

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MEETING</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DATE AND TIME</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MONDAY 8TH MARCH, 2021</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AT 7.00 PM</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VENUE</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VIRTUAL MEETING, PLEASE VIEW AT THIS LINK: <a href="https://cutt.ly/1IU7NRN">https://cutt.ly/1IU7NRN</a></p>

**TO: MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE  
(Quorum 3)**

Chairman: Cllr Reuben Thompstone  
Vice Chairman: Cllr Roberto Weeden-Sanz

**Councillors**

Roberto Weeden-Sanz

Jennifer Grocock

Helene Richman

Charlie O-Macauley

Sara Conway

Zakia Zubairi

Danny Rich

Nizza Fluss

Lachhya Bahadur Gurung

**Substitute Members**

In line with the Constitution's Public Participation and Engagement Rules, requests to submit public questions must be submitted by 10AM on the third working day before the date of the committee meeting. Therefore, the deadline for this meeting is **Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10AM**. Requests must be submitted to Tracy Scollin Tel 020 8359 2315 [tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk)

**You are requested to attend the above meeting for which an agenda is attached.  
Andrew Charlwood – Head of Governance**

Governance Services contact: [tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk), Tel 020 8359 2315  
Media Relations Contact: Tristan Garrick 020 8359 2454

**ASSURANCE GROUP**

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	Minutes of last meeting	3 - 10
2.	Absence of Members (If any)	
3.	Declaration of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary interests and Non Pecuniary interests (If any)	
4.	Report of the Monitoring Officer (If any)	
5.	Public Comments and Questions (If any)	
6.	Members' Items (If any)	11 - 14
7.	Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy	15 - 42
8.	Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project Update To follow	
9.	Item Referred from Environment Committee Make Our Parks Safer (Environment Committee, 25.11.20)	43 - 66
10.	Work Programme	67 - 70
11.	Any item(s) the Chairman decides are urgent	

## **Decisions of the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee**

18 November 2020

Members Present:-

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

Councillor Reuben Thompstone (Chairman)  
Councillor Roberto Weeden-Sanz (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Jennifer Grocock	Councillor Sara Conway
Councillor Helene Richman	Councillor Charlie O-Macauley
Councillor Nizza Fluss	Councillor Danny Rich
Councillor Lachhya Gurung	Councillor Zakia Zubairi

### **1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September were approved as an accurate record.

### **2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS (IF ANY)**

None.

### **3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS (IF ANY)**

Cllr Rich declared an interest under item 8 – he is a Youth Magistrate in another Borough.

### **4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)**

None.

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

None.

### **6. MEMBERS' ITEMS (IF ANY)**

None.

### **7. RE-PROVISION OF HENDON LIBRARY AND LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE, RELOCATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES RESOURCE SERVICE**

The Chairman introduced the item, noting that this is a great opportunity for Barnet further to the building of new libraries in other areas of the Borough, bringing new technology and being part of a wider regeneration of the Hendon area.

Cllr Conway made the following queries and comments:

- Cllr Conway requested callover ahead of future CLLC meetings so that the Labour Group can be fully briefed. This was agreed.

**Action: Governance Officer**

- Hendon Library is of historic importance locally and nationally. Cllr Conway felt that the consultation process seemed relatively quick and requested more details about it.

Ms Richens, Head of Library Services reported that the consultation would be phased over a long period of time, beginning in spring 2021. This would be subject to Policy & Resources Committee's agreement of the proposals in December. There would be detailed discussions with residents on what they want from the new site and a range of engagement activities.

- How would the new library's floor space compare to the current library, including prior to Middlesex University leasing part of the latter?

Ms Richens responded that proposed footprint is around 800sq metres; around 150 metres larger than the current site, with a more efficient use of space than the present building. Ms Richens would respond after the meeting on the size of the library before the lease to Middlesex University.

**Action: Ms Richens**

- How would archive material be stored? This is a valuable resource. For example, the stained-glass windows of the old Church End Library had been damaged and lost in the process of the new one being built.

Ms Richens noted that Barnet's archivist, Mr Petrie would be closely involved in this so that items would be stored appropriately.

- How much was being spent on the recent refurbishment of Hendon Town Hall?

This information was not available at the meeting and this is not covered in the report, which related to the libraries only.

- As Middlesex University is looking to modernise library sites, Burnt Oak Library frontage and site needs refurbishment more urgently than Hendon Library. There appears to be a divorce between libraries in most people's understanding, and the estates that a council manages.

Ms Richens responded that she had discussed the infrastructure development plan with the Growth Team and this had included a discussion about Burnt Oak Library.

- Cllr Rich asked about the current car park, used by Members and officers, where the new library would be situated.

