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## Summary

A new Tree Policy supports our ambition to become one of London’s most sustainable Boroughs and plays a key role in supporting our BarnNET Zero journey. The Policy (Appendix A) brings together a series of aims and commitments that focus on our people, place and planet and how we will deliver these aims through good governance and management, leadership in tree planting but also empowering and inspiring residents and the community to support us in facilitating environmental improvements.

The Council’s existing Tree Policy was adopted by Environment Committee in 2017, and set out responsibilities for tree management in Barnet, alongside tree planting targets to be delivered by 2023. This report highlights the progress which has been made under the existing Tree Policy and presents a new Tree Policy for approval. The new policy is based on research, evidence, stakeholder engagement and consideration of national/regional policy.

The new policy recognises the need to work together to take action to respond to the challenges of the climate and nature emergency and to improve health and wellbeing. It also includes a focus on improving ecosystem services and will guarantee the replacement

of every street tree felled to support creating a sustainable urban forest. This will be underpinned through the delivery of a new strategic tree planting programme, which aims to plant 1,000 trees a year, a total of 5,000 by 2028.

## **Officers Recommendations**

- 1. That the Environment and Climate Change Committee approves the draft Tree Policy (2023) located at Appendix A.**
- 2. That the Environment and Climate Change Committee notes the progress in delivering the current policy and planting targets.**

### **1. Why this report is needed**

- 1.1 Barnet is fortunate to have a diverse range of trees in both age and species, from the oldest tree in London at St Andrew's Churchyard (which is 2000 years old), to over 30,000 street trees and 848 hectares of greenspace and woodland, totalling over 52,000 individual trees within the Borough. As such the borough has a high level of canopy cover at 27%, higher than both the London and England averages.
- 1.2 Future delivery of the Council's priorities has signalled a requirement to develop a new tree policy for Barnet which provides an updated evidence base and reflects emerging new local/regional strategies and policies, legislative changes (such as the Environment Act 2021) and the completion of the current tree planting programme.
- 1.3 This report provides an overview of the Council's existing Tree Policy and planting programme, and approval to implement a new Tree Policy (2023) alongside an increased commitment to plant 1,000 trees per year over the next 5 years as part of a new strategic tree planting programme, which will deliver greater benefits for the environment and our communities.

#### ***Tree Policy and Planting Programme***

- 1.4 In October 2017 Environment Committee approved the existing Tree Policy which covers tree management and maintenance in Barnet. It covers tree inspections, tree works, tree removal, protected trees, tree preservation orders, tree emergencies, subsidence and personal risk, pest and disease management, damage to Council owned trees and how to report issues.
- 1.5 The policy also sought to address issues such as poor air quality, increasing growth and development and an ageing and declining tree stock, which typically results in the removal of 500 trees on average per annum.
- 1.6 The Tree Policy set an ambition to plant a total of 4,500 trees over the period.
- 1.7 The scheme, which has been managed and delivered by the Trees and Woodlands Team had the following goals:



- 500 - replacement plantings for street trees that had been removed.
- 100 - vacant tree pit replacements (where trees had been removed previously).
- 200 - parks planting, replacements, avenue and landscape planting.
- 100 - Green Infrastructure (GI) plantings area of poor Air Quality (as defined by GLA, and high Urban Heat Island (UHI) temperatures.

1.8 To deliver these targets, each year locations were identified, technically assessed and scanned for their suitability. Once deemed appropriate, planting and watering was undertaken by a third-party supplier commissioned on behalf of the Council. The Council managed and monitored the delivery of each location, which included a two-year programme of aftercare associated with each tree to ensure growth. Each individual tree planted has been added to the Council's tree database, which provides a record of the health of each tree inspected by the Council.

1.9 The table below provides a breakdown for each category and the number of trees which have been planted:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Target</b>	<b>Numbers delivered</b>
Street tree replacements	3,000	3,065
Targeted Green Infrastructure planting	600	1,354
Parks	900	618
Barnet Homes	0	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>5,180</b>

1.10 A total of 5,180 trees have been planted by the service since 2018, an additional 680 trees above target. It became apparent at an early phase during the project that the original target for planting in parks was unachievable based on spatial requirements and the need to maintain a parkland environment.

1.11 A budget of £0.450m per annum was ring fenced from the Council's reserves to implement the programme, noting that the Trees and Woodlands Service had been successful in obtaining external grant monies from organisations such as the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Forestry Commission (FC) and that any future funding secured would optimise the delivery of the programme.

1.12 Since the commencement of the programme, the Trees and Woodlands Team have been successful in securing a total of £0.420m funding contributions between 2018-2022. The provisional outturn position to deliver the scheme in full is £2.625m with an average expenditure of £0.525m per annum. The team's ability to secure investment has enabled the programme to deliver within budget.

### ***Policy and Planting Programme – Successes and Learning***

1.13 In 2019/20 the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Forestry Commission awarded the London Borough of Barnet the London 'Borough Tree Award' for our tree planting and management, which was at this time, considered to be London's largest programme.

- 1.14 Other successes of the policy and planting programme have included increased community engagement and participation, whether fulfilling planting requests or delivering new tree and woodland creation projects such as;
- A partnership with the Good Gym
  - Creation of a new Tiny Forest
  - Creation of Barnet's first Memorial Woodland
  - One of 15 councils nationally to partner with Trees for Streets
- 1.15 The planting and watering operation has also successfully watered approximately 2,000 trees from May – August annually, mitigating against the loss of any newly planted species, especially during extreme weather conditions. In addition to implementing sustainable urban drainage schemes and community orchard planting.

### ***Tree Policy and Strategic Planting Programme (2023)***

- 1.16 The Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated the vital role nature plays in improving our mental health and wellbeing, especially when it forms part of the fabric of where we live, work and play. Evidence has proven that trees and woodlands can cool our settlements, improve air quality, and contribute to community cohesion and sense of place. Through building on the experiences of the current Tree Policy, the Council commissioned independent analysis of the borough's trees.
- 1.17 The analysis provides an updated evidence base, data and analysis on the Borough's tree stock; its natural capital value and the ecosystem value of approximately 52,000 public trees:
- The borough's trees have a replacement cost of £85m
  - The borough's trees have a Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) value estimated at £1.3 billion.
  - Our trees store approaching 53,000 tonnes of carbon and filter around 16 tonnes of air pollutants every year.
  - Our trees divert 22,000 cubic meters of rainwater from the drainage system whilst providing vital cooling to our urban streets.
  - Carbon sequestration, pollution removal and avoided runoff benefits have been valued at providing £3.25m per annum.
  - The borough has an impressive range of species, numbering some 243.
- 1.18 The report highlighted that the tree population is spread unevenly across wards when considering the benefits from stored carbon, removing carbon monoxide by carbon sequestration, to rainfall interception to prevent excess runoff and lowering flood risks. This has been explored further within the proposed future approach for a tree planting programme.
- 1.19 The new Tree policy sets out how the Council will continue to manage its responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to health and safety, along with the following aims and objectives:

- Support the Council's commitment to Climate Change and Biodiversity and support delivery of Sustainability Strategy targets.
  - Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease.
  - Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest.
  - Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement.
  - Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies
  - Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting, pit design and aftercare.
- 1.20 The Policy also describes how the Council will seek to effectively manage the health and diversity of the Borough's tree stock whilst discharging statutory obligations.
- 1.21 The new Policy sets out an ambition to increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and flood risk. Tree planting provides a symbolic and important contribution to our work to address the climate emergency, helping to raise awareness of the issue and inspire others to take action, while providing a significant range of benefits in helping us adapt to a changing climate.
- 1.22 The new policy sets out a commitment to invest in delivering a strategic planting programme which aims to plant 1,000 trees per year over the next 5 years, a total of 5,000 trees to be planted by 2028 which will deliver greater benefits for the environment and communities.
- 1.23 It is proposed that future delivery is concentrated along streets and residential areas, focusing on areas of poor air quality, targeting areas of multiple deprivation, reducing flood risk, and improving canopy cover. Whilst this is an ambitious target, our Policy ambitions recognise opportunities to deliver in partnership by working closely with residents and partners, businesses, public sector organisations, schools, landowners, and community organisations.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 The current policy expires at the end of March 2023 and there is a need to develop a new planting programme. In addition, the Council declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency on 24 May 2022.
- 2.2 Our trees and woodlands form part of a vital biodiversity network, providing habitat for wildlife and bringing the countryside into the heart of the city. Since the adoption of the current Tree Policy (2017), the loss of biodiversity and climate change have become increasingly important issue.
- 2.3 Our trees and woodlands form part of the Borough's nature recovery approach. The new Policy will support achieving a series of outcomes related to the council's vision of caring for people, places and planet and the new corporate plan.

### **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 The absence of a Tree Policy would not support the delivery of Council priorities, strategies and frameworks or consider the statutory duties and requirements within the Environment Act (2021). It would result in the deterioration of tree stock and could increase poor air quality and public health outcomes.

### **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 Subject to approval, the new Tree Policy (2023) will be published and available on the Council's Open Data Portal.
- 4.2 In addition, the Trees and Woodlands Service will commence a programme of work to implement delivery of the new policy including the tree planting targets.

### **5. Implications of decision**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The establishment of a Tree Policy is an important part of managing the Borough's tree stock safely whilst delivering climate change, nature recovery and sustainability strategy priorities, in line with the priorities in the council's corporate plan.

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

- 5.2.1 The implementation of the Tree policy will be carried out by the Trees and Woodlands Team, using existing resources. The costs of the tree planting programme will be met by a combination of external grant funding and reserve funding.

#### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 There is no statutory duty for the Council to produce a Tree Policy. However, the Tree Policy (2023) located at Appendix A sets out the various legislative powers that the Council has in relation to trees, including protecting trees within conservation areas and subject to Tree Protection Orders, planting and maintenance.

- 5.3.2 Committee Terms of Reference Article 7: [Document 08 Article 7 - Committees Forums Working Groups and Partnerships \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/working-groups-and-partnerships)

#### **5.3.3 Town and Country Planning Act (1990)**

- 5.3.4 The Act enables the creation of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and protection of all trees within a Conservation Area. The council can issue TPOs to trees (publically or privately owned) which significantly contribute to the public amenity of the area.

- 5.3.5 Under the Act it is an offence to damage or carry out work on a tree without obtaining prior permission from the LPA. The offender will be liable for a fine and may be ordered to replace the tree.

#### **Occupiers Liability Act (1957 and 1984)**

- 5.3.6 The Act places a legal Duty of Care on landowners and occupiers responsible for trees, to take reasonable management measures to avoid foreseeable injury or harm.
- 5.3.7 For major landholders, such as local authorities, this duty can be discharged by production and adherence to a detailed management policy such as this document.

***Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000)***

- 5.3.8 The Act provides protection to birds by making it an offence to wilfully or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird whilst the nest is being built or is in use.
- 5.3.9 The Act also provides protection for bats and their roosts, making it illegal to disturb or destroy a roost. Any potential roost features will be inspected prior to any tree work.
- 5.3.10 The Tree Team has a survey methodology which aligns with best practice guidelines (Bat Conservation Trust, 2016).

***Highways Act (1980)***

- 5.3.11 Under Section 96 of the Act, the Highway Authority is entitled to plant and maintain shrubs within verges using public sector funding. They may also erect fences and guards as a means of tree protection.
- 5.3.12 Section 142 of the Act gives power to the Highway Authority to issue licenses for the planting and maintenance of trees and shrubs by a resident in a property which adjoins the highway.
- 5.3.13 Section 154 of the Act entitles the Highway Authority to serve notice on any owner or occupier whose tree, hedge or shrub is overhanging, and compromising the safety of a publicly accessible area, to carry out remedial works within 14 days. If the owner or occupier fails to comply with the notice, the Highways Authority is entitled to carry out the work and recover reasonable costs from the owner or occupier.
- 5.3.14 The Environment and Climate Change Committee is responsible for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters relating to the street scene including, parking, road safety, lighting, street cleaning, transport, waste, waterways, refuse, recycling, allotments, parks, trees, crematoria and mortuary, trading standards and environmental health.

