

MEETING

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE AND TIME

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2020

AT 6.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

VIRTUAL MEETING

LINK TO MEETING: <https://bit.ly/32SRGJU>

TO: MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (Quorum 3)

Chairman: Dean Cohen

Vice Chairman: Peter Zinkin

Councillors

Elliot Simberg

Laithe Jajeh

Alison Cornelius

Laurie Williams

Geof Cooke

Jo Cooper

Felix Byers

Alan Schneiderman

Substitute Members

Sarah Wardle

Tim Roberts

Nizza Fluss

Nagus Narenthira

Kath McGuirk

Roberto Weeden-Sanz

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions must be submitted on Friday 20 November 2020 by 10AM Requests must be submitted to Paul Frost.

You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.

Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance

Governance Services contact: Paul Frost 020 8359 2205 paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk

Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

ASSURANCE GROUP

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

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Decisions of the Environment Committee

9 September 2020

Members Present:-

AGENDA ITEM 1

Councillor Dean Cohen (Chairman)
Councillor Peter Zinkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Elliot Simberg
Councillor Laithe Jajeh
Councillor Alison Cornelius
Councillor Felix Byers

Councillor Alan Schneiderman
Councillor Jo Cooper
Councillor Laurie Williams
Councillor Geof Cooke

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 30 June 2020, be approved.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

None.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)

The Environment Committee noted the detail of a public question that had been submitted and circulated. Ms Janette Evans had the opportunity to ask a supplementary question which was responded verbally to by the Intimin Executive Director for Environment.

6. MEMBERS' ITEMS

Councillor Alan Schneiderman – Tackling fly tipping

Councillor Alan Schneiderman was invited by the Chairman to introduce the item. Councillor Schneiderman gave a summary of the issue and requested that the Committee supported his item.

Councillor Sara Conway was in attendance to speak in favour of the item.

During the consideration the Chairman outlined his support for the item and requested that a report be submitted to the next meeting on 25 November 2020.

Resolved:

- That the Environment Committee noted the Members Item
- That the Environment Committee agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting on 25 November 2020.

Councillor Jo Cooper – Making it easier to get cycle hangars installed

Councillor Jo Cooper was invited by the Chairman to introduce the item. Councillor Cooper gave a summary of the issue and requested that the Committee supported her item.

Councillor Anne Clarke was in attendance to speak in favour of the item.

Resolved:

- That the Environment Committee noted the Members Item
- That the Environment Committee agreed to support the item and noted that developments as outlined verbally by the Interim Executive Director for Environment were subject to funding.

Councillor Geoff Cooke – Cutting speeds on residential side roads

Councillor Geoff Cooke was invited by the Chairman to introduce the item. Councillor Cooke gave a summary of the issue and requested that the Committee support his item.

The Interim Executive Director for Environment spoke in support of the item and thanked Councillor Cooke for bringing this matter to the Committee. He stated that side roads will be considered when a road limit is under consideration.

Resolved:

That the Environment Committee noted the report and agreed to support the item.

Councillor Laurie Williams – Action to cut litter and boost recycling

Councillor Laurie Williams was invited by the Chairman to introduce the item. Councillor Williams gave a summary of the issue and requested that the Committee support his item. He stated that bins in parks and town centres should be emptied more frequently. He also suggested that solar power bins should be tested in the Borough.

The Chairman said that he agreed that bins in parks should be emptied regularly. He said that bins had in fact been frequently emptied and requested to know if this was not the case. The Interim Executive Director for Environment, Mr Mee spoke in support of compacting bins and said that a trial could commence if the Committee were in favour of the suggestion.

Resolved

- That the Environment Committee noted the report. The Chairman, Councillor Dean Cohen requested that Members inform him in the event that bins are not emptied frequently.
- That the Environment Committee agreed that a trial can take place in East Barnet Ward.
- That the Environment Committee agreed to pilot a solar powered compacting recycling bin.

7. BARNET LONG TERM TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The report was introduced by the Interim Executive Director for Environment. He provided a full outline of the report and requested that the Committee give consideration to the report and the recommendations. Members of the Committee had the opportunity to consider the report and raise questions to the Interim Executive Director for Environment.

During the consideration of the item there was a request from Councillor Alan Schneiderman that recommendations 1-5 be voted on separately, this was put to the vote.

Resolved:

1. That the Environment Committee noted the Consultation Report (Appendix B), the Updated Initial Equality Analysis (Appendix C) and the Health Equity Assessment (Appendix D).
2. That the Environment Committee agreed to adopt the Long Term Transport Strategy 2020-2041 (at Appendix A to this report)
3. That the Environment Committee delegated authority to the Executive Director for Environment to make any subsequent non-material changes to the Long Term Transport Strategy 2020-2041 and its supporting documents.
4. That the Environment Committee authorised officers to implement the Delivery Plan (as set out in Appendix A - Section 5 of the Long Term Transport Strategy 2020-2041).
5. That the Environment Committee authorised officers to explore both the internal and external funding streams available to support the delivery of the Strategy.

The vote recorded for recommendation 1-5 only was:

For – 6
Against – 0
Abstained – 4

During the consideration of the item Councillor Schneiderman moved that recommendation 6 be amended. This was unanimously agreed.

6. That the Environment Committee delegated authority to the Interim Executive Director for Environment, in discussion with the Chairman of Environment Committee, to undertake procurement activities related to the implementation of the Delivery Plan, including undertaking feasibility studies. The Environment Committee requested that the Committee Members receive regular updates and receive reports that relate to key decisions for consideration.

8. REPORT HIGHWAY ASSET MANAGEMENT

The report was introduced by the Assistant Director for Highways, Mr Jamie Cooke. He provided a full outline of the report and requested that the Committee give consideration to the report and the recommendations.

During the consideration of the item Councillor Cooke moved an amendment to amend recommendation 2 to include that 50% expenditure be on footways and 40% on Carriageways. This was seconded by Councillor Schneiderman. The Chairman requested this be voted on. The vote recorded was:

4 – for the amendment

6 – against the amendment

This amendment was lost.

The Chairman then moved to the vote and the Environment Committee unanimously:

Resolved:

1. That the Committee approved the capital expenditure of £6 million for the delivery of the 2021/22 Highway Network Recovery Plan (NRP) Work Programme consisting of carriageway and footway renewal works, carriageway patching and associated works.
2. That the Committee agreed the proposed investment proportions detailed in paragraph 5.2.2 of this report.
3. That the Committee authorised officers to undertake consultation on the Work Programme.
4. That the Committee approved the development of a Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP).

9. STREET CLEANSING ENHANCEMENT

The report was introduced by the Street Scene Director, Mr Craig Miller. He provided a full outline of the report and requested that the Committee give consideration to the report and the recommendations.

Having considered the report the Chairman moved to the vote and the Environment Committee unanimously:

Resolved:

1. That the Environment Committee noted the contents of the report and the further investment of £600,000 per annum in the service.
2. That the Environment Committee endorsed the Street Cleansing enhancements proposed and the implementation of an area based operating model.
3. That the Environment Committee requested that the Interim Executive Director for Environment reports back to the Committee in 12 months detailing the progress of full year benefit realisation from the proposed service enhancements.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Alan Schneiderman noted that two items that had been resolved at the last meeting had not been reported or featured in the work programme. These items were in relation to Green recovery and 20Mph zones.

The Executive Director for Environment gave a verbal response to confirm that these topics will be featured within reports.

Resolved:

That the Environment Committee noted the work programme

That the Environment Committee requested that the above items be listed and reported to the Committee when possible. The Committee noted that a further item in regard to sustainability will be added to the Work Programme.

That the Environment Committee requested that the description for car parks and charging be amended

11. ANY OTHER ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT

The meeting finished at 19:46

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Environment Committee

25 November 2020

Title	<p>Member's Items</p> <p>Councillor Alan Schneiderman – HOSTING A 'TINY FOREST'</p> <p>Councillor Jo Cooper – MAKE OUR PARKS SAFER</p> <p>Geoff Cooke – FULL AND OVERFLOWING LITTER BINS ON STREETS AND IN PARKS</p> <p>Laurie Williams – SUSTAINABLE PARK BENCHES</p> <p>Laithe Jajeh - POLICY REGARDING CROSS OVERS</p>
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
Officer Contact Details	Paul Frost, 020 8359 2205, paul.frost@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
Members Items have been received for the Environment Committee. The Committee are requested to consider the items and provide instructions.	