Ms Richens noted that it was unclear whether anyone other than Members and officers used the car park. The Chairman noted that it is not heavily used and that he felt confident that officers would look into this.

- Cllr Fluss commented that as Hendon Ward Councillor she could not see the reason to leave the Grade II Listed Hendon Library or why it would benefit Barnet residents.

She asked whether Middlesex University would pay for the Library at Egerton Road and what the cost would be. Would there be anything else on the site? Where will the car park be? The report states that the Egerton Road site is too small for the School Libraries Resource Centre and that this will have to be relocated. How much would this relocation cost and what would be the true cost of the new library including this? How much would the rent be?

Cllr Fluss noted that she had seen the figure of £30,000 for relocation and asked why the Council would pay this, when it has an adequate library already? How can the Council be assured that Middlesex University will be able to fund this?

The Chairman noted that the recommendations in the report were for the Committee to comment, and that approval would be sought at Policy & Resources Committee. Such representations could be requested of Policy & Resources Committee. He added that CLLC is considering the library and not the wider development.

Ms Richens confirmed that issues around the Hendon Hub would be discussed at Policy & Resources Committee, so she did not have the detailed information requested on funding. She had been informed that the Members' car parking would be re-provided. Parking and traffic would be part of the broader consideration of the scheme.

Ms Richens noted that she understood the architectural significance and importance of the current building, though it is not deemed to be necessarily a good location for a modern library service. The new library would have more space and be able to provide a wider range of services. The current building is difficult, expensive to manage and not energy efficient.

- Cllr O-Macauley asked how much input would be invited from the community during the consultation period about Burnt Oak Library. Ms Richens responded that the scheme was not at this point but for Hendon Library there would be multiple approaches including surveys, displays, drop-in sessions and co-creation sessions.

**That Committee RESOLVED to note the proposal to re-provide Hendon library as part of the new Hendon Hub development and to relocate the School Libraries Resources Service (SLRS).**

## **8. BUSINESS PLANNING 2020-2025**

The Chairman introduced the report (supplement version with amendments). He reported that further to publication he had been informed of a typo: the third paragraph of the 'summary' section states that there is a shortfall in savings for 2021-22 of £5.618million, whereas it is clear from the table below that this should have stated £3.890million.

- Cllr Fluss referred to page 25 of the report - increase promotion and invest in Hendon Town Hall (HTH) - does Middlesex University, since it leases HTH, pay for all works there as part of their lease?

Mr May, Head of Customer and Digital Services, responded that full detailed proposals would be worked up in 2021 to enable implementation in the financial year 22/23. Initially the proposal is to increase income and to achieve this would require improvements to HTH. The responsibilities of Middlesex University and the details of any refurbishment would be agreed in 2021.

- Cllr Fluss requested to see the terms of the lease so that if Middlesex University is required to carry out full repairs this can be addressed. Mr May agreed to provide this to Cllr Fluss outside the meeting.

**Action: Mr May**

- Cllr Rich stated that the Law Commission had proposed to liberalise marriage ceremonies which may mean fewer would take place at HTH, resulting in reduced income.

Mr May agreed, adding that this makes it even more important for HTH to be competitive. There would be a consultation in 2021 on the proposals and plans were being made for this potential opportunity.

- Cllr Rich asked about Section 2.30 in the report. He declared an interest by virtue of the fact that he is a Youth Magistrate in another Borough. The report notes an 18% increase in robbery in Barnet over the past year which involved mainly young people stealing from young people.

Mr Khan, Head of Counter Fraud Operations, noted that the Council is in regular contact with the police on such issues and that this problem also affects Brent and Harrow at similar levels. Mr Leng, Community Safety Officer, reported that a small number of minors had been involved and had been responsible for a significant spike in crime. Occasionally individuals from outside the Borough create stark increases in crime. Cllr Rich noted that he would be keen to discuss this further with Mr Leng outside the meeting.

**Action: Mr Leng**

- Cllr Conway asked how the Registration Service had overachieved in its income targets by £200,000 in 2019-20.

Mr May responded that this had happened following a review of the service when it was contracted in to Barnet.

- Cllr Conway noted that it would be helpful to see comparative costs from other Boroughs in relation to the School Libraries Resource Services.

Ms Richens would follow up after the meeting.

**Action: Ms Richens**

- Cllr Conway stated that a lot of people were volunteering especially during the pandemic so she would welcome a volunteer accreditation scheme as part of business planning.

- Cllr Conway expressed her concern that the report did not mention youth violence and only had a small section on domestic abuse and violence. A lot of work had been undertaken by the voluntary and faith sectors on domestic violence recently, including training sessions.

The Director of Assurance noted that both domestic violence and youth violence had been reported to the Safer Communities Partnership Board, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

The Council had responded to the increase in reports of domestic violence during the pandemic, by increasing the frequency of meetings with partners. A piece of work to review the governance of community safety, and coordination of their work programmes, was underway and she would report back.