**5.4 Insight**

- 5.4.1 Research on legislation and guidance has been undertaken along with discussions with key stakeholders.

**5.5 Social Value**

- 5.6 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic, and environmental benefits.

**5.7 Risk Management**

- 5.7.1 The Tree Policy (2023) outlines an approach to risk management which is adopted

ensuring that tree stock is managed and maintained with regard to personal injury and subsidence risk.

5.7.2 All risks are managed using the risk management procedure, as set out in the Corporate Risk Management Framework. High level risks are reported as part of the Council's quarterly performance regime

## 5.8 Equalities and Diversity

5.8.1 Under section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 (EA 2010) the Council must, in the exercise of its functions have due regard to the need to: -

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.8.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: - age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

5.8.3 Please see the Equalities Impact Assessment Included at Appendix B.

## 5.9 Corporate Parenting

5.9.1 There are no implications for care experienced children and young people arising from this report.

## 5.10 Consultation and Engagement

5.10.1 The production of the Tree Policy (2023) and proposed Tree Planting Programme has been subject to stakeholder consultation, including: greenspaces, highways, capital delivery, planning, communications, sustainability, growth and community participation.

## 5.11 Environmental Impact

5.11.1 Trees contribute significantly to ameliorating a range of environmental pressures, such as:

- Reducing the risk of flooding by intercepting rainwater
- Absorbing carbon dioxide and other harmful gases, enhancing carbon capture
- Filtering wind-blown dust and gaseous pollutants
- Tree canopies providing shade and creating cooler spaces, combating the effect of urban heat islands

## 6. Background papers

6.1 [Barnet Tree Policy | Barnet Council](#)





**BARNET  
TREE  
POLICY  
2023-28**





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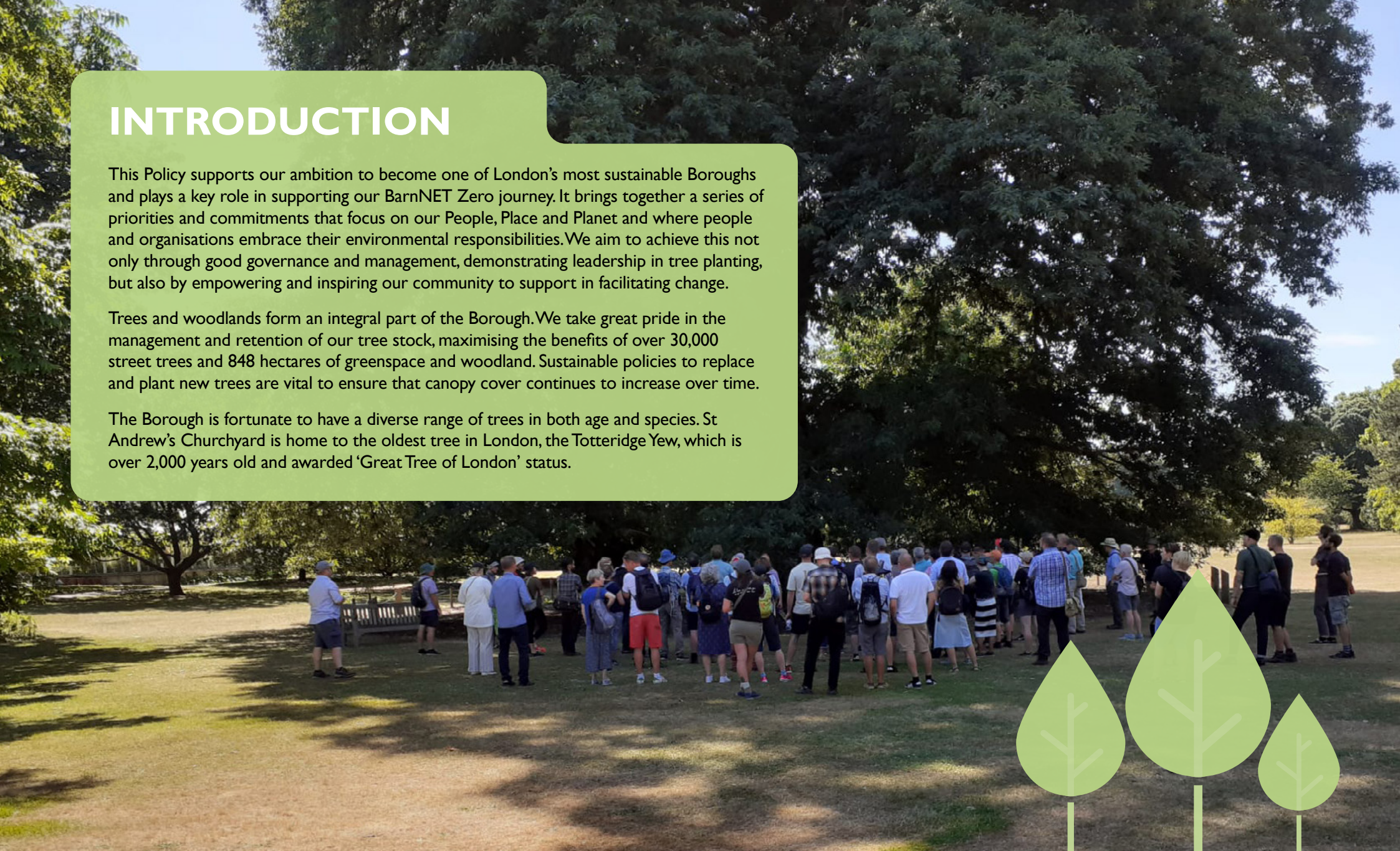


# INTRODUCTION

This Policy supports our ambition to become one of London's most sustainable Boroughs and plays a key role in supporting our BarnNET Zero journey. It brings together a series of priorities and commitments that focus on our People, Place and Planet and where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities. We aim to achieve this not only through good governance and management, demonstrating leadership in tree planting, but also by empowering and inspiring our community to support in facilitating change.

Trees and woodlands form an integral part of the Borough. We take great pride in the management and retention of our tree stock, maximising the benefits of over 30,000 street trees and 848 hectares of greenspace and woodland. Sustainable policies to replace and plant new trees are vital to ensure that canopy cover continues to increase over time.

The Borough is fortunate to have a diverse range of trees in both age and species. St Andrew's Churchyard is home to the oldest tree in London, the Totteridge Yew, which is over 2,000 years old and awarded 'Great Tree of London' status.



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# KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Council recognises the positive impact that urban trees have on the environment and the lives of people in Barnet and aims to protect its current trees and woodlands.

This policy document has been prepared in response to National, Regional and Local policy frameworks, it outlines how the

council manages its responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to health and safety, risk management and resident concerns, whilst maintaining a healthy, diverse and extensive tree stock.

In order to realise our ambitions, the following objectives have been adopted:

## The key aims and objectives for the Policy are:



1. Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets.



4. Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement.



2. Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease.



5. Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies.



3. Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest.



6. Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting and aftercare.

This Policy will be an adaptable one; being updated as and when required to remain current, in line with changes to national and local policy, procedures, best practice and Government guidance.







# I. THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

Barnet significantly contributes to the natural greenspace and canopy cover of Greater London. In this modern day of increased development and urbanisation, it has become clear that trees play an essential role within our ever evolving landscape removing airborne pollutants and reducing surface temperatures within urban environments.

Not only do they contribute to the overall aesthetics of our towns and cities, but research has highlighted that the presence of trees is associated with a range of crucial benefits to our health and wellbeing. In order to maximise these benefits it is essential that sustainably managed greenspace and trees are accessible to the local population and that these assets are protected and well managed.

Investing correctly in trees, woodlands, greenspaces, town centre and urban greening projects is vital given the changing climate. Trees are one of the few assets that appreciate in value with age as their amenity and contribution to health, wellbeing and the landscape increases.





# SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS

The benefits of trees are well documented. They contribute many social, environmental, economic and health benefits to an urban Borough such as Barnet. Ensuring appropriate retention, maintenance and planting of trees within the Borough is vital to provide these benefits, enable climate change proofing to meet the Council's environmental aims and to make Barnet a desirable place to live and work.

## Environmental

- Improving air quality storing and converting Carbon Dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>) into Oxygen (sequestration).
- Deposition and dispersion of Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sup>2</sup>).
- Reduce the urban heat island affect, providing shade in urban areas.
- A natural flood defence, intercepting rainfall and decreasing surface runoff.
- Increased biodiversity providing ecosystems and habitat for wildlife.
- Provide green corridors to improve connectivity for wildlife.

## Socio-economic

- Benefits to human health and wellbeing.
- Parks and open space provide safe places to visit and socialise.
- Absorb sound and reduce noise levels.
- Provide shelter, security and privacy.
- Reduce frequency of road traffic collisions.
- Increase property values.
- Accessible educational resource.
- Help build stronger community cohesion.
- Create attractive neighbourhoods and town centres.



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# i-TREE ECO REPORT

As part of refreshing our Tree Policy, we commissioned an 'i-Tree Eco Report' by Treeconomics, an early action from the Sustainability Strategy. This assessment provides data on the distribution, species and canopy of trees in Barnet and their benefit to our local ecosystem. The analysis from this survey has been used to support the development of an updated Policy, guide resources and inform a strategy for tree planting.

## Tree Population

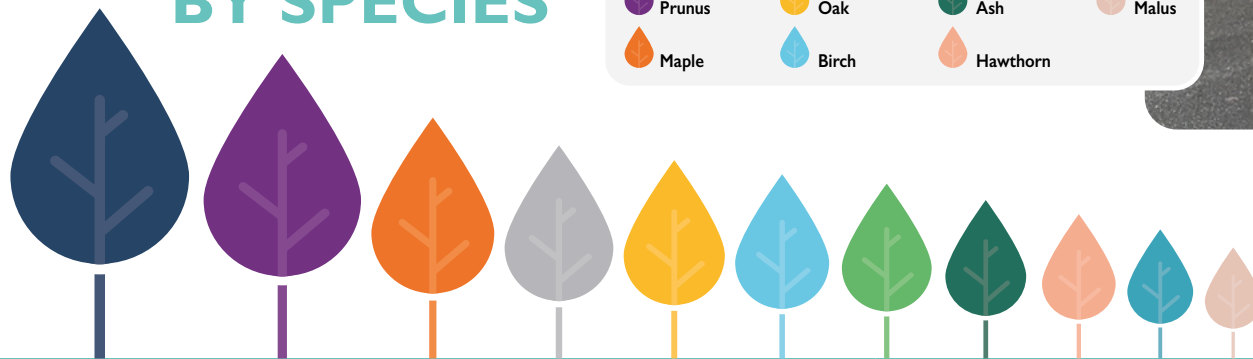
There are over 50,000 individual trees recorded within the Borough.

The tree population is generally spread evenly across Wards, although higher populations of trees can be seen in larger wards with more significant greenspace.

The cost of replacing all of Barnet's urban street trees currently stands at £85.1 million, with Oak, Maple and Plane costing £40.3 million to replace. The cost of replacing Barnet's trees highlights the requirement for an effective management strategy.



## STREET TREES BY SPECIES



Other Species	Lime	Plane	Sorbus
Prunus	Oak	Ash	Malus
Maple	Birch	Hawthorn	

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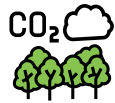






## Species Diversity

235 different species with the most common being Prunus followed by Maple and Lime.