Officers Recommendation

That the Environment Committee's instructions in relation to these Member's Items are requested.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Members of the Committee have requested that the items tabled below are submitted to the Environment Committee for considering and determination. The Environment Committee are requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Alan Schneiderman	<p>HOSTING A 'TINY FOREST'</p> <p>Tiny Forests are densely packed forests of native trees that fit into the size of a tennis court. This brings all the benefits of a forest - climate cooling, lower flood risks, biodiversity, improved air quality, and physical and mental wellbeing right into the heart of local areas. Tiny Forests are being planted across Europe and are being promoted in the UK by the environmental charity, Earthwatch.</p> <p>I ask that officers work with GoodGym Barnet, a volunteer organisation that is interested in fundraising and engaging the community to start a Tiny Forest project in Barnet.</p>
Jo Cooper	<p>MAKE OUR PARKS SAFER</p> <p>Barnet's parks and open spaces are valued by residents and more important than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>I request that the Committee considers whether it would be possible to increase funds for maintenance and enforcement in our parks by making more use of community infrastructure levy and section 106. If it is possible, I ask that we make a referral to the relevant committee asking for this to be considered, and, if agreed, that a report is brought back with options.</p> <p>I also ask for a review of how to involve the police and council services in developing specific plans to reduce and design out crime in parks.</p>
Geoff Cooke	<p>FULL AND OVERFLOWING LITTER BINS ON STREETS AND IN PARKS</p> <p>What statistics exist and what effect has the Covid-19 pandemic had on usage and frequency of emptying litter bins on streets and in parks?</p>

<p>Laurie Williams</p>	<p>SUSTAINABLE PARK BENCHES</p> <p>Park benches made from recycled plastic can be strong and environmentally friendly and are used in Trent Park in Enfield. I request that officers consider whether these could be used in Barnet's parks.</p>
<p>Laithe Jajeh</p>	<p>The Environment Committee in April 2019 introduced a change to the policy regarding cross overs whereby a road that had existing grass verges outside a resident's property would no longer be permitted to have a drop kerb installed to access their property.</p> <p>The intention of the policy change was to ensure sufficient parking provision remained in roads within the borough and to protect grass verges and the overall appearance of our roads and footpaths.</p> <p>Having been contacted by many residents, I believe in hindsight that this was an over simplification of policy and the end result goes above and beyond the intent of the committee.</p> <p>Good examples of unintended consequences are areas of new developments intermingling with existing housing and as a consequence a strain is now placed upon the parking provision of roads. This can be evidenced on the Ridgeway in Mill Hill Ward, The Fairway in Hale Ward, Laleham Ave in hale Ward and Westmere in hale Ward. As residents are no longer able to apply for a cross over, they are being forced to park a significant distance from their properties or they are parking on the grass verges themselves. This neither benefits the residents nor the appearance of the streets themselves.</p> <p>I therefore propose to the Committee that we reverse the decision previously made and enable residents to apply for cross overs in instances where grass verges exist in front of their property.</p>

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 N/A

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

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

5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 A Member (including Members appointed as substitutes by Council) will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or Sub-Committee on which s/he serves. The matter must be relevant to the terms of reference of the committee.

5.3.2 The referral of a motion from Full Council to a committee will not count as a Member's Item for the purposes of this rule.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None.

<p>ARE</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">AGENDA ITEM 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Environment Committee 25 November 2020</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Business Planning 2020-25 and Fees & Charges for 2021/22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Chairman of the Environment Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix A – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Savings Proposals for Committee Appendix B – Environment Fees & Charges 2021/22 – To Follow</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Geoff Mee, Executive Director – Environment Geoff. Mee@barnet.gov.uk</p>

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Summary</h2>
<p>A Business Planning report was agreed by Policy and Resources Committee on 24th September 2020 outlining the council’s updated Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2024/25 and the future financial challenges facing the council.</p> <p>Policy and Resources Committee also agreed the process whereby Theme Committees will consider the response to this challenge in November, by considering savings proposals to balance the council’s budget (the same process as used in previous years). The paper sets out the estimated savings requirements across Theme Committees for the period 2020-25.</p> <p>Since then, and taking account of the emerging national and local situation with the Covid pandemic, work has continued on the MTFS as a whole and concentrating specifically on the budget for 2021/22.</p>

The savings for 2020/21 approved last year have been reviewed for deliverability now and any implications for future years. The Business Plan has been revised to reflect the consideration of previous savings and additional savings which this report identifies.

Following the review of the savings agreed last year and additional savings which are now possible this report asks the Committee to agree to the revenue savings proposals in Appendix A and recommend them to Policy and Resources Committee in December.

The report also asks Environment Committee to note the changes to the fees and charges for 2021/22 to support the Environment Business Plan, and the delivery of front line service within the Environment Directorate.

The outcomes of all theme committee discussions will go forward as recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee in December 2020. The budget will be formally agreed each year, after appropriate consultation and equality impact assessments, as part of Council budget setting, and therefore could be subject to change.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee consider the MTFS proposals that relate to the committee as set out in Appendix A after having considered the initial equalities impacts and refer these recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee for decision.
2. That the Environment Committee notes the changes to the fees and charges 2021/22 as set out in Appendix B, which will be included in the budget proposals submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 This report is required as part of the Council's annual business planning process.

1.2 This includes the review of:

- Savings proposals within the Environment Committee's authority so they can then be recommended to Policy and Resources Committee to set a balanced budget for 2021/22 and contribute to the MTFS savings 2022/23 – 2024/25;
- Proposed changes to Fees and Charges 2021/22, which will be included in the budget proposals submitted to Policy and Resources Committee.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 Background to 2021/22 Business Planning

2.1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to set a balanced budget for the coming financial year and uses the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to estimate the budget position for the following three years. Savings proposals for future years should be identified via an ongoing process and proposed to Committee. Savings proposals for all years are proposed through Theme committees, then Policy and Resources Committee, and the Full Council in March to be approved.

2.1.2 Between 2010/11 to 2020/21, the Council successfully identified savings proposals totalling c.£191m. In early March 2020, Full Council were presented and approved an estimated budget gap of £36.830m between 2021/22 to 2024/25. Accompanying this were savings proposals of £17.572m.

2.2 Approach to MTFS 2021-25

2.2.1 In June 2020, Policy and Resources Committee were presented with an update on the impacts of Covid and an introduction to the 2021/22 to 2024/25 MTFS process. A more detailed update on the MTFS was presented to September Policy and Resources committee with a revised budget gap and proposed savings identified to date. That report also included a recommendation for saving proposals to be presented to the relevant Theme committees in November for consideration.

2.2.2 Due to the challenges facing the council's services arising from the pandemic, and the uncertainty in the future trajectory of key budget areas (e.g. adult social care demand, on and off street parking, and the local economic outlook) a modified approach for the MTFS for 2021/22 to 2024/25 was proposed in October 2020. This will:

- a. Defer decisions on long-term funding for service pressures in 2021/22 until the likely future requirement is known with more certainty. Short term funding sources can be used (such as appropriate earmarked reserves) until longer-term service needs are clearer.
- b. The most severe pressure at present time is the continued financial shortfall for the parking service;
- c. Prioritise finalising savings proposals to balance the revised 2021/22 budget gap;
- d. Continue, where possible, to identify and progress savings initiatives for 2022/23 to 2024/25.

2.2.3 In a situation of considerable uncertainty, this approach will prioritise balancing the 2021/22 budget with robust savings proposals without losing sight of the medium term financial outlook to 2024/25.

2.3 MTF5 November Summary

2.3.1 As at November, the estimated budget gap between 2021/22 to 2024/25 is now £53.380m. Taking this revised budget gap with proposed savings to date, the shortfall to balancing 2021/22 and 2022/23 to 2024/25 is set out in the table below.

MTFS Summary	2021/22 £'m	2022/23 £'m	2023/24 £'m	2024/25 £'m	Total £'m
September Policy and Resources Budget Gap	27.272	18.017	9.961	6.035	61.285
Further revisions to the budget and service pressures since September	(12.192)	1.410	0.086	2.395	(8.301)
Revised Budget Gap at November	15.080	19.427	10.047	8.430	52.984
Savings Identified to date	(11.190)	(8.748)	(9.646)	(7.718)	(37.302)
Shortfall / (Surplus) to Balanced Budget	3.890	10.679	0.401	0.712	15.682

2.4 Committee Context

2.4.1 2020/21 has set some unprecedented challenges for the Environment Directorate as it responded to the Covid 19 pandemic.

- Waste services continued throughout the period with only minor changes due to the resilience and professional attitude of our staff.
- Parking enforcement was suspended during lockdown with a significant loss of on and off street Parking Revenue.
- Special arrangements were made for parking for NHS and other critical staff
- Parking enforcement staff were redeployed to support social distancing in our parks which saw an incredible increase in use during this period.
- The increased park usage led to challenges for litter clearance and the suspension of access to play and outdoor facilities.
- Basic highways maintenance continued throughout to ensure safety on roads and pavements whilst some projects were suspended due to the freezing of LIP funding from TfL.
- Some Highways staff were redeployed to assist with Government funded initiatives for Social distancing in Town Centres, School Streets and the development of temporary cycling facilities.
- Cemeteries, Crematoria and Mortuary capacity were stretched across the whole service and a project to build additional burial facilities was fast tracked to enable rapid completion.