**Action: Ms Green**

- Cllr Conway noted that there are delays with repairs to lighting in some parts of the Borough, particularly Grahame Park, during the regeneration work. Residents had reported feeling unsafe in some areas due to this.

The Director of Assurance noted that there is a cross-council project considering issues at Grahame Park and a report had been presented to the Housing and Growth Committee. She offered to feed back on the lighting issue and ensure this is picked up and that Cllr Conway is updated.

**Action: Ms Green**

- Cllr Conway felt that the Committee should consider loneliness and isolation in the Borough. It could also be one factor leading to radicalisation of views.
- Cllr Conway reported that food supply had not been mentioned during the second wave of the pandemic. She had experienced a shortage of supplies at Burnt Oak food bank despite generous donations by the voluntary and faith sector. There was concern about the upcoming Christmas holiday.

Mr Cooper, Deputy Head of Strategy – Strategy and Engagement responded that plans were underway for food supplies during the Christmas school holiday, as well as for a grant scheme that Family Services would be leading on. The Central Supplies Hub would be transferred to Barnet Together to manage.

Cllr Conway noted that it is important to organise this close to schools in the Borough for ease of access. Half term had created a lot of panic and placed demands on teachers and the voluntary sector. The Chairman thanked Cllr Conway for raising this issue which the Council is preparing for.

- Cllr Fluss expressed her thanks to the Rt Hon Robert Buckland MP and the Rt Hon Priti Patel MP for their work on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) resulting in £80 million funding being provided to tackle this issue.
- Cllr Fluss requested details of the 19 partnership organisations who are working with the Council to tackle hate crime.

Due to technical issues at the virtual meeting some officers were unable to respond. The Chairman requested that officers highly publicise the referral partnership organisations, particularly in light of the upcoming holiday period and the pandemic.

**Action: Mr Leng**

The Chairman moved to the vote on the officer's recommendations. The vote was recorded as follows:

For – 6  
Against – 0  
Abstained - 4

**The Committee RESOLVED:**

1. **To consider the MTFS proposals that relate to the committee as set out in Appendix A and refer their comments to Policy and Resources Committee for eventual decision by Council.**
2. **To consider the MTFS proposals that relate to the committee as set out in Appendix A and refer their comments to Policy and Resources Committee for eventual decision by Council.**
3. **To note the updates on the Recovery Planning Programme provided.**
4. **To approve the continuing work on the Recovery Planning Programme for the service areas it is responsible for, including any next steps outlined in this report.**

## **9. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee received the Forward Plan.

Cllr Conway requested a more proactive and strategic approach to focusing on delivery and prioritisation of issues, and a mechanism for improved engagement and scrutiny. She noted that the Mayor of London has implemented an action plan to look at the Metropolitan police and BAME communities in particular which has parallels with issues raised at the meeting about the dialogue between the police and communities and how this is managed by the Council and others. Cllr Conway suggested that she discuss this with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CLLC and that papers from SCPB be shared with CLLC.

Cllr Conway added that the Safer Neighbourhoods Board provides a community voice around crime and including it at CLLC would provide added scrutiny. There may be other issues Members are aware of that don't get reported to CLLC, so scrutiny is missed. The Borough Command Unit reports appeared to have been left off the agenda, as well as domestic violence. Also given the conversations about cladding and fire safety it would be helpful to discuss this at CLLC.

The Chairman responded that issues can straddle two committees and the risk is that they will be reported to Policy & Resources Committee as a result. Many of the topics discussed at CLLC are part of periodic reviews, and the schedule allows officers time to put together meaningful information that Members can interrogate. He noted that he would be happy to discuss this further with Cllr Conway outside the meeting.

**Action: Chairman, Cllr Conway**

Cllr Weeden-Sanz noted that there is a risk of duplicating work for officers if the correct mechanisms for highlighting issues are not used. Callover would be offered as agreed earlier in the meeting, and maybe training should be improved if required to fully support Members to raise issues that have not been highlighted elsewhere, through the appropriate channels.

**10. ANY ITEM(S) THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

Cllr Conway expressed her thanks to the Young Barnet Foundation for their Christmas Gifts Appeal, and to all organisations involved in the Bringing Smiles to Your Door Campaign. She also thanked the voluntary sector for their recent meeting on equality and diversity at OneStonegrove which will make a huge contribution on wellbeing and safety in the Borough.

The meeting finished at 8.36 pm

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# Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Members' Items</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	All Wards
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Tracy Scollin, 020 8359 2315 <a href="mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk">tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk</a>

## Summary

A Member's Item has been received for the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee. The Committee are requested to consider the item and provide instructions.