## Annual Benefits

Economic valuation of our natural capital can help to ensure appropriate funding and protection for this vital resource as society meets the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.



Over 50,000 tonnes of carbon is stored with the trees and woodlands of Barnet, with a calculated value of £48 Million.



Trees within parks and streets remove 690 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually from the air as a result of carbon sequestration. Woodlands remove an additional 627 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.



Trees in streets and parks account for the removal of 16 tonnes per year of harmful atmospheric gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and particulate matter.



It is estimated that the trees in streets and parks intercept 21,800m3 of rainfall per year, allowing this water to be re-evaporated from the canopy preventing excess runoff and lowering flood risk.



These environmental services from the tree population account for £3.24 million worth of benefits per year.

## KEY INFORMATION FROM THE i-TREE REPORT:

<b>Carbon Sequestration</b>	31,900 tonnes (parks & streets)	£0.64 million p.a.
	20,600 tonnes (woodlands)	£0.57 million p.a.
<b>Pollution Removal</b>	16 tonnes (parks & streets)	£1.03 million p.a.
	4 tonnes (woodlands)	£0.95 million p.a.
<b>Avoided stormwater runoff</b>	21,900m <sup>3</sup> (parks & streets)	£19,800 p.a.
	32,600m <sup>3</sup> (woodlands)	£29,500 million p.a.
<b>Total Annual Benefits</b>		<b>£3.24 million p.a.</b>



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# CANOPY COVER

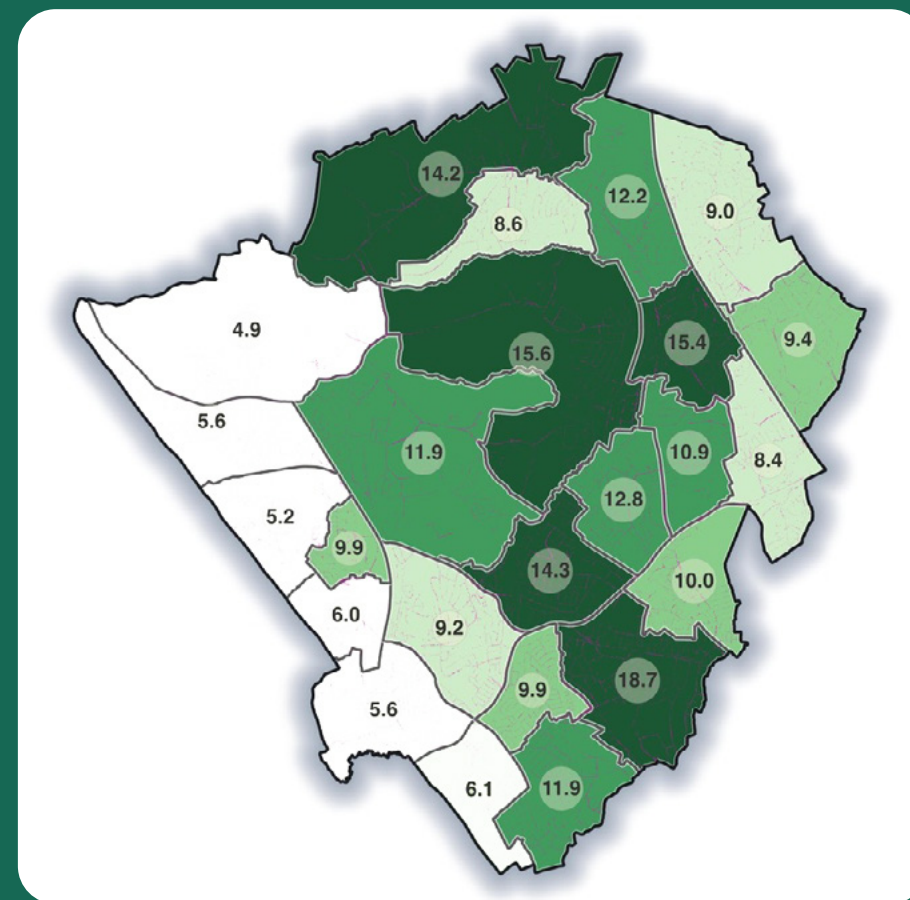
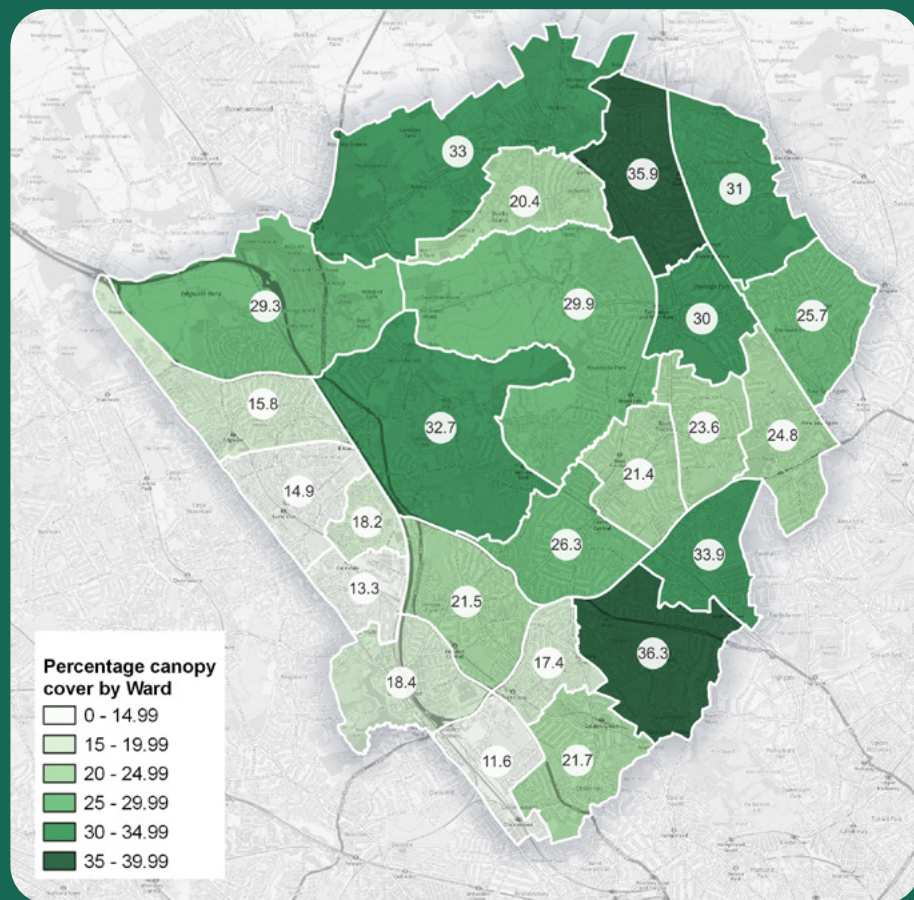
Determining Canopy Cover is essential for understanding the beneficial impact trees provide and will improve Air Quality, Carbon Storage and Sequestration, Urban Heat Island temperatures and Flood Risk, collectively known as Ecosystem Services (ES).

The more tree canopy present, the more ES they provide and an increase in canopy cover is a policy target for both central government (DEFRA) and GLA.

As part of i-Tree Eco Report, detailed Bluesky data taken from aerial photography mapping all trees over 3m in height was accessed to determine the canopy of each ward in Barnet.

The images display overall canopy including parks, cemeteries, private gardens etc.

**The second image details only street tree canopy cover.**



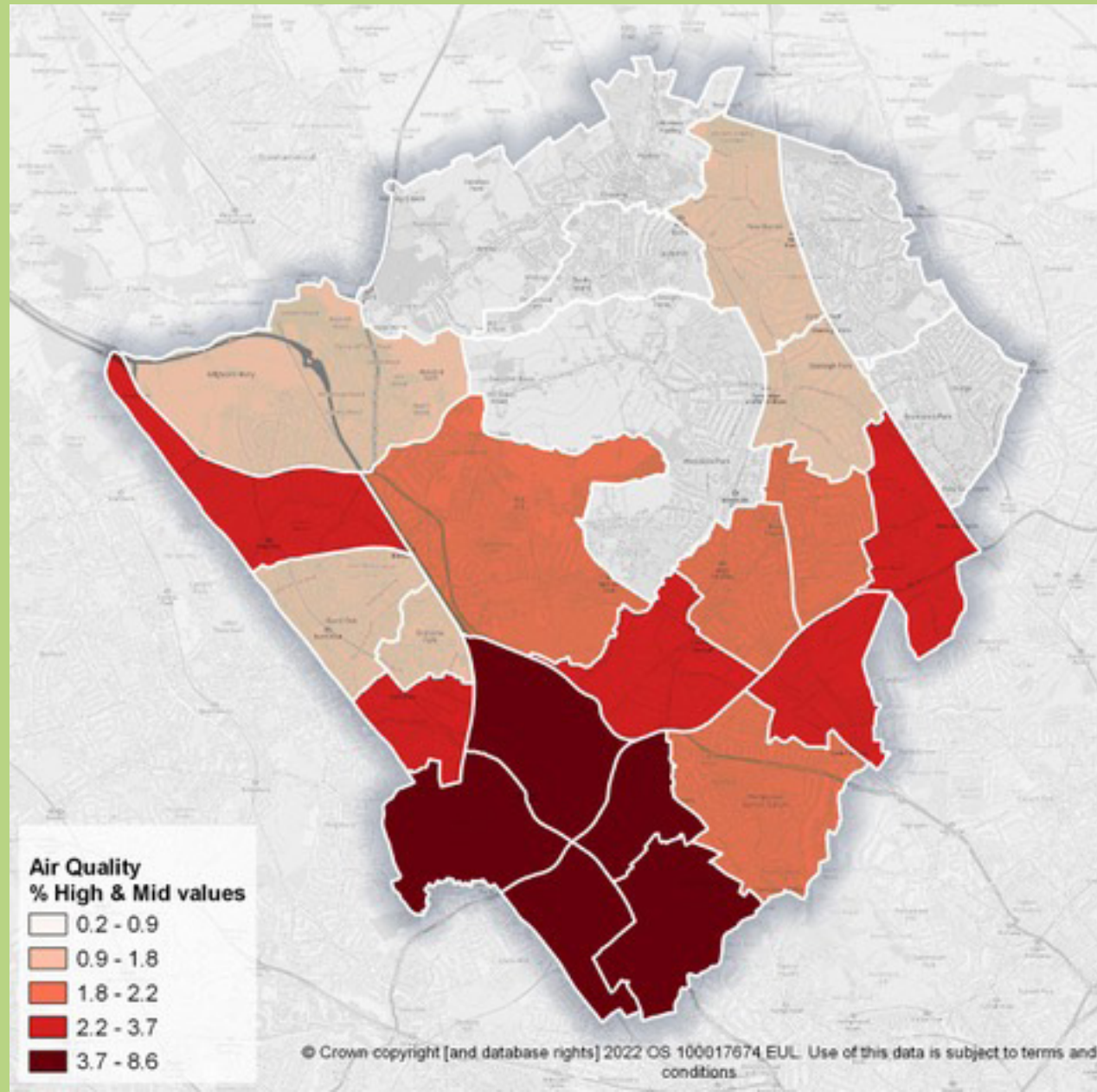
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# AIR QUALITY

Air pollution is one of the most prevalent environmental threats to human health in the UK. Long-term exposure is related to between 28,000 & 36,000 deaths a year in the UK (OHID, 2022). Trees can alleviate and mitigate air pollution by utilising the chemical components of the pollutant or by reducing the amount of particulate matter through interception from the leaves and branches until it is washed away by rainfall.