2.4.2 Meanwhile the Environment team have been assessing the possible future impacts of the pandemic on the whole range of their services. Emerging issues for the service are noted below;

- The ongoing impact of changes to work and commuting behaviours on the level of parking demand and on and off street revenues. Early indications would suggest a new level of demand that is materially lower than previous levels. Before the November 2020 lockdown paid on street parking was 75% of previous levels at its peak, with much lower levels also seen. There is uncertainty over the timing and likelihood of a full recovery. An in depth and comprehensive review of parking policy and future direction for the service is underway. The decision has been taken not to recognise the service pressure in 21/22. However, the service is working to find ways to help with the financial shortfall which is reflected in the savings noted in appendix A.
- The decision to suspend TfL LIP funding has had a significant impact on the Environment directorates ability to continue to support small to medium improvement schemes, this funding also provided for a number of key services including Disabled Bay parking facilities and School Crossing Patrols which had to be funded from elsewhere. Following the recent settlement by TfL with Central Government we have now been informed that LIP funding has been reinstated for the balance of this year and so we are looking to reinstate a number of schemes. However, at this point it is not clear what the position will be for future years funding.

2.4.3 Barnet is often characterised by its greenspace and during the peak of the pandemic, access to and the provision offered within our parks and open spaces was a key enabler in supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents. Parks and open spaces improve our physical and mental wellbeing, strengthen our communities and can make our neighbourhoods more attractive places to live and work. This is evident in the very high usage of the recently delivered schemes at Montrose Playing Fields, Silkstream Valley, Victoria Recreation Ground and Victoria Park which demonstrates that the social, environmental, economic and health benefits to the community are significant.

2.4.4 In recognising this value, masterplan proposals continue to be developed for West Hendon Playing Fields, Barnet Playing Fields, Copthall Sports Hub, Heybourne Park, Colindale Park and Rushgrove Park, with individual business cases for investment to be brought forward at a future date.

2.4.5 We are embarking on a journey to consider sustainability and to integrate policies and practices across the council to improve the environment. This will build on central government's work on green recovery and the environment bill. Our Tree Planting Programme and the value of Barnet's Natural Capital Account (a methodology for recognising the value of our parks) will play a key role within the development of this workstream.

2.4.6 Building on the considerable success of the charged for Green Waste service (which has the highest take up rate in London), we will use the additional funding to embark on delivering a much improved Street Cleansing programme with area based teams responding more locally to residents, area committees and ward members. We are also planning new initiatives to reduce fly tipping and to grow our service to Trade Waste customers.

2.5 Environment Committee Savings

2.5.1 To achieve a balanced budget in 2021/22 and to meet the MTFs savings 2022/23 to 2024/25, indicative savings proposals have been identified for Environment Committee. Environment Committee are being asked to consider the savings programme for the next four years. The full range of savings and / or income generation proposals within Environment Committee's area of responsibility can be seen in Appendix A, these total £6.558m.

2.5.2 Appendix A covers the MTFs period 2021/22 to 2024/25. We are focussing on 2021/22 savings and the principle areas of savings are;

- Parking – acceleration of CPZ programme and expansion of scope and funding to bring in more areas where there are requests and/or anticipated need and traffic management obligations. This will potentially see additional income generated which may aid in offsetting some of the unchanged operational costs of existing areas of control (including car parks) which have seen lower income generation than usual as a result of COVID-19.
- Green Waste – the green waste charging project has been more successful than we had originally anticipated which has enabled us to expand the street cleaning service. The additional surplus generated in 2020/21 which was not previously in the MTFs has been carried forward in to 2021/22. For commercial waste the current focus in year is to recover the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on income generation with the view to further income growth in future financial years.
- Street Lighting – explore the possibility of the flexible control mechanism that is installed in the new lighting to identify where additional optimisation opportunities exist.

2.6 Fees & Charges for 2021/22

2.6.1 Fees and charges are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the costs of chargeable services are covered and the Council is achieving value for money. Appendix B sets out the new and changed fees and charges for 2021/22 for services within the Environment Directorate.

2.6.2 The CPI forecast built into the MTFs for 21/22 is 1.3% based on the Office Budget Responsibility (OBR) update in July 2020. Therefore, where fees and charges have increased in line with inflation the rate used is 1.3%.

2.6.3 A number of new fees and charges are proposed which require approval from Environment Committee. For example, an annual license for tennis coaching and fitness instructors using Barnet's parks and greenspaces.

2.6.4 The general principles that have been applied to the fees and charges for 2020/21 is as per the table below:

Service	Fees and Charges - brief description of changes
Parking	No changes are being made to the fees and charges published in 2020/21
Greenspaces	Increase in line with inflation
Street Scene	Apart from new charges and where no increases have taken place all other charges are increased in line with inflation
Street Lighting, DLO & EV Charging	No changes are being made to the fees and charges published in 2020/21. This is due to the charges for Banners being within a range depending on the specific requirements of each request. For the proposed EV charges this is also within a range with a maximum charge of £0.34 per kilowatt hour.
Cemetery and Crematorium	Increase in line with inflation; in some cases this is less due to rounding, where applicable these fees and charges will also be charged at Milesplit Cemetery.
Highways	All existing Fees and Charges are increased in line with inflation, other than where it is due to either (a) the charge being statutory and as such is not subject to inflation, (b) where a new charge has been added, (c) a few charges have been removed as they are no longer required.
Trading Standards and Licensing	All existing Fees and Charges are increased in line with inflation, other than those which are statutory and as such is not subject to inflation
Environmental Health	All existing Fees and Charges are increased in line with inflation, other than where it is due to either (a) the charge being statutory and as such is not subject to inflation, (b) food safety training courses have remained the same due to market rate for these products or (c)

increased higher than inflation to reflect that the cost of delivering the service was not reflected in the previous charges.

2.7 Recovery Plan

2.7.1 The Covid-19 pandemic provides an extremely challenging situation for Barnet, its residents and the wider borough. In response to the pandemic, the council had to focus on critical services, including a number of new services to directly respond to the needs of residents.

2.7.2 As lockdown restrictions eased, the council then moved to focusing on recovery, initially around a framework of deciding which services to restore in their previous form, which to retain from the lockdown and which to re-invent by bringing back in a new way. A programme of recovery planning has been set up to co-ordinate this process and deal with the challenges that recovery will bring for the council, the borough and its residents. This committee will contribute to the Clean, Safe and Well Run workstream, Family Friendly workstream and Thriving workstream.

2.7.3 All Environment services have now recommenced, however some services within Re Highways have not returned to the same business as usual pre Covid.

- The Local Implementation Plan funding from TfL which was suspended has just been reinstated for the balance of this year (as noted in above).
- The majority of projects and other activities have resumed, including work on the MTFS projects.
- However some partners, operators etc have been affected which impacts our projects. For example, the Advertising market is still hugely impacted by the effects of COVID-19 and all providers we are dealing with are not anticipating any recovery until next financial year.
- The additional £500k invested in Street Cleansing in 18/19 has been maintained for 19/20 and a further £600k investment is being made into this service to enhance borough cleanliness and will carry through to 2021/22.
- Parking enforcement fully recommenced on 8 June 2020, revenue recovery is being monitored but is still lower than before the pandemic.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 **Recommendation 1:** Local Government continues to face significant reductions in funding and increased demand for services, as set out in the

above context. These challenges require longer term, robust financial and strategic planning and the recommendations in this report support this.

3.2 By law, the council is required to set a balanced budget. These proposals are the best way of doing that by meeting financial requirement and delivering outcomes and ambitions for Barnet.

3.3 **Recommendation 2:** It is recommended that the Environment Committee notes the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22, as it is considered good practice to review fees and charges annually to ensure that the costs of providing the services are recouped. In addition, a number of new fees and charges are proposed which require approval from Environment Committee.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

4.1 The alternative option is not to approve the MTFS. This, however, is not considered to be good practice and may expose the council to the risk of not achieving the savings targets or being able to set a balanced budget. There is a statutory requirement to set a balanced budget and submit budget returns to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

4.2 The alternative approach is to not review the fees and charges or to adjust the current fees and charges, or to not add new ones where appropriate. This, however, is not considered good practice, and will potentially expose the Council to the risk of not recovering the costs of the provision of the service, or potentially, over recovery, where the charge is set at a cost recovery level. Given the financial pressures currently faced by the Council the only viable option for continuing to provide services is to levy and appropriate fee or charge.

5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 If the Environment Committee approves recommendation 1 made by this report, then the savings proposals will be referred to Policy and Resources Committee on 8th December 2020 as part of the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Public consultation on the MTFS will commence in December.