## Officers Recommendation

That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee's (CLLC) instructions in relation to the Member's Item is requested.

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

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

<b>Zakia Zubairi</b>	<p><b>Hendon Library and the Hendon Hub</b></p> <p>There has been significant concern from residents and community concern over the plans for the Hendon Hub, and particularly for Hendon Library - Barnet Council's flagship Library.</p> <p>Despite assurances given and the consultation exercise residents remain very concerned that the temporary move of Hendon Library from its current iconic and historical building will end up being permanent, with the library reduced to a portacabin in a car park.</p> <p>Residents are also concerned about the works and wish Hendon Library to remain in its current location and building.</p> <p>I ask that the plans are reviewed and amended to ensure that the Library can stay where it currently is in its current iconic and historical building.</p>
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## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee is 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.

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community Leadership and Libraries Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">AGENDA ITEM 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8 March 2021</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Annual Update</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Councillor Reuben Thompstone</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Peter Clifton, Community Safety Manager</p> <p>Peter.clifton@barnet.gov.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0208 359 3120</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p>
<p>This report provides the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee with an update on the delivery and implementation of the Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls 2017-2020 Strategy.</p> <p>The Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2017-2020 sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership (BSCP) works to prevent and respond Domestic Abuse, and underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).</p> <p>This report reviews delivery and data across the 2019/20 performance year (April 2019-March 2020) although in some places refers to more recent data and trends, including matters relating to service delivery and continuity during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee note and comment on the progress made by the Safer Communities Partnership on delivering the four priority objectives of the Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Barnet Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy sets out how the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership works to prevent and respond Domestic Abuse and underlines the partnership's commitment to working together to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- 1.2 The Community and Leadership Committee (CLC) endorsed the *Barnet VAWG strategy 2017-2020* on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017.
- 1.3 The delivery of the Barnet VAWG strategy is overseen by the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board ('BSCP'). This is in line with the responsibility of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership ('BSCP' or 'the Partnership') for producing and implementing an overall partnership strategy for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 1.4 Within the overall Barnet Community Safety Strategy, one of the seven priority objectives is that: *"The Safer Communities Partnership prevents violence against women and girls, improves outcomes for victims and their children and holds perpetrators to account."*
- 1.5 The Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership Delivery Group (a sub group of the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board) brings together partner organisations in the borough so that they can work together to respond to VAWG with the aim of preventing it and reducing the harm it causes to victims, their families and the wider community. This group agrees an annual VAWG delivery plan setting out the key partnership activities required, in order to deliver against the four partnership priorities within the Barnet VAWG strategy.
- 1.6 The four partnership priorities within the Barnet VAWG strategy are:
  - Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
  - Improving outcomes for victims and their children
  - Holding perpetrators to account