The GLA measures Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations annually to identify areas which have concentrations higher than the European Limit Value. The worst affected areas in Barnet are located in the south and west of the Borough where the M1, A1, A5 and A406 are located (GLA, London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2021) and efforts have been made to plant several thousand street trees in these areas since 2014.

Atmospheric Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is utilised during photosynthesis and oxygen is released by the tree during this process reducing the amount of greenhouse gases. Trees act as 'carbon sinks' and store carbon in their structure, roots and soil.



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# CARBON STORAGE AND SEQUESTRATION

In order to tackle climate change, it will be necessary for societies globally to significantly reduce the production and consumption of activities that emit greenhouse gases. There is also an important role for initiatives which capture and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Trees, and other forms of natural capital, capture and store, or sequester, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which is the most prevalent greenhouse gas in the United Kingdom.

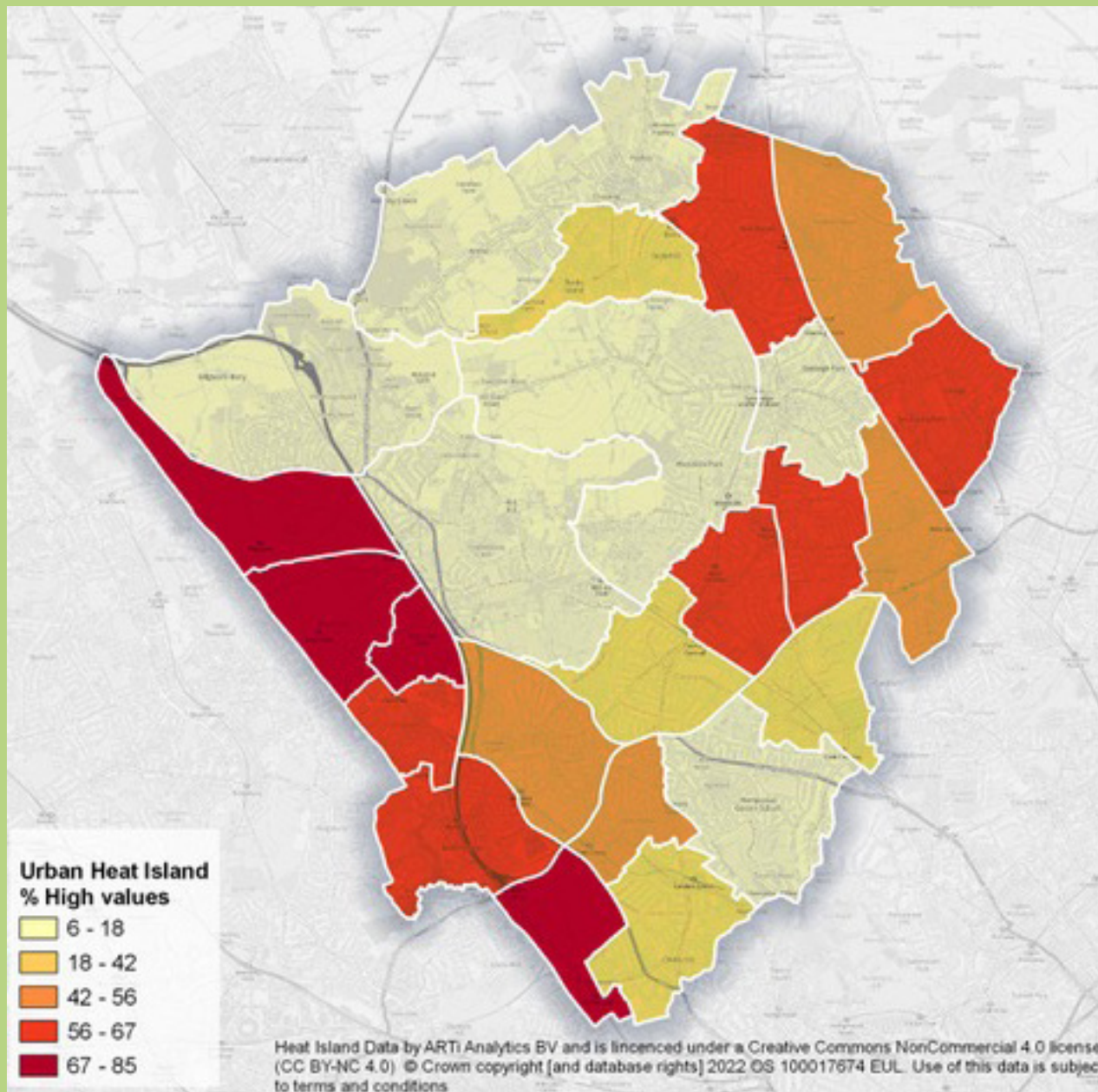
Barnet's tree population sequesters 687 tonnes of carbon each year, valued at £635,000 which is stored with the urban forest. The total amount of carbon stored by trees within the borough is 31,900 tonnes, which has been removed from the atmosphere and stored within the tree stock. This highlights the importance of maintaining a healthy and varied tree population, as this will increase the annual sequestration and overall storage of carbon over time.

# TEMPERATURE

Urban areas frequently demonstrate higher mean average temperatures than surrounding rural areas. Heat is absorbed by road surfaces and buildings during the day and released during the evening. Greater London temperatures can vary by up to 10°C at night time due to heat captured during the day being released in the evening. This coupled with a lack of ventilation leads to the creation of an Urban Heat Island (UHI).

Temperatures can increase rapidly during the summer months presenting health risks to many people. By providing immediate shade locations during the day and restricting direct sunlight on roads and building surfaces, they reduce the raised temperatures experienced during the night.

Cooling strategies, in particular the planting of trees in identified locations can be very effective in reducing the UHI effect.



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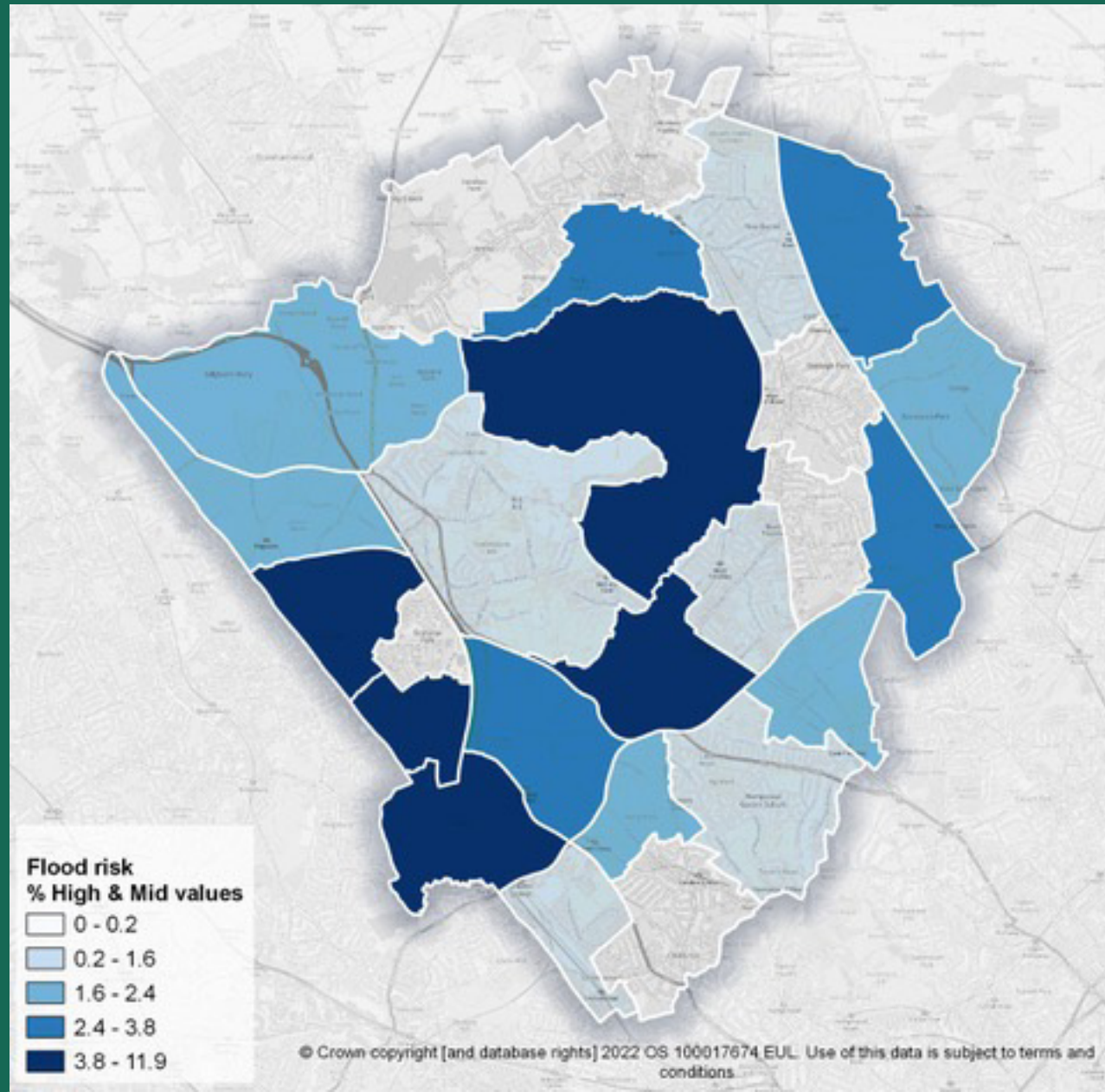
# FLOODING

The interception of rainfall by trees has a significant impact on drainage capacity and lag time resulting in reduced localised flooding. Including engineered SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) into planting schemes, flexible paving material around existing mature tree pits and new developments has the potential to increase the water holding capacity of root zones.

Delaying the release of stormwater into the drainage system alleviates the risk of localised flooding and reduces the pressure on the ageing tunnel network. SuDS also reduce the pressure on natural watercourses and river systems.

Impermeable surfaces and an increase in hardstanding for parking in gardens have led to an increase in surface run off after rainfall which contributes to localised flooding and is a source of pollution for streams, rivers, and lakes.

The urban canopy of Barnet's trees intercepts rainfall, reducing surface runoff and it is estimated that urban trees intercept 21,800m<sup>3</sup> of runoff per year throughout the Borough.



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## BIODIVERSITY

Trees contribute hugely to biodiversity in urban areas providing habitat for a range of wildlife, from microbes to birds and bats. Habitat potential will be considered especially in greenspaces and 'bee friendly' trees have been planted in Barnet's parks for many years.

Dead standing timber and veteran trees are found in many of the borough's parks and this will continue where considered safe to do so. Logs from felled trees can be stacked to form habitat piles in less formal parks and open spaces providing shelter for deadwood species and fungi.

Street tree planting and urban trees can play a role in improving wildlife links and connectivity between greenspaces along streets. They can also support biodiversity by providing habitats for birds, mammals, invertebrates, lichens and bryophytes.

Barnet has started work on the production of a Biodiversity & Local Nature Recovery Strategy and trees and woodland management will be a major consideration in this framework.

The Environment Act 2021 places a mandatory requirement for development to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as defined by DEFRA as a term used to quantify enhancements to the natural environment following development or land management, with the aim of leaving it in a measurably better state than its current baseline condition.

The DEFRA Metric considers habitat condition, distinctiveness and strategic significance of habitats, including urban trees, to calculate its Biodiversity Unit value. This must be considered on all relevant development. The Biodiversity Unit calculation is used to inform the appropriate level of compensation required through the Planning process.