5.2 If the Committee is minded to approve Recommendation 2, then the fees and charges will be considered for agreement by the Policy and Resources Committee as part of the Council wide budget setting. Once the budget is approved by full Council the fees and charges will be posted on the Council's website and, where a statutory duty requires it, advertised in the approved publication, and appropriate location. The new fees and charges will be implemented from April 2021.

6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

6.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

6.1.1 This report supports the council's corporate priorities as expressed through the Corporate Plan for 2019-24 which sets out our vision and strategy for the next 5 years. This includes the **outcomes** we want to achieve for the borough, the **priorities** we will focus limited resources on, and our **approach** for how we will deliver this.

6.1.2 Our 3 outcomes for the borough focus on place, people and communities:

- a pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in
- our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected
- safe and strong communities where people get along well

6.1.3 The approach for delivering on this is underpinned by four strands; ensuring residents get a fair deal, maximising on opportunities, sharing responsibilities with the community and partners, and working effectively and efficiently.

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

6.2.1 The Environment Committee savings programme will enable the council to meet its savings target as set out in the MTFS. These budgets will be formally agreed each year, and individual proposals will be subject to appropriate consultation and equality impact assessments where necessary. For this reason, the proposals are subject to change.

6.2.2 Adjusting fees and charges will ensure effective cost recovery for delivering the service; prices listed do not include VAT, which will only be charged where indicated. The Constitution requires that all changes to fees and charges should be included in the budget proposals submitted by theme Committees to the Policy & Resources Committee.

6.3 Social Value

6.3.1 None applicable to this report, however the council must take into account the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to try to maximise the social and local economic value it derives from its procurement spend. The Barnet living wage is an example of where the council has considered its social value powers.

6.4 Legal and Constitutional References

6.4.1 Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: "without prejudice to section 111, every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper

administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs". Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, relates to the subsidiary powers of local authorities.

- 6.4.2 Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 requires billing authorities to calculate their council tax requirements in accordance with the prescribed requirements of that section. This requires consideration of the authority's estimated revenue expenditure for the year in order to perform its functions, allowances for contingencies in accordance with proper practices, financial reserves and amounts required to be transferred from general fund to collection fund.
- 6.4.3 Local authorities owe a fiduciary duty to council tax payers, which means it must consider the prudent use of resources, including control of expenditure, financial prudence in the short and long term, the need to strike a fair balance between the interests of council tax payers and ratepayers and the community's interest in adequate and efficient services and the need to act in good faith in relation to compliance with statutory duties and exercising statutory powers.
- 6.4.4 These savings proposals are to be recommended to Policy and Resources Committee. They will then be subject to consultation and a cumulative equality impact assessment before being referred on to Council so that Council may set the Council Tax, being mindful of any equality impacts and consultation responses.
- 6.4.5 The Council's Constitution (Article 7, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsibilities of all Council Committees.
- 6.4.6 Responsibilities for Environment Committee include:
- 1) Responsibility 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.
 - 2) To submit to the Policy and Resources Committee proposals relating to the Committee's budget for the following year in accordance with the budget timetable.
 - 3) To make recommendations to Policy and Resources Committee on issues relating to the budget for the Committee, including virements or underspends and overspends on the budget (including fees and charges). No decisions which result in amendments to the agreed budget may be made by the Committee unless and until the amendment has been agreed by Policy and Resources Committee.
 - 4) To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.

- 6.4.7 The council's Financial Regulations can be found at: <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60716/Appendix%20L%20-%20Financial%20Regulations%20Tracked.pdf>
- 6.4.8 Changes to fees and charges should be included in the budget proposals submitted by theme Committees or the relevant committee to the Policy & Resources Committee. The budget recommended by Policy and Resources Financial Committee to Full Council will incorporate the latest projection of income from fees and charges. Full Council will approve all fees and charges as part of the budget report.
- 6.4.9 Local authorities have a variety of powers to charge for specific statutory services set out in statute. The Local Government Act 2003 also provides a power to trade and a power to charge for discretionary services, the latter on a costs recovery basis. Discretionary services are those that a local authority is permitted to provide under statute but is not obliged to do so. The power to charge for discretionary services is not available to local authorities if there is a statutory duty to provide the service or if there is a specific power to charge for it or if there is a prohibition on charging for the service.
- 6.4.10 Additionally, the Localism Act 2011 provides local authorities with a general power of competence that confers on them the power to charge for services but again subject to conditions/limitations similar to those noted above.
- 6.4.11 Where authorities have a duty to provide a statutory service free of charge to a certain standard, no charge can be made for delivery to that standard, however delivery beyond that point may constitute a discretionary service for which a charge could be made.
- 6.4.12 Some of the proposals, relate to savings resulting from operational decisions being made in a different way and are therefore estimated savings. The saving is therefore an indicative saving and its deliverability will be dependent on a number of factors. As part of the budget setting process, Policy and Resources Committee will consider the need for an appropriate contingency to cover any savings that are indicative and may not be met due to operational decisions. Some of the proposals in the MTFS relate to proposals that are at a very early stage. These proposals will be subject to further business planning and decision making to test whether they can be delivered and what the impact of such a proposal will be. These proposals will be considered in further detail during future business planning reports.
- 6.4.13 All proposals emerging from the business planning process will need to be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations (including, specifically, the public-sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010).

6.5 Risk Management

6.5.1 The Council has taken steps to improve its risk management processes by integrating the management of financial and other risks facing the organisation. The allocation of an amount to contingency is a step to mitigate the pressures that had yet to be quantified during the budget setting process.

6.5.2 The allocation of budgets from contingency seeks to mitigate financial risks which have materialised.

6.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

6.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.

6.6.2 Decision makers should have due regard to the public sector equality duty in making their decisions. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty within it expects that elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place. The equalities duties are continuing duties they are not duties to secure a particular outcome. The objectives of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:

6.6.3 A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- 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.

6.6.4 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

6.6.5 The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

- 6.6.6 Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- Tackle prejudice, and
 - Promote understanding.
- 6.6.7 Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act. The relevant protected characteristics are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race,
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation
 - Marriage and Civil partnership (to a limited extent)
- 6.6.8 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.
- 6.6.9 Where there are changes to service delivery or changes to staff, these will impact on individuals in different ways. However, at each stage of the process, the council will conduct an equalities impact assessment (EqIA) where appropriate to ensure that where persons are impacted, proper measures are considered to mitigate the effect as far as possible. Those affected by any changes resulting from any of the proposals will be engaged, as set out in Appendix A under 'Consultation'. Where necessary, proposals will not be implemented or agreed until members have fully considered the equality impacts and responses to any consultation.
- 6.6.10 The revenue savings sheet shown at Appendix A indicates that an equalities impact assessment has been carried out for one saving proposal for the West Hendon Playing Fields Masterplan. For the majority of savings proposals, the need for an equality impact assessment will be kept under review as the specific proposals develop and will be carried out if required. In addition, for the Chargeable Garden Waste proposal an equalities impact assessment was completed for the introduction of the chargeable service and so this will be reviewed and refreshed to account for any change.
- 6.6.11 All human resources implications will be managed in accordance with the Council's Managing Organisational Change policy, which supports the Council's Human Resources Strategy and meets statutory equalities duties and current employment legislation.

6.7 Corporate Parenting

6.7.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, reflect the council's commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the council does. To this end, great attention has been paid to the needs of children in care and care leavers when approaching business planning, to ensure decisions are made through the lens of what a reasonable parent would do for their own child.

6.7.2 The Council, in setting its budget, has considered the Corporate Parenting Principles both in terms of savings and investment proposals. The Council proposals have sought to protect front-line social work and services to children in care and care leavers and in some cases, has invested in them.

6.8 Consultation and Engagement

6.8.1 As a matter of public law, the duty to consult with regards to proposals to vary, reduce or withdraw services will arise in four circumstances:

- where there is a statutory requirement in the relevant legislative framework
- where the practice has been to consult, or, where a policy document states the council will consult, then the council must comply with its own practice or policy
- exceptionally, where the matter is so important that there is a legitimate expectation of consultation
- Where consultation is required to complete an equalities impact assessment.

6.8.2 Regardless of whether the council has a duty to consult, if it chooses to consult, such consultation must be carried out fairly. In general, a consultation can only be considered as proper consultation if:

- comments are genuinely invited at the formative stage
- the consultation documents include sufficient reasons for the proposal to allow those being consulted to be properly informed and to give an informed response
- there is adequate time given to the consultees to consider the proposals
- there is a mechanism for feeding back the comments and those comments are considered by the decision-maker / decision-making body when making a final decision
- the degree of specificity with which, in fairness, the public authority should conduct its consultation exercise may be influenced by the identity of those whom it is consulting
- where relevant and appropriate, the consultation is clear on the reasons why and extent to which alternatives and discarded options have been discarded. The more intrusive the decision, the more likely it is to attract a higher level of procedural fairness.