- Enhancing joint working practices between agencies

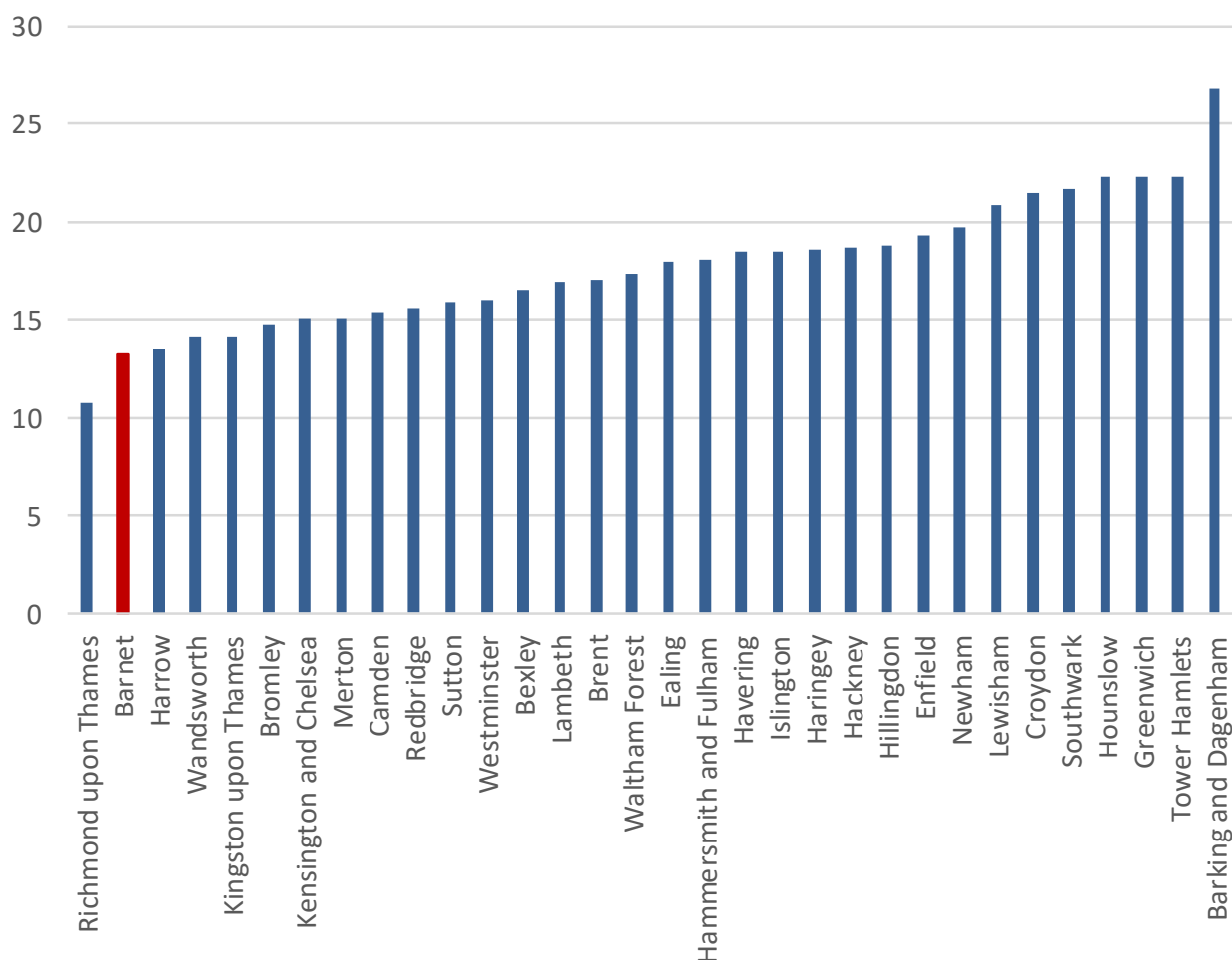
## 1. BACKGROUND CONTEXT

### 1.7 Performance

- The rate of DA incidents in Barnet is 13.3 per 1000 population (12 months to September 2020). This is the 2nd lowest rate of all 32 London boroughs.

1

Domestic Abuse incidents per 1000 population in the  
previous 12 months

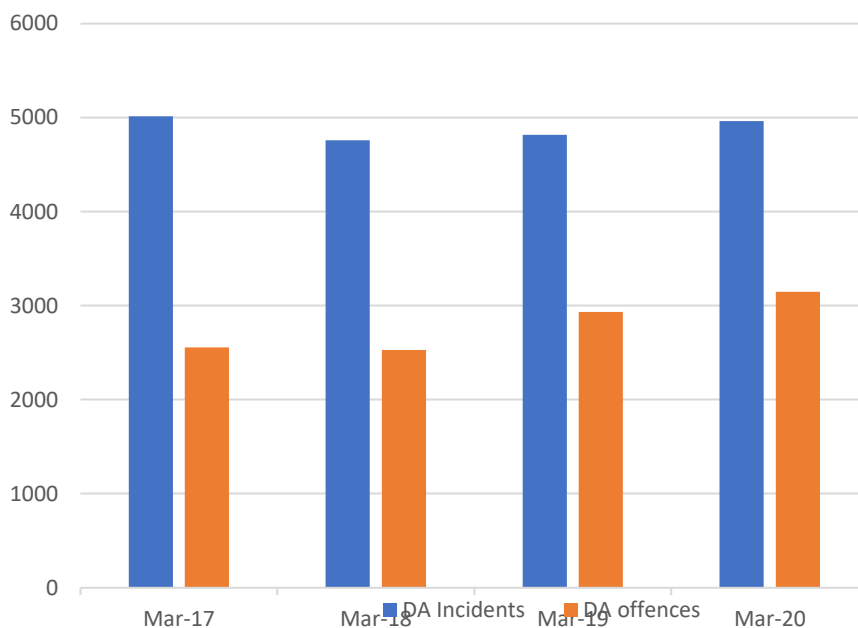


<sup>1</sup> Data to September 2020

- The table below shows the number of DA incidents and offences in Barnet. Over the last three years there has been an upward trend in the proportion of incidents which result in being classified as offences.

Rolling 12 months	March 2017	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020
DA Incidents	5013	4757	4815	4960
DA offences	2556	2528	2933	3146
% of incidents that become offences	51%	53%	61%	63%

Police data recorded for Rolling 12 months DA incidents and DA offences in Barnet



- Barnet's rate of DA incidents in Barnet is **13.3** per 1000 population (12 months to March 2020). This is the 2nd lowest rate of all 32 London boroughs.
- There were 807 Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by the police in Barnet in 2019/20 (an increase of **0.5%** compared to the previous year).
- In the 12 months between April 2019 and March 2020, for Violence with Injury Domestic Abuse offences, **110** suspects were identified and proceeded against by police. This equates to a Sanction Detection Rate of **13.6%**, down from **17%** a year ago.