## 2. TREE PLANTING

Tree planting provides a symbolic and important contribution to our work to address the climate emergency, helping to raise awareness of the issue and inspire others to take action, while providing a significant range of benefits in helping us adapt to a changing climate.

Since 2017 we have planted more than 4,500 trees across Barnet, delivering our first Borough wide strategic tree planting programme. Planting locations focused on targeting areas of poor air quality, urban heat island temperatures, avenue and landscape trees within parks and replacing street trees and green infrastructure planting.

External funding was also sought and received from DEFRA, GLA and the Forestry Commission. This became the main focus on new tree planting.

We want to continue our commitment and investment in tree planting and as part of this Policy, aim to plant 1,000 trees per year over the next 5 years to deliver greater benefits for the environment and our communities.



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The Councils Corporate Plan recognizes that we need to work together to take action to respond to the challenges of the climate and nature emergency, to reduce the inequalities gap, improve health and wellbeing, and deliver value for money. This is underpinned through an approach focused on 'People, Place and Planet', the action plan below provides an overview of our aims, commitments and actions we will take to support delivering this Policy.

## Our aim is to...

**Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets.**

Our tree planting strategy for the next five years will focus on five priorities,

- **Maintaining and increasing street tree canopy cover**
- **Focus on areas with poor air quality**
- **Addressing urban heat and shade**
- **Reducing flood risk**
- **Targeting areas of multiple deprivation (IMD)**

Our aim for the next five years is to increase the number of street trees and canopy cover across the Borough. Planting will be concentrated along Barnet's streets and residential areas, working toward a more sustainable urban forest, supporting environmental improvements. This works towards the targets set by both the GLA and our Sustainability Strategy.



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# Our aim is to...

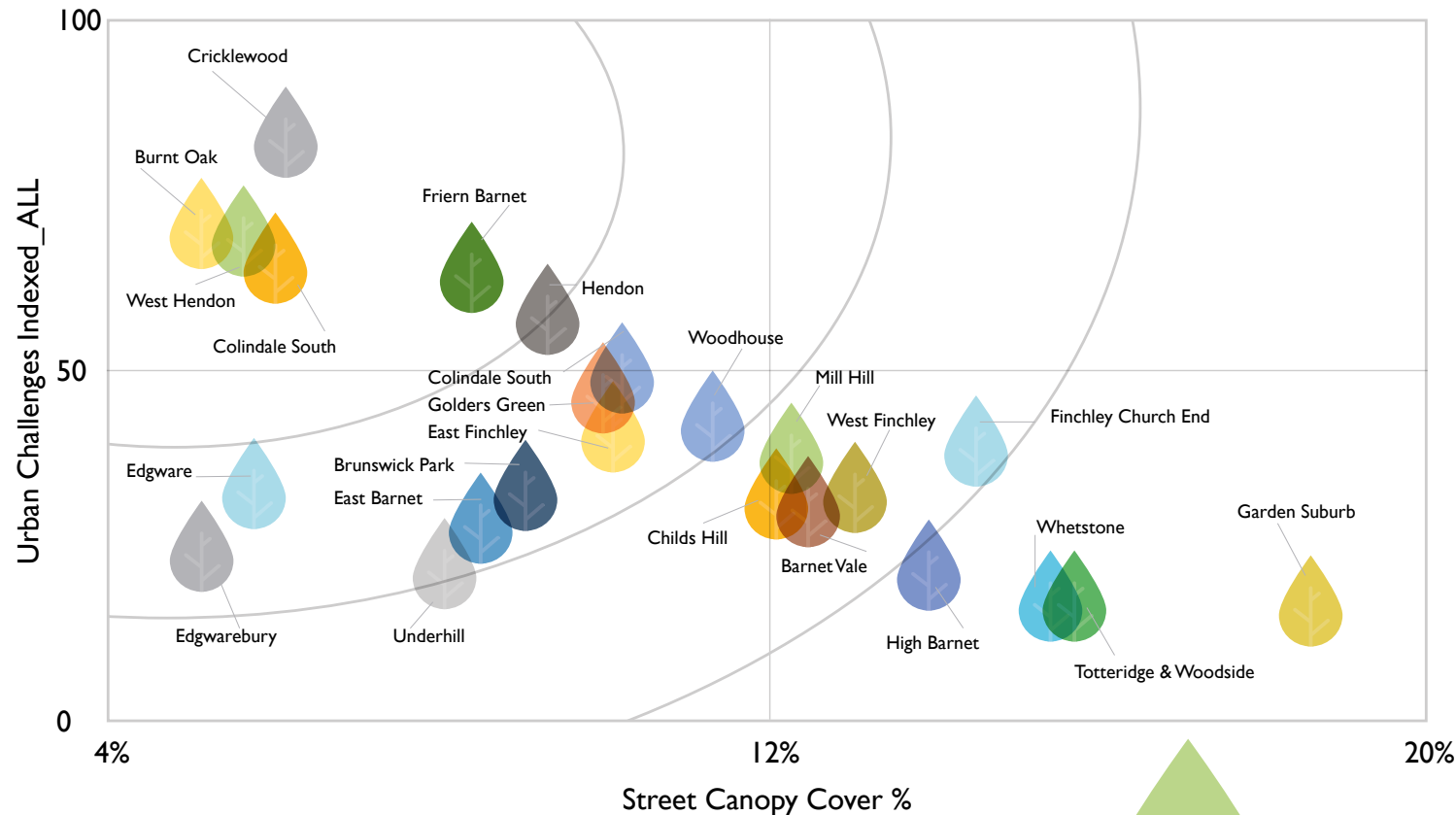
Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease.

The Tree Equity Model has identified potential plantable locations within Barnet's streets (hard landscapes) that could accommodate a new tree pit, taking account of size, accessibility and spacing.

In determining a tree to be planted, consideration will be given to the chosen species, available space, location and constraints of the site. Barnet adopts the principal of responsible planting, identified in the London Plan as 'Right Place, Right Tree' (GLA, 2021).

Planting will prioritise larger growing shade providing trees scaling down to smaller ornamental trees where larger trees are not suitable. This will also be the case where trees have been removed for subsidence reasons or where there may be a risk of this. The council plants a diversity of tree species to mitigate against pests and disease that can threaten entire genus of trees (Dutch Elm disease, Oak Processionary Moth, Ash Dieback etc).

## Tree Equity Model



Adopting the matrix of Street Tree Canopy Cover (X Axis) and Air Quality, Urban Heat Island, Flood Risk and IMD, (Y Axis), a Tree Equity diagram has been produced for all wards in Barnet.



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# Our aim is to...

**Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest.**

Trees are inspected as part of a cyclical programme. Where a tree has been identified for removal this is typically due to disease or decay.

Replacement planting will follow a three year cycle where 50% of trees removed during any financial year will be replaced in the first year, with 25% in the second year and the final 25% in the third year. Priority will be given to main roads, streets where major tree removal is necessary or where substantial mature trees have been removed.

Where a tree is removed, replacement planting is on a one to one ratio. If the original site is inappropriate to re-plant then a more suitable location within the immediate area will be designated.

Once planted, a management plan is developed for each tree to ensure its longevity and successful establishment. The planting season is from November to March each year.



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# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Our aim is to...

**Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement.**

Our Policy goals and objectives cannot be achieved by the Council alone and require us to continue working with a range of partners to deliver a series of environmental and social benefits. Whilst the Council is a major landowner, we also want to explore how we can work with schools, housing, businesses, private residents and community organisations to compliment Council activities.

There is already a diverse network of community and volunteer groups that the Council interacts with. We have successfully co-produced the design of a Memorial Woodland (Mill Hill Park) and through a future planting programme we want to enhance and increase opportunities to work together.

**Case Study - Trees for Streets** is a charitable enterprise that hosts and promotes local street tree sponsorship schemes on behalf of local councils.

Groups of residents also have the opportunity to organise crowdfunding to raise funds to sponsor trees which can be planted along residential roads to improve the local area and increase community engagement and awareness.

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast growing native woodland planted in an area the size of a tennis court, approximately 200m<sup>2</sup>. They allow people and wildlife to profit from the benefits of forest cover within a local, urban setting such as shade and biodiversity, as well as increased carbon capture and reduced flood risk.

Barnet Council worked alongside environmental charities to plant a Tiny Forest in a greenspace at Henlys Corner adjacent to the A1/A406 junction. The project brought the community together as school groups and volunteers gathered to plant 600 trees of 15 different native species.





“This Tiny Forest will help people of all ages connect with nature, act as an outdoor classroom for young people learning about the natural world, and bring the community together. It will help create a stepping stone for wildlife that find urban areas often difficult to move through, supporting biodiversity” Earthwatch

Planting of fruit trees in open spaces allows the public to pick, forage and cook local produce. 50 fruit trees have been planted on the Watling estate in Burnt Oak in winter 2022. Further orchard planting is planned providing free fruit for the residents of Barnet.

The Council’s website is a main point of contact for community engagement, and will be updated to reflect information and opportunities.

Our website will also act as a single location, where information on trees, including this Policy are set out in a clear, easy to access format. This will enable the Council to produce information for residents or landowners on important aspects of planting and maintenance.

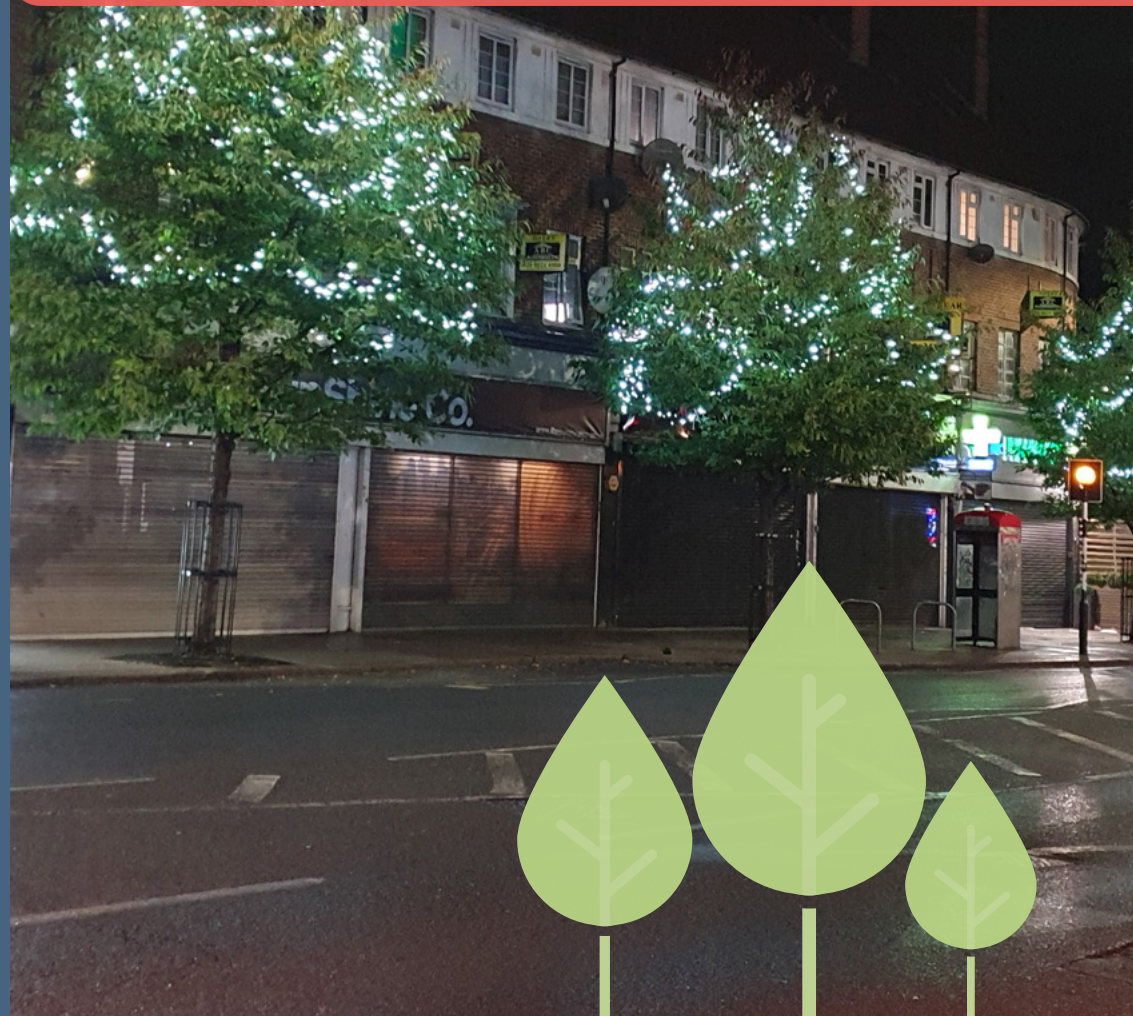
We will also provide information on tree locations and species, enabling access to location, species, size, inspection date, photographs and ecosystem services value.