- 6.8.3 The council will perform a budget consultation during December 2020 through to January 2021. This consultation will cover any proposals to increase council tax together with seeking views on the council's budget overall.
- 6.8.4 In terms of service specific consultations, the council has a duty to consult with residents and service users in a number of different situations including proposals to significantly vary, reduce or withdraw services. Consultation is also needed in other circumstances, for example to identify the impact of proposals or to assist with complying with the council's equality duties. Service specific consultations will take place where necessary in line with timescales for any changes to be implemented.
- 6.8.5 If when council sets the budget envelope some service specific consultations have not been completed, then Council will allow a contingency so that decision makers may make alternative decisions should there be undesirable equalities impacts.
- 6.8.6 Where appropriate, separate service specific consultations have already taken place for some of the savings and a link to the report presenting findings of the consultation is provided within the MTFS spreadsheet (Appendix A). In addition, it has been noted in the appendix that for a number of savings proposals the requirement for a consultation will be considered as the proposals are developed.

6.9 **Insight**

- 6.9.1 None in the context of this report

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Business Planning Report to Policy & Resources Committee on 06/01/2020

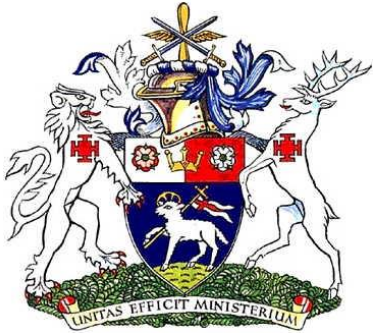
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10084&Ver=4>

Fees and Charges Report - 2020/2021 to Environment Committee on 20/01/20

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=695&MId=9909&Ver=4>

New Savings Reference	Department	Corporate Plan Outcome	Theme Committee	Description of saving	Impact Assessment			Equalities Impact All published EqIAs are online at: https://barnet.gov.uk/your-council/policies-plans-and-performance/equality-and-diversity/equality-impact-assessments	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		Total savings (All years)
					Consultation (How are we consulting on this proposal)	Impact on Service Delivery	Impact on Customer Satisfaction		2021/22	FTE Impact	2022/23	FTE Impact	2023/24	FTE Impact	2024/25	FTE Impact	
ENV4	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Smart Cities - Opportunities to positively impact residents and businesses by providing better access to emerging technologies whilst also reviewing opportunities for commercialisation, such as electric vehicle infrastructure and 5G capacity.	Service specific consultation will be undertaken if required.	This would involve the provision of a new service(s), which is likely to be outsourced.	This saving is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on customer satisfaction and it is possible that it may enhance perception that the Council is providing a valuable new service and providing value for money.	An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be produced as the specific proposals are developed in full.	(25)		(25)		(50)		0		(100)
ENV5	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Parking - A review of services and policies to ensure a consistent, fair approach to improving traffic, highway air quality and road safety. Unlocking under-used potential from Council assets and meeting existing unaddressed needs and demands on the highway.	Service specific consultation will be undertaken if required.	This saving requires a change to service delivery.	This saving is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on customer satisfaction and it is possible that it may enhance perception that the Council provides value for money.	The need for an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will kept under review as the specific proposals develop and carried out if required.	(750)		(750)		(750)		(750)		(3,000)
ENV7	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Fundamental Service Review of existing waste collection arrangements.	Service specific consultation to be undertaken as part of feasibility / statutory planning consultation will be required as proposals are taken forward.	This saving requires a change to service delivery.	Potential negative effect on satisfaction in the short term resulting from any change to existing arrangements.	An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be produced as the specific proposals are developed in full.	0		0		(1,000)		0		(1,000)
ENV8	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Highways and Transportation, Post 2023 Service Redesign - The end of the current Highways service arrangement offers an opportunity to redesign a new service which offers to potential to deliver savings and efficiencies. The year 6/7 review will provide an options analysis for the new service which will enable the authority to ascertain which service model best meets the needs of the borough.	Service specific consultation will be undertaken if required once a review has been undertaken.	It is anticipated the service would operate better, more efficient and with some financial savings in the long term.	Part of the aim of this review is to ensure a sound structure is put in place where customers can see the benefits either through better communication network and/or service outcome on the highway network.	The need for an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will kept under review and carried out if required.	0		0		0		(900)		(900)
ENV10	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Street Lighting Service Delivery Proposed Changes - Amending the contractual requirements in respect to the roads that are included within the Post Core Investment Programme (PCIP). This programme includes the replacement of some 2,500 lighting columns over the next 6/7 years. This could be accommodated whilst still complying with recommended lighting standards. Making best use of the new street lighting control systems installed as part of the LED conversion project to optimise lighting levels as appropriate at various times, whilst still ensuring compliance with recommended lighting standards.	The proposed changes would still ensure compliance with recommended road lighting standards and therefore a service specific consultation is not required.	This would involve taking a different risk based approach to lighting column replacement timescales and changing the profile of when they will be replaced to a later date, whilst ensuring that the structural integrity and hence safety is maintained through an alternative testing programme with replacements only taking place following a testing failure. No noticeable impact as road lighting compliance is still achieved.	Unlikely to be an issue. A general satisfaction service will be conducted in respect to the overall service to determine views.	The need for an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will kept under review and carried out if required.	(100)		0		0		0		(100)
ENV11	Environment	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Environment	Delivery of West Hendon Playing Fields Masterplan. Progress with Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). The stages will include professional fees required to deliver planning consent, including but not limited to site surveys and investigations, multi disciplinary design team, project management, cost consultancy, civil and structural engineering and planning fees. Potential phased development of proposal would return savings from prioritised facilities. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit. Detail will be presented in the Outline Business Case to be presented to Committee for approval.	Service specific public consultation undertaken in 2018 and 2019. Report presented to Environment Committee. Key stakeholders including statutory bodies. https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/we-asked-you-said-we-did	It is anticipated that subject to investment and scheme approval, there will be a responsibility for the service to manage contracts/ slas/ partnerships as a result of delivery. This will be reviewed as part of a management options appraisal, detailed within the Outline Business Case.	Investment into West Hendon Playing Fields will transform opportunities for local residents, providing a range of facility uses and improved environmental benefits.	EqIA and HIA undertaken as part of Environment Committee report (March 2020). https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/eListDocuments.aspx?Cid=695&MId=9910&Ver=4 Further EqIA / HIA to be completed as part of design development / Outline Business Cases.	0		0		0		(200)		(200)
ENV12	Environment	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Environment	Review of low quality - low value parks and open spaces to assess the feasibility of installing renewable energy solutions such as batteries at substations and solar farms. Initial investment required to undertake feasibility and undertake planning assessment.	Consultation to be undertaken as part of feasibility / statutory planning consultation will be required if proposals are taken forward.	It is anticipated that subject to agreement there will be a responsibility to manage any contract / service level agreement / lease agreement which is executed. It is also anticipated that any proposal will support the Council in the development of a Sustainability Strategy, producing a range of environmental benefits.	The opportunity may impact on access to parks and open space sites which are deemed low quality / low value.	A full EqIA will be completed as part of individual proposals and assessment undertaken to progress options.	0		0		(75)		0		(75)
ENV13	Environment	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Environment	Introduction of semi-permanent cafe buildings at five sites within the Borough, generating revenue through lease arrangements. Purchase and installation of five cafes at £150k each, funded by ten-year loan. First year surplus estimated at £24k for five sites, allowing for loan repayment and interest. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit.	Market engagement to review interest in proposal.	increase in facilities across the parks and open spaces portfolio. Anticipated that specific lease agreements will be secured with market providers / organisations to deliver offer.	The opportunity is anticipated to improve customer satisfaction, providing venues within parks for the community.	An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be produced as the specific proposals develop.	0		0		(24)		(24)		(48)
ENV14	Environment	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Environment	Improvement plan for tennis delivery and facilities within Barnet. Introduction of booking system and programme of investment in facilities, with the intention of establishing sustainable, revenue-generating model. Saving is predicated on securing capital investment to deliver financial benefit, detail will be outlined in the Business Case.	As proposals are developed, service consultation and engagement will be undertaken as required.	Strategic approach to tennis management and delivery across Barnet, improved operations and efficiency with booking process. Opportunity to generate income which can be reinvested back into creating sustained service.	Potential resident objection in respect of introducing charges for court hire which may have previously been at nil cost. The Outline Business Case will detail a proposed pricing structure to ensure where appropriate concessions are offered in order to co-ordinate a balanced programme.	A full EqIA will be completed as part of the review and evaluation of the Tennis Pilot prior to the implementation of the Tennis Project	0		(20)		(38)		(37)		(95)
ENV16	Environment	Outcome 2: Family Friendly	Environment	Consideration as to the possibility of establishing a trading arm for trees service, offering tree management and policy services to neighbouring local authorities as a commercial enterprise. Initial investment required to confirm feasibility and approach to matters including legal, governance and resources required.	Consultation and engagement plan to be drafted. Changes will not impact on Barnet residents so no consultation is required.	Options appraisal to address review of resources / model required for implementation and provide recommendations. To be factored into business model proposed.	The opportunity is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on customer satisfaction.	The need for an equality impact assessment (EqIA) will kept under review as the proposal develops and carried out if required.	0		0		(20)		(20)		(40)
ENV27	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Improved Management of Skips placed on the Public Highway - Utilise available legislation to better manage the safety impact of skips being placed on the Public Highway, including ensuring that all skips placed have been approved with appropriate Licences and that such licence conditions are fully compliant. Whilst there will be costs involved in increased resources to monitor this activity there are also mechanisms within the legislation to recover costs where non-compliance is evident. Currently a low level of compliance is occurring and this raises safety concerns for all highway users and therefore increased focus in this area will be beneficial for all.	As required by the specific Legislation related to this area of activity.	Improved safety on the Public Highway	Likely to be positive for the majority of Highway users	The need for an equality impact assessment (EqIA) will kept under review as the proposal develops and carried out if required.	0		(100)						(100)
ENV28	Environment	Outcome 4: Clean, Safe & Well Run	Environment	Green Waste Cost Recovery - Increase of the original Medium Term Financial Strategy commitment associated with this chargeable service following launch in 2019/20 and the popularity of the service with residents.	Service specific consultation undertaken during the original decision making process to introduce a chargeable service - https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/garden-waste-charging-2019	None	None	No equalities impact assessment required as no changes proposed to current service offer.	(500)		0		0		0		(500)
G&CS16	Growth and Corporate Services	Outcome 1: Thriving	Environment Committee	RE Management fee arrangements and Guaranteed Income arrangements to be reviewed	At this stage, the nature and impact of the proposal on service delivery is not known, so the need for consultation will be assessed as the proposal is developed further	Not yet known	Not yet known	Impact on equalities will be assessed as the proposal is developed.	(100)		(100)		(100)		(100)		(400)
									(1,475)		(995)		(2,057)		(2,031)		(6,558)