1.7.1 Over the last 12 months<sup>2</sup> (2019/2020) the Domestic Abuse MARAC has received **363** referrals of high-risk cases of domestic abuse with **238** children in the households. The number of families with children were **154**.

1.7.2 An assessment of the DA MARAC referrals over a 12-month period<sup>3</sup> from April 2019 to March 2020 showed that:

- In Barnet the peak age range for both victims (33%) and perpetrators (27%) for cases heard at DA MARAC between 31-40 years old. At national level, women aged 20 to 24 years were more likely to be victims of any domestic abuse in the last year than women aged 25 years and over.
- 95% of victims referred to Domestic Abuse MARAC are female
- 95% of perpetrators at the Domestic Abuse MARAC are male
- 24% of perpetrators had a mental health issue (up from 16% a year ago), 8% had an alcohol misuse issue, and 16% had a drugs misuse issue (up from 12% from previous year)
- 41% of victims in the cohort had a mental health issue (up from 21% a year ago), 6% had an alcohol misuse issue, and 5% had a drugs misuse issue (up from 2% the previous year)
- There were 42 (11%) cases involved child to parent violence (compared to 7.5% a year ago)
- There were 17 requests (5% of DA MARAC cases) for Clare's Law at the DA MARAC in 2019/20

**[ continued on next page ]**

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<sup>2</sup> 12 months up to March 2020

<sup>3</sup> 12 months to March 2020

1.8 From April 2019 to March 2020, the profile of service users at our DA support services in Barnet are:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Other factors</b>
Solace Advocacy and Support Service	<b>98%</b> female victims <b>2%</b> male victims	<b>31%</b> of service users between 31-40 <b>21 %</b> between 41-50	<b>7%</b> of SUs with mental health disability  <b>3%</b> -SUs with problematic drug use <b>4%</b> -SUs with problematic alcohol use <b>31%</b> -SUs with mental health issues
DA MARAC victims	<b>95%</b> female victims <b>5%</b> male victims	<b>21 %</b> of Service Users between 41-50 <b>33%</b> of service users between 31-40	<b>5%</b> -SUs with problematic drug use <b>6%</b> -SUs with problematic alcohol use <b>41%</b> -SUs with mental health issues  <b>3%</b> -SUs with problematic alcohol and drug use
DA MARAC perpetrators	<b>95%</b> alleged male perpetrators of abuse (APOA) <b>5%</b> alleged female perpetrators of abuse	<b>17%</b> of APOA between 41-50 <b>28%</b> of APOA between 31-40	<b>16%</b> - APOA with drug misuse <b>8%</b> - APOA with alcohol misuse <b>24%</b> - APOA with mental health issues  <b>5%</b> -APOA with problematic alcohol and drug use

## Partnership activity highlights

1.9 Partnership work delivered under the Barnet VAWG Strategy has included:

- Barnet Council's continued funding of specialist services for victims of DA and VAWG; this includes refuge provision, IDVA Services, the Domestic Abuse MARAC and the perpetrator programme
- Between April 2019 and March 2020 Solace Women's Aid received **1169** referrals to Barnet's IDVA service, up from **1144** in the previous year; 100 women and children supported in the Barnet refuge service; and our DA MARAC, delivered by Hestia, received **363** referrals with **238** children within these households
- Barnet council commission RISE Mutual CLC to deliver an adult and young people's perpetrator service to support perpetrators in changing their behaviour. Between April 2019 and March 2020, **61** adult perpetrators received interventions under the Perpetrator Behaviour Change programs
- Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) is a drop-in service for early intervention and advice for victims of Domestic Abuse. The OSS which is delivered by Barnet Homes (with partners including Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, Asian Women's Resource Centre, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate and Cyber Care) has provided advice and support to **443** victims of Domestic Abuse in the 12 months to March 2020.

## Delivering the VAWG Strategy in 2019/2020

2.1 The following section provides an update on the partnership activities delivered under the 2018/19 VAWG delivery plan, taking each of the four Barnet VAWG Strategy priorities in turn:

- Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls
- Improving outcomes for victims and their children
- Holding perpetrators to account
- Enhancing joint working practices between agencies

2.1.1 Work is currently underway to refresh the Barnet Domestic Abuse and VAWG Strategy. The necessary focus on Domestic Abuse business continuity during the lockdown periods (see section 2.24: *COVID-19 and Business Continuity refresh COVID-19 and Business Continuity for details*) has pushed back the achievable timescales for completion and launch of the refreshed strategy. The refreshed strategy will be brought before the Community Leadership and Libraries Committee in June 2021 for a September 2021 launch.