Publication of council tree data provides a vital resource to anyone interested in the local environment. It will also, when linked with other data, help to create a national picture of the urban environment and the wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits that trees bring to towns and cities.

The council remains committed to working with communities and resident groups as we deliver the aims of this policy.

## FUNDING

Funding for future tree planting will be achieved through a mixture of Barnet council funding and accessing government grants (for example: Urban Tree Challenge Fund, Local Authority Treescape Fund, Grow Back Greener, Green & Resilient Fund, Woodland Creation Acceleration Fund and others).



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# 3. TREE MANAGEMENT

## SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST

It's important to achieve significant canopy coverage, but sustaining that canopy cover is the real challenge to maximise the benefits of the urban forest.

**The total leaf area within Barnet is estimated at 1,280 ha. The most dominant trees in terms of leaf area are Maple and Oak at 15.4% and 14.9%, respectively. The ten most dominant tree species account for 69% of the total leaf area across Barnet.**

Barnet has an ageing tree population, so continuing to plant new trees and replace those that are lost is an important step toward providing a greater age range for the future tree population within the Borough.

The size class distribution within the i-Tree Eco Report is an important measure of ensuring there are enough young trees planted that will grow to an older age and provide increased benefits to the residents of Barnet. This is supported by the Borough's planting targets.





# CYCLICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Our aim is to...

**Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies.**

The council takes a proactive approach to publicise tree works. Appropriate signage is used to raise awareness of tree removal giving ten working days notice containing telephone contact details to enable customer contact. Tree work considered urgent or in the interest of public safety will be carried out within 24 hours. Under these circumstances, no notice will be given prior to the works being carried out.

Planned maintenance on street trees is currently carried out as a three year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works on a ward by ward basis. This work concentrates on maintaining trees in their immediate environment with due regard to encroachment, shape, future growth of the tree and subsidence risk management.

Removal of healthy trees is undertaken in exceptional circumstances and normally occurs when remedial pruning cannot be undertaken (subsidence risk) or engineered solutions cannot be implemented (direct damage by tree roots). Surveys are undertaken by Tree Officers, qualified and experienced in Arboriculture with access to internal diagnostic equipment, used on valuable mature trees where visual tree assessment is inconclusive in regard to tree safety.

The council will manage its Duty of Care with regard to Personal Injury risk by undertaking proactive tree surveys on a ward by ward basis on a three yearly cyclical programme. This is in line with recommendations made in the Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (National Tree Safety Group, 2011) and recent judicial rulings. As well as proactively managing risk, the council can effectively target its resources (financial, personnel and contractors).



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## RISKS

As part of developing this policy, an assessment of risks has been carried out, with the key risks as follows:

- An ageing and declining tree stock, particularly amongst ornamental flowering trees resulting in the removal of 500 street trees per annum on average within Barnet.
- New developments to accommodate a rising population and pressure for land space, impacting on tree planting
- Constraints to available space to plant new trees due to underground services and vehicle crossovers.
- Stresses from the current climate and consequent pests and diseases.
- Conflict between tree roots and the built environment causing direct damage to hard standing (footways and drives) and the potential for indirect damage to buildings (subsidence).

All risks will be managed within the Council's risk management policy. A key part of this is the council's inspection programme, where a three year inspection cycle is followed to manage natural risk and external pressures.



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## BIOSECURITY

The incidence of pest and disease introductions has had a significant effect on the UK tree population over the last 50 years, e.g. Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback and Oak Processionary Moth to name a few.

The council takes appropriate measures to prevent or reduce the risk of the transmission of emerging pests, diseases and invasive species detrimental to the health of trees.

In regards to planting, tree stock should be sourced from a domestic nursery that retains its trees for a minimum of one year within the UK before sale. This is detailed in the Plant Health Management Standard (2109) is known to Planning and can be passed on to any landscapers planting trees on development sites as an informative during the application process and can be added as a landscape condition.

The LTOA (London Tree Officers Association, 2014) issued a mission statement which outlines that proactive management is required to protect the tree stock throughout London. It outlines the key pests and diseases which could significantly impact important tree species in the city and provides actions to proactively manage the risk. The council has contributed to the LTOA survey of London Plane trees as part of European wide strategy for the control of Canker Stain.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was first identified in the UK in 2006. Public health is considered a risk associated with the caterpillars releasing tiny hairs, these may cause itching skin rashes, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye problems but these are rare and more likely to occur with contractors employed to remove nests.

In 2022, Barnet became part of the core zone which refers to the geographical area of the established OPM population with control no longer administered by the Forestry Commission. Further details can be found within the **Forestry Research OPM Manual** on their website. Routine spraying of known infected oak trees in identified risk locations is undertaken by Barnet during the Spring.

The Council will ensure adequate resources are available to control and contain the outbreak of known new pests and diseases, and continue to ensure proportionate resources are dedicated to the control of existing pests and diseases



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## REFUSAL OF WORKS

Tree work will not normally be carried out if it is outside of this Policy.

**Work to trees will normally be refused if it is requested for the following reasons:**

- Interference with satellite dish TV reception
- Perception that a tree is too large
- Obstruction of view or light
- Seasonal nuisance (leaf fall, fruit litter, allergies to pollen, nuisance caused by insects or birds)
- Perception that the tree will cause damage in the future
- To replace a healthy mature tree to create space for the planting of new trees.

**Works may be carried out to trees outside of the cyclical pruning cycle for the following reasons:**

- The tree is found to be in an unreasonable condition in the context of the neighbouring properties by the Tree Officer
- The tree was missed from the cyclical maintenance programme.





# HIGHWAYS

## Our aim is to...

**Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting, pit design and aftercare.**

Street trees and their roots can cause damage to footways made of traditional materials such as asphalt, paving and kerbs. The Council's Highways team has implemented innovative methods to reduce this, using alternative materials such as bound rubber crumb or Flexipave, which is designed to provide a firm finish for pedestrian traffic combined with permeability for air and water to penetrate to the roots.

The material is often constructed using recycled rubber tyres and is highly flexible allowing tree growth and movement without the usual cracking and distortion typically associated with asphalt surfacing.

As well as reducing trip hazards within the footway, bound rubber crumb has the additional benefit of acting as a sustainable underground drainage system (SuDS), effectively directing excess runoff from the footway and hardstanding into nearby tree pits and away from the drainage network.

Removal of street trees will be the last consideration once engineering options have been exhausted and signed off by a senior manager

Collaborative ongoing work with Highways in the Network Recovery Programme (NRP) where Tree Officers inspects streets designated for NRP prior to works commencing. Any trees that meet the usual criteria for removal (dead, dying or mechanically unsound) are removed by the Tree Team. Highways then create a planting pit edged with hardwood and tree planting takes place following completion of footway works.

[barnet.moderngov.co.uk](http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk)



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## VEHICLE CROSSOVERS

Our aim is to protect existing healthy trees, where trees are potentially impacted by vehicle crossover applications, the Highways team consults the Tree Team following payment by the applicant. The Council's Tree Team will then assess the amenity value of the tree.

A site visit is necessary to make a decision on whether the tree is considered an amenity and should remain, or whether removal and replacement would be the best and most sustainable solution.

The agreement to remove healthy trees to allow vehicle access is rarely given.

The Council decision will be final and any costs associated with tree removal and replacement of a tree will be borne by the applicant.

**Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT)** is a leading method of tree valuation in the UK and will be used to calculate the value of a tree, if removal is agreed, the sum will be paid by the applicant.

## PRIVATELY OWNED TREES

Where trees on private land are posing an imminent threat to public safety, the council is authorised to serve a notice on the tree owner to make the tree safe.

If this notice is not complied with, works can be undertaken by the council and costs recovered from the property owner (Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 s.23 and The Highways Act 1980 s.154). All branches and timber will remain the property of the owner and will be left on site.





# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas and Development are managed by colleagues in our Planning Department

[www.barnet.gov.uk](http://www.barnet.gov.uk)

In addition to planting new trees, it is important we protect and maintain the existing trees and woodland we have. This involves using our planning powers to minimise the impact of development on trees and woodlands.

If trees are impacted by developments that are located on council maintained streets, parks or Barnet Homes estates, the Council's Tree Team will be consulted by Planning at the earliest opportunity and will be consulted before any pre-application advice given, and prior to any approval being granted for development, in accordance with planning policy DM01.

Policy DM01 of the Adopted Barnet Development Management Policies (2012) states where trees are located on or adjacent to a site, the Council will require the submission of a tree survey within planning applications indicating the location, species, size and condition of trees, in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

Trees should be retained wherever possible and any proposed removal will need to be justified in the survey. The planning department will consult with the Tree Team where trees on public land are potentially affected.

Any agreed tree removal associated with development will need to be adequately compensated using CAVAT which will determine the value of the tree to be removed. Costs for tree removal will also be sought from the developer.

The council's policy is to not allow anyone to pay for the removal and replacement of a tree, except when the agreed CAVAT value is sought as part of the development process. Any unauthorised tree removal or reckless damage leading to tree loss may be referred for legal action and in such case the CAVAT value of the tree will be sought in compensation.