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Environment Committee 25 November 2020

Title	Referral from Chipping Barnet Area Committee
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	High Barnet
Status	Public
Enclosures	Annex 1 - Barnet Road, EN5 – Request for Zebra Crossing
Officer Contact Details	Abigail Lewis Abigail.Lewis@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 4369

Summary

At the meeting of the Chipping Barnet Area Committee on the 6th October 2020, The Chairman referred the report on Barnet Road, EN5 – Request for Zebra Crossing, to the Environment Committee for consideration. The reason for this referral was due to the scheme exceeding the maximum £25,000 limit permitted per scheme for the Area Committee budget.

Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee consider the report on Barnet Road, EN5 – Request for Zebra Crossing attached as Annex 1 to this report.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 The Council's Constitution permits the Chairman of an area committee to refer applications to the area committee budget to the Environment Committee.

1.2 At the meeting of the Chipping Barnet Area Committee on the 6th October 2020 the Committee:

RESOLVED that the scheme be referred to the next Environment Committee meeting for determination.

2. REASON FOR REFFERAL

2.1 The reason for this referral is outlined in the minutes of the Chipping Barnet Committee October 6th, 2020 (7.2) due to the zebra crossing scheme proposed for Barnet Road, EN5 exceeding the maximum £25,000 limit permitted per scheme for the Area Committee budget. The cost of the scheme would include the widening of the footway on the North side, removing vegetation, electrical works and ad hoc traffic management as outlined in section 2.10 of the main report (Annex 1).

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 As set out above.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

4.1 N/A

5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

N/A

6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

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

6.2 As outlined in section 2.10 and 5.2 of the main report (Annex 1)

6.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

6.3.1 Article 2 – section 2.2 (e) states a Chairman of an area committee may refer applications to the area committee budget to the Environment Committee. The reasons for the referral must be stated. In making the referral, the Chairman can make recommendations to Council or parent Committee.

6.4 **Risk Management**

6.5 As outlined in the main report (Annex 1)

6.6 **Equalities and Diversity**

6.7 As outlined in the main report (Annex 1)

6.8 **Consultation and Engagement**

6.9 As outlined in the main report (Annex 2)

6.10

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 As outlined in the main report (Annex 2)

7.2 Minutes of the Chipping Barnet Area Committee

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g10124/Printed%20minutes%2006th-Oct-2020%2018.00%20Chipping%20Barnet%20Area%20Committee.pdf?T=1>

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Chipping Barnet Area Committee

6 October 2020

Title	Barnet Road, EN5- Request for Zebra Crossing
Report of	Executive Director Environment
Wards	High Barnet
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 - Drawings:
Officer Contact Details	Geoff Mee - Executive Director Environment Geoff.Mee@barnet.gov.uk
Summary	
This report details the results of a feasibility study for the installation of a zebra crossing on Barnet Road, EN5, between Field End and Quinta Drive.	

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Chipping Barnet Area Committee notes the results of the feasibility study that was undertaken in Barnet Road, between Field End and Quinta Drive, EN5.
2. That the Chipping Barnet Area Committee notes the recommendation that no further action is taken at this time.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 During the Chipping Barnet Area Committee on the 3 October 2019, Councillor Longstaff introduced his Member's Item, requesting a new zebra crossing on Barnet Road, EN5 between Field End and Quinta Drive.
- 1.2 Following discussion of the item, the Chipping Barnet Area Committee unanimously agreed and resolved:

'To allocate funding of up to £5,000, from this year's CIL Area Committee budget, to undertake the review, with a report back to a future meeting.'

- 1.3 This report therefore details the investigation carried out to address the above request.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Observations:

- 2.1 Barnet Road is a main road connecting High Barnet to the A1. It is residential in character; subject to a 30mph speed limit from Galley Lane to Glebe Lane and 40mph thereafter until the junction with A1. Barnet Road is also a bus route serving London Buses and other bus services.
- 2.2 In the area between Field End and Quinta Drive there are a small number of existing driveways and one eastbound bus stop. The westbound bus stop is located soon after the junction with Quinta Drive.
- 2.3 Quinta Drive connects Barnet Road with Mays Lane, in addition Whittings Hill Primary School is located along this road.
- 2.4 The junction between Barnet Road and Quinta Drive is heavily used and traffic tend to slow down to allow turning manoeuvres or stopping behind stationary buses.
- 2.5 During the site visit possible locations for a zebra crossing were identified and surveys were carried out in these locations, as shown on Figure 1 below.
- 2.6 The footway along this stretch of the road is narrow: approximately 2m wide on the south side and 1.5m on the north side of the road.

Traffic surveys:

- 2.7 A **Pedestrian survey** was carried out on 28 November 2019 on Barnet Road to establish the most popular crossing points for pedestrians. The survey was carried out for 1 day from 7:00 to 10:00am and from 13:00 to 17:00 pm on the sites shown on the map below (Figure.1) and results are shown on table below (Table 1).

	AM Peak (7-10am)	PM Peak (1-5pm)
A→B	3	13
B→A	11	15
C→D	0	0
D→C	0	2
E→F	0	0
F→E	0	0
G→H	0	1
H→G	0	0

Table 1 –Pedestrian Survey Results

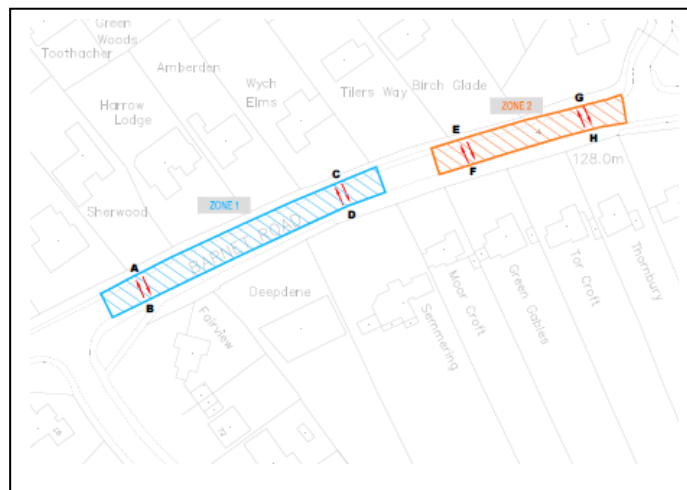


Figure.1 Pedestrian survey location plan

2.8 A speed survey was carried out in November 2019 on Barnet Road for 7 days 24-hours on three sites as shown on Fig.2 below. Results are shown on Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Speed survey Results

	Eastbound		Westbound	
	85 th Percentile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)	85 th Percentile Speed (mph)	Mean Speed (mph)
Location 1	31.9	24	30	23.6
Location 2	34.2	30	33.8	29.1
Location 3	35.8	30.7	34.4	29.6

Note:

85th percentile speed: 85% of traffic travels at or below this speed

Mean speed: The average taken by summing all vehicle speeds and dividing by the number of vehicles.