## Priority: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls

- 2.2 This priority aims to prevent violence against women and girls by focusing on changing attitudes and behaviour that foster violence against women and girls, and by intervening earlier.
- 2.3 What's available in the Borough of Barnet? For a detailed list of the range of Domestic Abuse services available in Barnet please see *Appendix 1*.
- 2.3.1 Some of the key partnership activities that have been delivered or have taken place during 2019/20 to make this happen have been:
- VAWG Training
  - Awareness raising campaigns
  - A Healthy relationships education programme
  - Women's refuge provision
  - Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service provision
  - Domestic Abuse Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
  - Barnet Sanctuary Scheme

### VAWG Training

- 2.4 A *Partnership VAWG Skills and Training Needs* analysis was conducted and an annual VAWG Partnership Training Plan was developed for 2018/20. The training plan sought to foster an approach across the partnership whereby every encounter with a service user experiencing or perpetrating domestic abuse would be made to count, and be seen as an opportunity for an intervention.

Table 1: Training participation (12 months to March 2020)

Training Course	Attendance numbers
MARAC	51
Online domestic abuse & sexual awareness	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

The Online domestic abuse & sexual awareness take up has increased since April 2020.

- 2.5 The 119 attendees came from different service areas and partner agencies, including Family Services, Adult Social care and Barnet Homes as well as other statutory and non-statutory partnership agencies.

- 2.6 Barnet homes have made the Online Domestic Abuse and sexual awareness training compulsory for front line professionals. As a result, the uptake of this course has increased considerably.

#### Awareness raising campaigns

- 2.7 The partnership VAWG Communications plan has overseen the delivery of a publicity campaign focused on raising awareness about Domestic Abuse, the unacceptability of abusive behaviour, and encouraging people to report domestic abuse.
- 2.8 In addition, the Children Workforce Development team has secured funding (in March 2019) for a one-day awareness campaign in Barnet focused on 'Supporting victims of modern day slavery, human trafficking and prostitution'. The campaign took place on 05 March 2019 at Hendon town Hall where 110 participants from the communities, voluntary and statutory sectors attended. The recommendations will be developed into an action plan lead by Public Health Strategist and Chair of Adult Safeguarding Board.
- 2.9 Sadly, death as a result of domestic abuse is an all too frequent and tragic reality. When this happens, the law says that professionals involved in the case must conduct a multi-agency Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) to identify what changes can be made to reduce the risk of similar incidents happening in the future. The purpose of Domestic Homicide Reviews is not to assign blame or responsibility but to understand what lessons there are to be learned and make recommendations based on those lessons as to how we can better work together to prevent future homicides. During 2020 Barnet Safer Communities Partnership published the learning from a Domestic Homicide Review and organised a Webinar on 26 November 2020 on 'Identifying and Mitigating Risk in Adult Family Abuse Cases: Learning from a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)' to discuss and raise awareness around the learning from the review (including in relation the factors to consider when assessing risk in families where the complexities of mental illness, substance misuse, and elders with vulnerabilities exist, and, importantly, how best to mitigate those risks to reduce serious harm).

#### Healthy relationships education programme

- 2.10 A Healthy Relationships training programme has been developed for schools in Barnet. The training focuses on educating young people about healthy relationships and about abuse (including online-abuse) and reinforces the importance of respect and consent in relationships.

- 2.11 From April 2019 onwards the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO) Charity has completed extensive work in Archer Academy, providing training for all students on healthy relationships and also their teachers. Along with this they have provided 2-day training on healthy relationships to Hendon School and Pavilion PRU.
- 2.12 This priority aims to improve outcomes for victims and their children by focusing on intervening in the right way, at the right time, with the right services.

### Women's refuge provision

- 2.13 Solace Women's Aid are commissioned by the Barnet Council to provide two women's refuges for Barnet. A third women's refuge (Minerva House) is run by Barnet homes. Barnet Homes has been successful in securing for the fourth time £100,000 of funding from the MHCLG to support the continuation the Minerva House provision in 2019/20.
- 2.14 Minerva House supports women who approach Barnet Homes fleeing domestic abuse. It provides victims with supported refuge accommodation and thereby can sometimes help avoid victims being isolated in temporary accommodation far away from their support networks.

Table 3: Refuge provision in Barnet for 2019/2020

Refuge	Bed space	Support provided in 2018/19
<b>Minerva House</b>	6 bed spaces	Supported <b>16</b> women and <b>13</b> children
<b>Hannah House and Arlene House</b>	18 bed spaces	Supported <b>39</b> women and <b>32</b> children fleeing domestic abuse

## IDVA service provision

2.15 During 2019/20 the Solace Women's Aid IDVA service in Barnet supported 1346 new service users, up from 1169 in 2018/19- a 15% increase.