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# 4. ACTION PLAN

Aim	Our Commitments...
<p><b>Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a strategic planting programme to increase street tree canopy cover, planting 1,000 trees per annum.</li> <li>• Connect our trees and woodlands, increasing opportunities to secure investment.</li> <li>• Work with partners to deliver a Nature Recovery Strategy delivering woodland management plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant an average of 500 street trees each year following the Tree Equity Model</li> <li>• Plant the right trees in the right places - utilising intelligence supplied by the i-Tree report to optimise the benefits of climate change resilience, flooding, cooling, shading and air quality.</li> <li>• Maintain the highest biosecurity standards in our tree planting programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant an average of 500 street trees each year where trees have been removed due to disease/decay.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information on the Councils website in relation to tree management, maintenance and tree planting opportunities</li> <li>• Share information on initiatives that promote tree planting and woodland creation for landowners, investors, and communities.</li> <li>• Encourage local businesses and groups to help us fulfil our BarNET Zero ambitions by participating in community tree planting initiatives and events.</li> <li>• Support our Friends of Parks groups in the production of any 'self-guided walks' which indicates trees/wildlife of interest.</li> <li>• Explore the creation of community orchards in Barnet and aspire to have one well managed climate change-resilient community orchard in the Borough by 2025.</li> <li>• Encourage residents to assist in watering new trees.</li> </ul>



## 4. ACTION PLAN continued

Aim	Our Commitments...
<p><b>Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing existing trees from pests, diseases and risk through co-ordination and delivery of our tree maintenance programme, fulfilling our statutory responsibilities.</li> <li>• Ensure that our tree asset and risk management data is up to date and captured in our management database to provide a robust and accurate record of all Council owned trees.</li> <li>• Inspect trees we own where residents have expressed concern and promptly responding once we have thoroughly examined the circumstances.</li> <li>• Continue to adopt CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting, pit design and aftercare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source local and UK grown tree stock to reduce further biosecurity risks from new diseases and pests.</li> <li>• Share information with other public land managers on new pests and diseases found in the borough.</li> <li>• Work with our Highways Service and external hardware suppliers in developing root management systems.</li> <li>• Liaise with other council departments to advise on the best species to plant when not directly planted by the Tree team, especially for regeneration schemes /private developments.</li> <li>• Strengthen our relationship with internal and external partners – integrating an approach to tree planting and design that provides a sense of place and character when we plan for new development.</li> </ul>

### Measures - We will measure the success of our actions through recording the following:

- The number of new and replacement trees planted each year, aiming to reach 5,000 over the life of this policy.
- The numbers of trees planted in each ward per year, aiming to improve environmental services in those wards with lower levels.
- Increasing canopy cover across the borough, targeting wards with lower levels of cover.
- The amount of external investment secured to support this policy.
- Levels of community and resident participation, such as trees for streets sponsorship numbers of participants in community tree planting and woodlands events.
- Completion of 3 year cyclical maintenance schedule.

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# USEFUL LINKS

## NATIONAL AND REGIONAL

[25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Homepage - Forest Research](#)

[Trees and woodlands | London City Hall](#)

[CAVAT \(ltoa.org.uk\)](https://ltoa.org.uk)

[Tiny Forest \(earthwatch.org.uk\)](https://earthwatch.org.uk)

## LOCAL

[Barnet Corporate Plan 2023 to 2026 | Barnet Council](#)

[Home | Barnet Open Data](#)

[Trees in Barnet | Barnet Council](#)

[Protected Trees | Barnet Council](#)

[Streetscape Design Guide | Barnet Council](#)



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## Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

**EqIAs make services better for everyone and support value for money by getting services right first time.**

EqIAs enable us to consider all the information about a service, policy or strategy from an equalities perspective and then create an action plan to get the best outcomes for service users and staff<sup>1</sup>. They analyse how all our work as a council might impact differently on different groups protected from discrimination by the Equality Act 2010<sup>2</sup>. They help us make good decisions and evidence how we have reached them.<sup>3</sup>

An EqIA needs to be started as a project starts to identify and consider possible differential impacts on people and their lives, inform project planning and, where appropriate, identify mitigating actions. A full EqIA must be completed before any decisions are made or policy agreed so that the EqIA informs that decision or policy. It is also a live document; you should review and update it along with your project plan throughout.

You should first consider whether you need to complete this full EqIA<sup>4</sup>.

### **Other key points to note:**

- Full guidance notes to help you are embedded in this form – see the End Notes or hover the mouse over the numbered notes.
- Please share your EqIA with your Equalities Champion and the final/updated version at the end of the project.
- Major EqIAs should be reviewed by the relevant Head of Service.
- Examples of completed EqIAs can be found on the Equalities Hub



## 1. Responsibility for the EqIA

Title of proposal <sup>5</sup>	Tree Policy and Planting Programme
Name and job title of completing officer	Faith Mwende - Corporate Projects Manager
Head of service area responsible	Cassie Bridger - Assistant Director - Greenspaces & Leisure Communities
Equalities Champion supporting the EqIA	Rosie Evangelou - consultation & Research Manager
Performance Management rep	N/A
HR rep (for employment related issues)	N/A
Representative (s) from external stakeholders	N/A

## 2. Description of proposal

Is this a: (Please tick all that apply)	
New policy /strategy / function / procedure / service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Review of Policy /strategy / function / procedure / service</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Saving <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
If budget saving please specify value below: £139,000	If other please specify below:
<i>Please outline in no more than 3 paragraphs<sup>6</sup>:</i>	
<p>The London Borough of Barnet is fortunate to have a diverse range of trees in both age and species, from the 2000-year-old, oldest tree in London at St Andrew's Churchyard<sup>1</sup> to over 30,000 street trees and 848 hectares of greenspace and woodland, totalling over 50,000 individual trees within the Borough. As such the Borough has a high level of canopy cover at 27%, higher than both the London and England averages. In the 2017 the borough developed the award-</p>	

winning Tree Policy that set an ambitious target to plant 4,500 trees over five years, by 2022 (by investing in the first Borough wide Tree Planting Programme) this target had been exceeded with 5,180 trees planted.

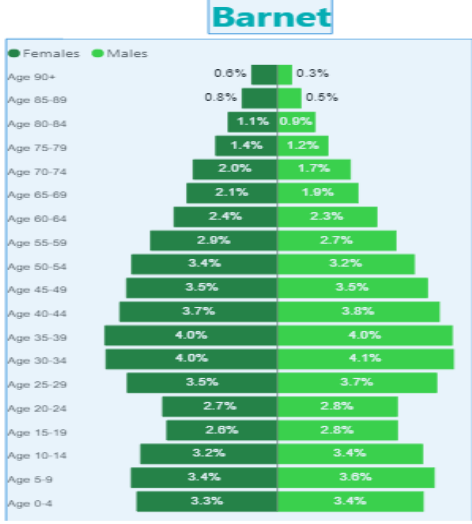
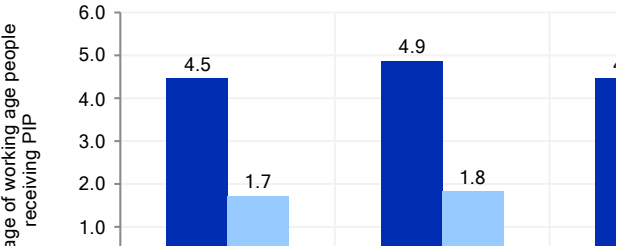
Following the success and lessons learnt from the 2017 programme and to support the Council's priorities in relation to delivering and implementing the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan, a new Tree Policy and planting programme has been developed. The policy document has been prepared in response to National, Regional and Local policy frameworks, it outlines how the council manages its responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to health and safety, risk management and resident concerns, whilst maintaining a healthy, diverse, and extensive tree stock. With improved data the new policy will focus on increasing the number of street trees and canopy cover across the Borough, with planting concentrated along Barnet's streets and residential areas, working toward a more sustainable urban forest, and supporting environmental improvements.

The increased tree canopy cover and tree equity will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health). This is because tree cover especially within urban areas provides a variety of ecosystem services and benefits to human health and wellbeing. In urban areas, most new trees are delivered through human intervention and by focusing on areas that would traditionally be low priority can have a significant impact on the immediate surroundings and the whole Borough. The decision-making route will be through Environment Committee on 14 March 2023.



### 3. Supporting evidence

What existing data informs your assessment of the impact of the proposal on protected groups of service users and/or staff?  
 Identify the main sources of evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, that supports your analysis

Protected group	What does the data tell you? <sup>7?</sup> Provide a summary of any relevant demographic data about the borough's population from the <u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</u> , or data about the council's workforce	What do people tell you <sup>8?</sup> ? Provide a summary of relevant consultation and engagement including surveys and other research with stakeholders, newspaper articles correspondence etc.
Age <sup>9</sup>	 <p>According to the <b>CENSUS 2021</b>, the population of Barnet is slightly older than the London population with a greater proportion of the population aged 60 and over. Compared to England, the Barnet population is generally greater in the ages 0 to 49 (see the population pyramid above)</p>	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.
Disability <sup>10</sup>	 <p>The bar chart displays the age of working age people receiving PIP. The first group has a value of 4.5, and the second group has a value of 4.9. The corresponding values for a second set of bars are 1.7 and 1.8.</p>	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.

	From the <b>Resident Perceptions Survey (2022)</b> 17% of Barnet's population said they had a disability and 83% said they did not. 14% of people have a limiting long-term illness in Barnet - <b>Local Insight 2022</b>	
<b>Gender reassignment<sup>11</sup></b>	The policy and programme are unlikely to have an adverse disproportionate effect on this group.	No identified impact
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership<sup>12</sup></b>	47.2% of people aged 16 years or over in Barnet are married or in a registered civil partnership. The total percentage of those in an opposite-sex marriage has remained the same as the 2011 Census at 46.8%.	No identified impact
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity<sup>13</sup></b>	There were 4,755 live births recorded in Barnet, in 2020 <b>London Datastore</b>	No identified impact
<b>Race/ Ethnicity<sup>14</sup></b>	Barnet's local population is diverse in makeup, and between 2022 and 2030, the population of Barnet is set to become even more diverse, in relation to ethnicity. The largest ethnic group in Barnet in 2022, is recorded as being white, with those of Arabic ethnicity being the minority. Shown below: White ethnic groups 64.1% (228,553) Mixed ethnic groups 4.8% (17,169) Asian ethnic groups 18.5% (65,918) Black ethnic groups 7.7% (27,431) Arab ethnic groups 1.5% (5,210) Other ethnic groups 3.4% (12,105) - <b>Local Insight</b>	It has been proven that BAME Londoners are at a greater risk of being impacted by the climate crisis and other environmental issues such as air pollution ( <a href="https://www.gov.uk">gov.uk, 2022</a> ). This policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.
<b>Religion or belief<sup>15</sup></b>	The largest religious group in Barnet in 2022, is recorded as being Christian, with Sikhism being the minority. 20.2% of people in Barnet have no religion, 36.6% are Christian, 14.5% are Jewish, 12.2% are Muslim and 5.7% are Hindu. Other religion 1.1% (3,764) - <b>Local Insight</b>	No consultation has been carried out as the policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough.



<b>Sex<sup>16</sup></b>	As of 2019, Barnet's population was estimated to be 389,300 people and 48.4% were males and 51.6% were females. Therefore, there is a slightly greater proportion of females in Barnet than males.	No identified impact
<b>Sexual Orientation<sup>17</sup></b>	The most recent data has not been published by the ONS yet from the 2021 CENSUS data but this EQIA will be updated when it is, see <a href="#">Sexual orientation and gender identity: Census 2021 in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</a> . However, it is worth noting that the policy and programme are unlikely to have an adverse disproportionate effect.	No identified impact
<b>Other relevant groups<sup>18</sup></b>	None	

## 4. Assessing impact

What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics <sup>19</sup>?

Protected characteristic	For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Is there an impact on service deliver? Is there an impact on customer satisfaction? Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis.	Positive impact	Negative impact		No impact
			Minor	Major	
<b>Age</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact all age groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Disability</b>	We believe people with a disability may be slightly impacted as pressure for land space may lead to accessibility issues. Conflict between tree roots and the built environment may cause damage to footways. This can also lead to accessibility issues but by identifying the right areas to plant and undertaking regular maintenance and inspections these issues can be greatly mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Race/ Ethnicity</b>	As it has been proven that BAME Londoners are at a greater risk of being impacted by the climate crisis and other environmental issues such as air pollution, this policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact this group.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sex</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>5. Other key groups</b> Are there any other vulnerable groups that might be affected by the proposal? <i>These could include carers, people in receipt of care, lone parents, people with low incomes or unemployed</i>		Positive impact	Negative impact		No impact
			Minor	Major	
<b>Key groups</b>	The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## 6. Cumulative impact<sup>20</sup>

Considering what else is happening within the council and Barnet could your proposal contribute to a cumulative impact on groups with protected characteristics?