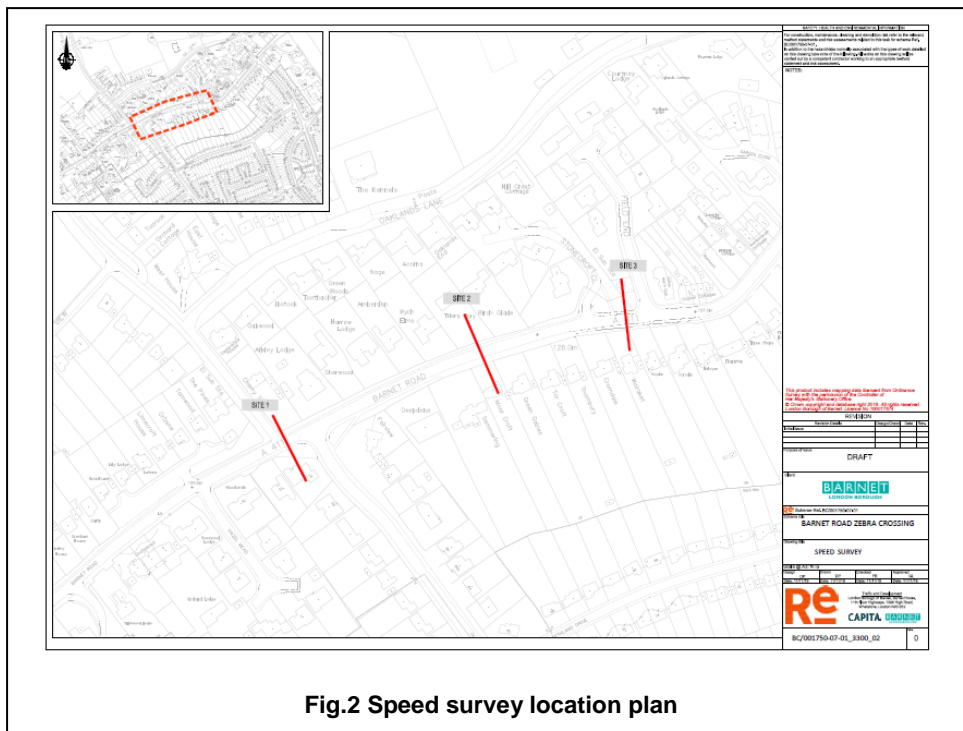


Fig.2 Speed survey location plan

2.9 Collisions Data: The Personal Injury Collision Data for the five years until 31 December 2018 was analysed in relation this location. For Members information this is the latest data available from the police, in addition the 2018 data is provisional and subject to change. The analysis of the data determined that:

- No collisions occurred between Field End and Quinta Drive.
- Three collisions occurred at the junction with Quinta Drive, all 'slight' and involving cars.
- One fatal accident occurred on Barnet Road, north-east of Field End in 2014 involving one pedestrian crossing the road. The latter was caused by speeding and by pedestrian crossing on a bend, where visibility is very poor.

Feasibility and Proposals:

2.10 Proposals and recommendations set out in this report are based on existing traffic regulations (Manual for Streets 2 and Local Transport Note 1/95 and 2/95) which state that:

- Recommended footway width at crossing point to be a minimum of 2 meters, to be sufficient for both pedestrians waiting to cross and pedestrians walking along the footway;
- Zebra crossings are generally only used when the speed limit is 30mph or below and they should not be installed on roads with an 85th percentile speed of 35 mph or above.

- 2.11 Results from surveys above show that the majority of pedestrians' movements happen near the junction with Quinta Drive (A-B movements), however, the demand of pedestrians crossing the road at this location is very low. It has been noted that the pedestrian movement might be associated with the presence of the eastbound bus stop which serves commuters travelling to the High Barnet area.
- 2.12 Speed along this stretch of road is above 30mph. As expected, speed is slightly reduced approaching the junction with Quinta Drive as the traffic tends to slow down to allow turning manoeuvres or stopping behind stationary buses at bus stops.
- 2.13 Having taken into account the low demand of pedestrians crossing the road, that there have not been accidents involving pedestrians at junction with Quinta Drive and that the footway is not wide enough at the moment, it is not proposed to progress the investigation of any additional traffic management measures at this current time, especially given the low demand of pedestrians.
- 2.14 Officers met with Cllr Longstaff on site in January 2020, to assess the situation and to have a better understanding of the need of a zebra crossing in the area. Officers explained the reasons for their recommendation not to proceed with the proposals at this moment in time. It was explained how a new zebra crossing on Barnet Road near Quinta Drive would exceed the £25k allocated budget for Area Scheme as it would involve the widening of the footway on the north side, removing part of the vegetation, the electrical works for the belisha beacons of the crossing and an ad hoc traffic management during the works being on a major road.
- 2.15 Due to the current limited number of pedestrian movements Officers feel that the costs do not, at this current time, justify the proposals.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 Another option considered would be the installation of a set of traffic islands to serve as uncontrolled crossing. However, this option has been rejected by Officers as the width of the carriageway is not enough to accommodate this type of crossing.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Should the Committee decide to agree with the recommendations in this report, no further action is recommended at this location, although monitoring of vehicle speeds will continue to take place.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The scheme will help to address the Corporate Plan delivery objectives of “a clean and attractive environment, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic”, “Barnet’s children and young people will receive a great start in life”, “Barnet will be amongst the safest places in London” and “a responsible approach to regeneration, with thousands of new homes built” by helping residents to feel confident walking to school, helping to reduce traffic congestion.

5.1.2 Improvements that encourage walking or other active travel will help to deliver the active travel and recreation opportunities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for children and the population generally.

5.1.3 The Joint Strategic Needs also identifies that encouraging travel by foot, bicycle or public transport could drive good lifestyle behaviours and reduced demand for health and social care services.

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

5.2.1 As the recommendation is not to proceed with any improvements at this location, no additional funding is required from The Chipping Barnet Area Committee CIL funding.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 None in relation to this scheme.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1. The Council’s Constitution, in Article 7, states that that Area Committees: “In relation to the area covered have responsibility for all constituency specific matters relating to the street scene including parking, road safety, transport, allotments” parks and trees.

5.4.2. The Traffic Management Act 2004 places obligations on authorities to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic on their road network. Authorities are required to make arrangements as they consider appropriate for planning and carrying out the action to be taken in performing the duty.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 None in the context of this report. Risk management may be required for work resulting from this report.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires a decision-maker to have 'due regard' to achieving a number of equality goals: (i) to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; (ii) to advance equality of opportunity between those with protected characteristics and those without; and (iii) to foster good relations between persons with a relevant protected characteristic and those without. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. It also covers marriage and civil partnership with regard to eliminating discrimination.
- 5.6.2 The safety elements incorporated benefit all road users equally as they would improve safety and traffic flow at those locations.
- 5.6.3 The proposal is not expected to disproportionately disadvantage or benefit individual members of the community.

5.7. Corporate Parenting

- 5.7.1. Not applicable in the context of this report

5.8. Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1. If the scheme is not progressed no Consultation will be required.

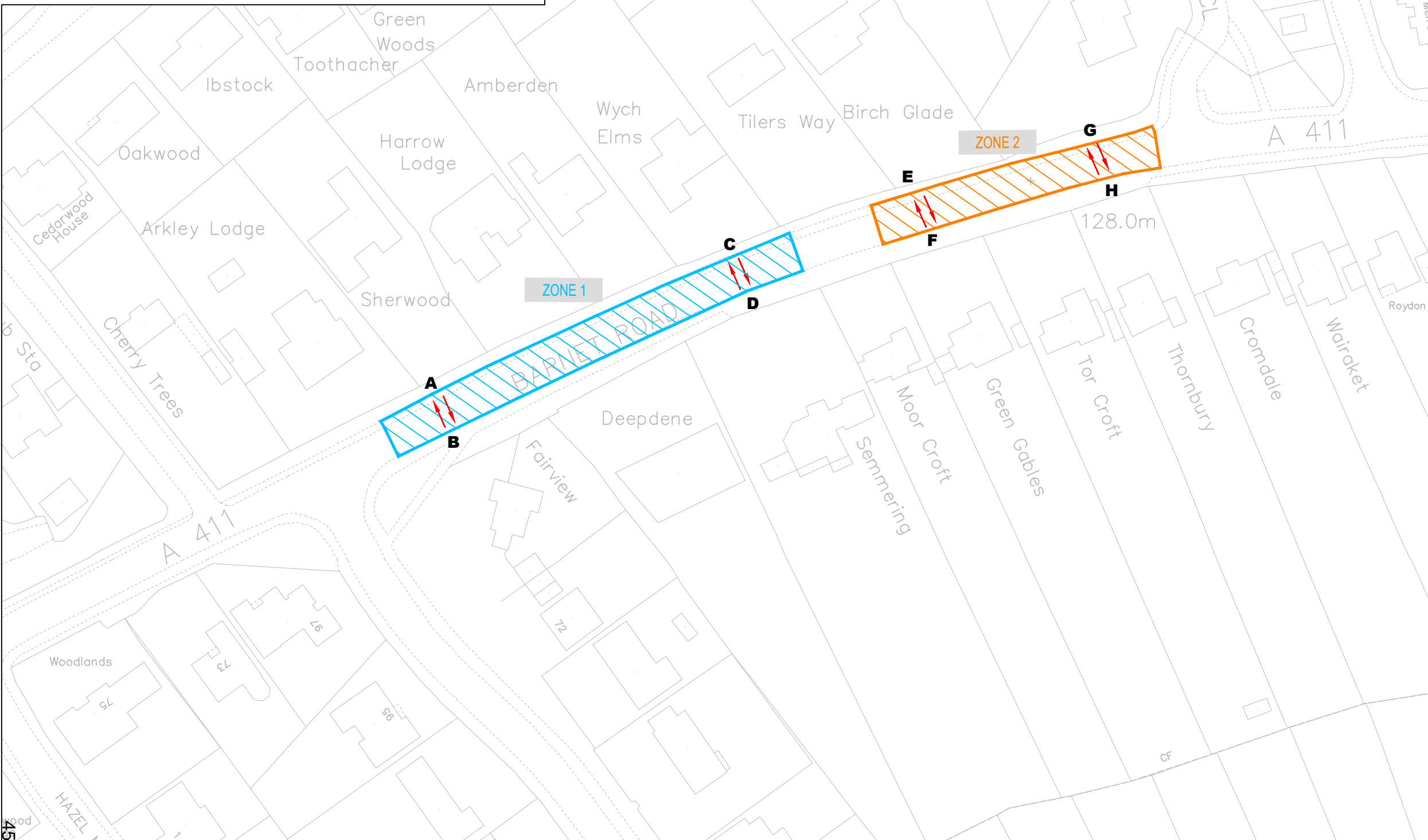
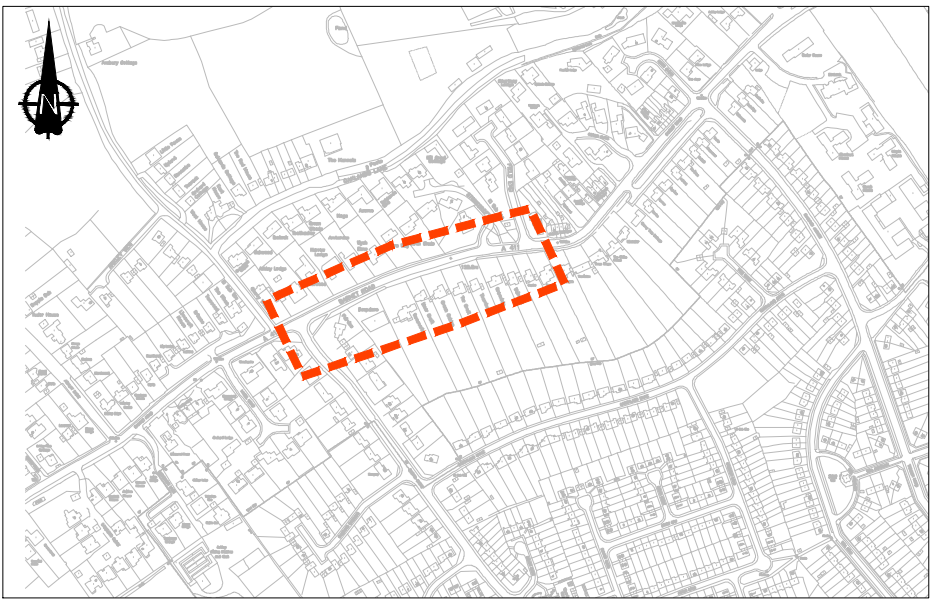
5.9. Insight

- 5.9.1. The options developed for the scheme were informed through analysis of injury accident data and on-site observations of the issues.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Chipping Barnet Area Committee 3 October 2019
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=7111&MIId=9879&Ve r=4>

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SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

For construction, maintenance, cleaning and demolition risk refer to the relevant method statements and risk assessments related to this task for scheme Ref. BC/001495. In addition to the hazard/risks normally associated with the types of work detailed on this drawing take note of the following. All works on this drawing will be carried out by a competent contractor working to an appropriate method statement and risk assessment.

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REVISION

Revision Details	Design/Check	Date	Rev.
Initial issue			

Purpose of issue: **DRAFT**

Client: **BARNET LONDON BOROUGH**

Scheme Ref. BC/001750-07-01
Scheme title: **BARNET ROAD ZEBRA CROSSING**

Drawing title: **PEDS SURVEY**

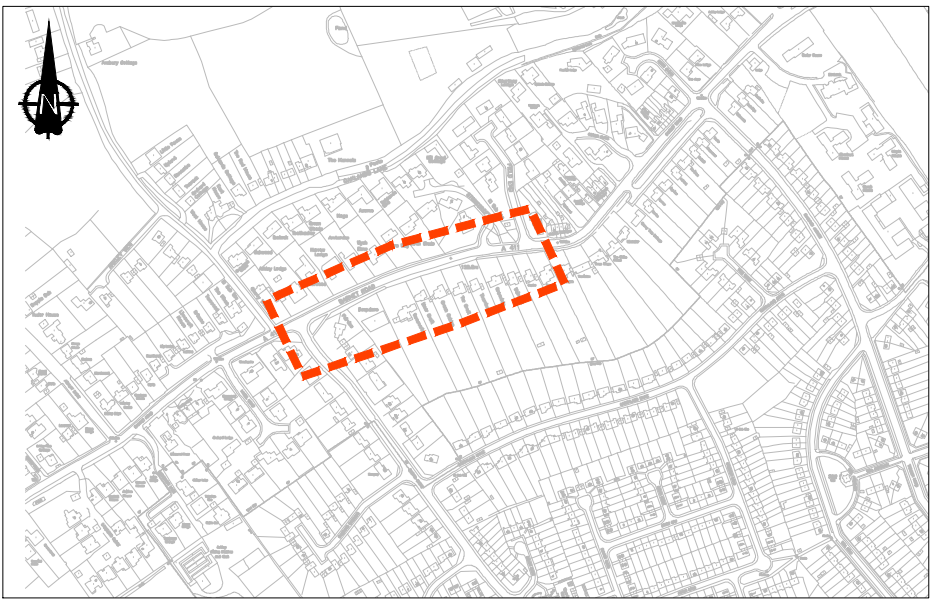
Scale @ A3: NTS

Design	Drawn	Checked	Approved
DP	DP	FR	GL
Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19

Traffic and Development
London Borough of Barnet, Barnet House,
11th Floor Highways, 1255 High Road,
Whelstone, London N20 0EJ

BC/001750-07-01_3300_01 Rev. 0

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REVISION

Revision Details	Design/Check	Date	Rev.
Initial issue			

Purpose of issue: **DRAFT**

Client: **BARNET LONDON BOROUGH**

Scheme Ref. BC/001750-07-01
 Scheme title: **BARNET ROAD ZEBRA CROSSING**

Drawing title: **SPEED SURVEY**

Scale @ A3: NTS

Design	Drawn	Checked	Approved
DP	DP	FR	GL
Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19	Date: 11/11/19

Traffic and Development
 London Borough of Barnet, Barnet House,
 11th Floor Highways, 1255 High Road,
 Welsham, London N20 0EJ

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London Borough of Barnet
Environment Committee Work Programme

November 2020 – Jan 2021

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
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25th November 2020

Business Planning and Fees & Charges	Committee to approve the business planning and Fees & Charges report.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
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18th January 2021

Traffic, Parking and CPZ strategic policy review	Committee to comment on the Traffic, Parking and CPZ policy review, including effectiveness of 20MPH, impact, forward plan, ease of implementation and deaths / seriously injured.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
NRP Programme 2021/22	Committee to approve the 21/22 Network Recovery Programme. Subject to funding agreed through a future Capital Board and P&R Committee.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
Enforcement report	In June 2020 EC agreed to have update on policy on fly tipping, including better education, communication and enforcement, particularly penalty charges for littering and fly tipping.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
Remedial action for tree root damage on the Highway	Committee to note the process and guidance to be considered.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Public Rights of Way and Application for a Modification Order to add paths to the Definitive Map	Committee to note the progress with the management of Public Rights of Way service and consider the priorities for the service for 21/22. Committee to also note the application of a legal Modification Order and agree to an amendment to the Councils Definitive Map.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
11th March 2021			
Time Banding Review	Committee to consider the review of Time Banding and recommendations for change.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key
Parks Car Park Charging	Committee request that the description for car parks and changing charging be amended.	Chair of the Environment Committee	Non-key

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