Yes       No

If you clicked the Yes box, which groups with protected characteristics could be affected and what is the potential impact? Include details in the space below

We believe people with a disability made be slightly impacted as pressure for land space may lead to accessibility issue. Conflict between tree roots and the built environment may cause damage to footways. This can also lead to accessibility issues but by identifying the right areas to plant and undertaking regular maintenance and inspections these issues can be greatly mitigated

## 7. Actions to mitigate or remove negative impact

Only complete this section if your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. These need to be included in the relevant service plan for mainstreaming and performance management purposes.

Group affected	Potential negative impact	Mitigation measures <sup>21</sup> <i>If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation.</i>	Monitoring <sup>22</sup> <i>How will you assess whether these measures are successfully mitigating the impact?</i>	Deadline date	Lead Officer
Age and disability	Accessibility issues	The most appropriate site with the least impact will be identified, once planted the team will undertake planned maintenance on street trees on a three-year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works. The service also undertakes Common-Sense Risk Management of Trees.	The council is committed to undertaking planned maintenance on street trees on a three-year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works. This work concentrates on maintaining trees in their immediate environment with due regard to encroachment, shape, future growth of the tree and subsidence risk management.	Every 3 years	Andy Tipping - Trees & Woodlands Service Manager





## 8. Outcome of the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)<sup>23</sup>

Please select one of the following four outcomes

**Proceed with no changes**

The EqIA has not identified any potential for a disproportionate impact and all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity are being addressed

**Proceed with adjustments**

Adjustments are required to remove/mitigate negative impacts identified by the assessment

**Negative impact but proceed anyway**

This EqIA has identified negative impacts that are not possible to mitigate. However, it is still reasonable to continue with the activity. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below

**Do not proceed**

This EqIA has identified negative impacts that cannot be mitigated and it is not possible to continue. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below

**Reasons for decision**

The policy and programme have considered the needs of all groups. The policy and programme will improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) across the borough, and this positively impact residents. As a result, there is no expected negative impact on any group and the policy and programme should go ahead.

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**Sign-off**

9. Sign off and approval by Head of Service / Strategic lead <sup>24</sup>	
Name Cassie Bridger	Job title Assistant Director Greenspaces and Leisure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate that you have approved this EqIA	Date of approval: January 2023
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate if EqIA has been published Date EqIA was published: ..... Embed link to published EqIA:	Date of next review:



## Footnotes: guidance for completing the EqIA template

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<sup>1</sup> The following principles explain what we must do to fulfil our duties under the Equality Act when considering any new policy or change to services. They must all be met or the EqIA (and any decision based on it) may be open to challenge:

- **Knowledge:** everyone working for the council must be aware of our equality duties and apply them appropriately
- **Timeliness:** the duty applies at the time of considering proposals and before a final decision is taken
- **Real Consideration:** the duty must be an integral and rigorous part of your decision-making and must influence the process.
- **Sufficient Information:** you must assess what information you have and what is needed to give proper consideration.
- **No delegation:** the council is responsible for ensuring that anyone who provides services on our behalf complies with the equality duty.
- **Review:** the equality duty is a continuing duty – it continues after proposals are implemented/reviewed.
- **Proper Record Keeping:** we must keep records of the process and the impacts identified.

### <sup>2</sup> Our duties under the Equality Act 2010

The council has a legal duty under this Act to show that we have identified and considered the impact and potential impact of our activities on all people with ‘protected characteristics’ (see end notes 9-19 for details of the nine protected characteristics). This applies to policies, services (including commissioned services), and our employees.

We use this template to do this and evidence our consideration. You must give ‘due regard’ (pay conscious attention) to the need to:

- **Avoid, reduce or minimise negative impact:** if you identify unlawful discrimination, including victimisation and harassment, you must stop the action and take advice immediately.
- **Promote equality of opportunity:** by
  - Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people with a protected characteristic
  - Taking steps to meet the needs of these groups
  - Encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or any other activity where participation is disproportionately low
  - Consider if there is a need to treat disabled people differently, including more favourable treatment where necessary
- **Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don’t:** e.g. by promoting understanding.

### <sup>3</sup> EqIAs should always be proportionate to:

- The size of the service or scope of the policy/strategy
- The resources involved
- The size of the likely impact – e.g. the numbers of people affected and their vulnerability

The greater the potential adverse impact of the proposal on a protected group (e.g. disabled people) and the more vulnerable the group is, the more thorough and demanding the process required by the Act will be. Unless they contain sensitive data – EqIAs are public documents. They are published with Cabinet papers, Panel papers and public consultations. They are available on request.

### <sup>4</sup> When to complete an EqIA:

- When developing a new policy, strategy, or service
- When reviewing an existing service, policy or strategy

- 
- When making changes that will affect front-line services
  - When amending budgets which may affect front-line services
  - When changing the way services are funded and this may impact the quality of the service and who can access it
  - When making a decision that could have a different impact on different groups of people
  - When making staff redundant or changing their roles

Wherever possible, build the EqIA into your usual planning and review processes.

**Also consider:**

- Is the policy, decision or service likely to be relevant to any people because of their protected characteristics?
- How many people is it likely to affect?
- How significant are its impacts?
- Does it relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
- How vulnerable are the people who will be affected?

If there are potential impacts on people but you decide not to complete an EqIA you should document your reasons why.

<sup>5</sup> **Title of EqIA:** This should clearly explain what service / policy / strategy / change you are assessing.

<sup>6</sup> **Focus of EqIA:** A member of the public should have a good understanding of the proposals being assessed by the EqIA after reading this section. Please use plain English and write any acronyms in full first time - eg: 'Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)'

This section should explain what you are assessing:

- What are the main aims or purpose of the proposed change?
- Who implements, carries out or delivers the service or function in the proposal? Please state where this is more than one person or group, and where other organisations deliver it under procurement or partnership arrangements.
- How does it fit with other services?
- Who is affected by the service, or by how it is delivered? Who are the external and internal service-users, groups, or communities?
- What outcomes do you want to achieve, why and for whom? E.g.: what do you want to provide, what changes or improvements, and what should the benefits be?
- What do existing or previous inspections of the service tell you?
- What is the reason for the proposed change (financial, service, legal etc)? The Act requires us to make these clear.

<sup>7</sup> **Data & Information:** Your EqIA needs to be informed by data. You should consider the following:

- What data is relevant to the impact on protected groups is available? (is there an existing EqIA?, local service data, national data, community data, similar proposal in another local authority).
- What further evidence is needed and how can you get it? (e.g. further research or engagement with the affected groups).
- What do you know from service/local data about needs, access and outcomes? Focus on each characteristic in turn.
- What might any local demographic changes or trends mean for the service or function? Also consider national data if appropriate.
- Does data/monitoring show that any policies or practices create particular problems or difficulties for any group(s)?



- 
- Is the service having a positive or negative effect on particular people or groups in the community?

**<sup>8</sup> What have people told you about the service, function, area?**

- Use service user feedback, complaints, audits
- Conduct specific consultation or engagement and use the results
- Are there patterns or differences in what people from different groups tell you?
- Remember, you must consult appropriately and in an inclusive way with those likely to be affected to fulfil the equality duty.
- You can read LBB [Consultation and Engagement toolkit](#) for full advice or contact the Consultation and Research Manager, [rosie.evangelou@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:rosie.evangelou@barnet.gov.uk) for further advice

<sup>9</sup> **Age:** People of all ages, but consider in particular children and young people, older people and carers, looked after children and young people leaving care. Also consider working age people.

<sup>10</sup> **Disability:** When looking at disability, consideration should be given to people with different types of impairments: physical (including mobility), learning, aural or sensory (including hearing and vision impairment), visible and non-visible impairment. Consideration should also be given to: people with HIV, people with mental health needs and people with drug and alcohol problems. People with conditions such as diabetes and cancer and some other health conditions also have protection under the Equality Act 2010.

<sup>11</sup> **Gender Reassignment:** In the Act, a transgender person is someone who proposes to, starts or has completed a process to change their gender. A person does not need to be under medical supervision to be protected. Consider transgender people, transsexual people and transvestites.

<sup>12</sup> **Marriage and Civil Partnership:** consider married people and civil partners.

<sup>13</sup> **Pregnancy and Maternity:** When looking at pregnancy and maternity, give consideration to pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, part-time workers, women with caring responsibilities, women who are lone parents and parents on low incomes, women on maternity leave and 'keeping in touch' days.

<sup>14</sup> **Race/Ethnicity:** Apart from the common ethnic groups, consideration should also be given to Traveller communities, people of other nationalities outside Britain who reside here, refugees and asylum seekers and speakers of other languages.

<sup>15</sup> **Religion and Belief:** Religion includes any religion with a clear structure and belief system. As a minimum you should consider the most common religious groups (Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Jews, Sikh, Buddhist) and people with no religion or philosophical beliefs.

<sup>16</sup> **Sex/Gender:** Consider girls and women, boys and men, married people, civil partners, part-time workers, carers (both of children with disabilities and older cares), parents (mothers and fathers), in particular lone parents and parents on low incomes.

<sup>17</sup> **Sexual Orientation:** The Act protects bisexual, heterosexual, gay and lesbian people.

<sup>18</sup> **Other relevant groups:** You should consider the impact on our service users in other related areas.

<sup>19</sup> **Impact:** Your EqIA must consider fully and properly actual and potential impacts against each protected characteristic:

- The equality duty does not stop changes, but means we must fully consider and address the anticipated impacts on people.
- Be accurate and transparent, but also realistic: don't exaggerate speculative risks and negative impacts.

- 
- Be detailed and specific where you can so decision-makers have a concrete sense of potential effects.
  - Questions to ask when assessing whether and how the proposals impact on service users, staff and the wider community:
    - Are one or more protected groups affected differently and/or disadvantaged? How, and to what extent?
    - Is there evidence of higher/lower uptake of a service among different groups? Which, and to what extent?
    - Does the project relate to an area with known inequalities (where national evidence or previous research is available)?
    - If there are likely to be different impacts on different groups, is that consistent with the overall objective?
    - If there is negative differential impact, how can you minimise that while taking into account your overall aims?
  - Do the effects amount to unlawful discrimination? If so the plan **must** be modified.
  - Does it relate to an area where equality objectives have been set by LBB in our [Barnet 2024 Plan](#) and our [Strategic Equality Objective](#)?

#### <sup>20</sup> **Cumulative Impact**

You will need to look at whether a single decision or series of decisions might have a greater negative impact on a specific group and at ways in which negative impacts across the council might be minimised or avoided.

#### <sup>21</sup> **Mitigating actions**

- Consider mitigating actions that specifically address the impacts you've identified and show how they will remove, reduce or avoid any negative impacts
- Explain clearly what any mitigating measures are, and the extent to which you think they will reduce or remove the adverse effect
- Will you need to communicate or provide services in different ways for different groups in order to create a 'level playing field'?
- State how you can maximise any positive impacts or advance equality of opportunity.
- If you do not have sufficient equality information, state how you can fill the gaps.

<sup>22</sup> **Monitoring:** The Equality Duty is an ongoing duty: policies must be kept under review, continuing to give 'due regard' to the duty. If an assessment of a broad proposal leads to more specific proposals, then further monitoring, equality assessment, and consultation are needed.

#### <sup>23</sup> **Outcome:**

- Make a frank and realistic assessment of the overall extent to which the negative impacts can be reduced or avoided by the mitigating measures. Also explain what positive impacts will result from the actions and how you can make the most of these.
- Make it clear if a change is needed to the proposal itself. Is further engagement, research or monitoring needed?
- Make it clear if, as a result of the analysis, the policy/proposal should be stopped.

<sup>24</sup> **Sign off:** You will need to ensure the EqIA is signed off by your Head of Service, agree whether the EqIA will be published, and agree when the next review date for the EqIA will be.



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