Table 4: DV referrals to Barnet Solace Advocacy and Support Service

Number of Solace Referrals	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Financial Year 2019-2020
New Service Users	330	355	347	331	<b>1346</b>
DASH Risk assessments & Safety advice given	160	177	158	209	<b>704</b>
High risk cases receiving IDVA service	37	47	40	42	<b>166</b>
Total Service Users Leaving the Service	79	115	100	116	<b>395</b>

2.16 The top five sources of referrals into the Advocacy service during this period (by volume) were:

- the One Stop Shop (21%)
- the Domestic Abuse MARAC (19%)
- Self-referrals, Family and Friends (18%),
- the Police (14%),
- and Family Services (9%)



- 2.17 A review of the IDVA services was conducted in March 2019. The aim of the review was to ensure our IDVA services are accessible and delivered at the right place and right time to meet local demand as well as identifying areas where increased IDVA support was required for victims. As a result of the findings of this review a number of steps were taken, including to increase the links between IDVA services and Mental Health Services – see section 2.20 for further details.
- 2.18 In addition to the locally commissioned IDVA service, MOPAC commission Victim Support to provide an uplift in IDVAs across London. This provision is called the *Integrated Victims and Witnesses Service*. MOPAC have recently completed a review and re-organisation of the allocation of the Victim Support IDVAs to align the provision with the Police BCUs (Basic Command Units).

- 2.19 As a result of this review exercise the following IDVAs have been colocated with various services in the borough to improve on referral pathways:
- Victim Support provides 1 IDVA (MOPAC funded) based at the **Barnet hospital**
  - One Solace IDVA based at **Springwell, Mental Health department, Barnet Hospital**
  - One Solace IDVA supports **Children and Adult MASH**. The IDVA to access both MASH data systems to speed up referral pathways (4 days per week plus one day at Solace Office)
  - One Solace IDVA at **Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop** (one day per week-afternoon to work at Barnet Homes) to work jointly with the One Stop Shop Coordinator for complex cases
  - One Solace IDVA co-located at **Colindale Police station 3 days a week**
  - Victim Support IDVA covers **2 days at Colindale Police Station**
  - One Solace Case worker is the **young person's lead**
  - One IDVA-3 days a week at **Jewish Women's Aid**
  - One Solace Case worker covers **duty and admin work** to relieve IDVAs of the duty work so that they can carry more specialised work
  - 3 volunteers recruited to support the Solace office in admin work
  - **Solace Senior IDVA** – to deliver the role of **LGBT/Male victim lead in addition to MARAC lead and supervision**

#### Domestic Abuse MARAC

- 2.20 Over the last 12 months (2019/20) the Domestic Abuse MARAC has received 363 referrals of high-risk cases of domestic abuse. There were 238 children within those households. The percentage of repeat MARAC referrals is 13.2% as compared to the national figure of 31% of repeat cases seen at the MARACs. The main sources of referrals to the Domestic Abuse MARAC are the Met Police, Barnet Solace Advocacy and support Service (SASS) and Victim Support.

Number of Service Users (12 months to March 2020)	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Financial Year 2019-2020
Number of MARAC Referrals	107	90	96	70	363
Number of Children in the Household	80	61	52	45	238
No. of families with children	50	44	31	29	154
Number of repeat MARAC Referrals	16	14	8	10	48
% of Repeat MARAC Referrals	33.3%	29.2%	16.7%	20.8%	13.2%

### Barnet Homes Sanctuary Scheme

2.21 The Barnet Homes Sanctuary Scheme helps victims of domestic abuse, who live in Barnet, to remain in their own home, if it is safe to do so, by increasing the security at their home. In the last year, **65** homes received crime prevention security measures under the Barnet Homes Sanctuary scheme.

### COVID-19 and Business Continuity

2.22 DA MARAC – We have implemented a fourfold increase in the frequency of the Domestic Abuse MARAC meetings – a change from monthly to weekly MARAC meetings. As a result, there is now a faster turnaround between referral of complex DA cases and multi-agency risk review and actions at the MARAC. The MARAC assessed risk and put in place risk reduction plans for complex/high risk DV cases – at the moment approximately 4 – 10 cases are being referred into the DV MARAC each week.

2.23 All the DV services commissioned by the local authority (including the IDVA service, Refugees service, Perpetrator and Perpetrator Programme) have made adjustments to their operating models so that they can continue to operate effectively under the coronavirus restrictions – all are accepting referrals and delivering their interventions and support services. Details of how to access these services as well as other DA related services delivered by the VCFS can be found

here: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/community-safety/help-and-support-domestic-or-sexual-abuse>

2.24 As part of the Recovery process the Barnet DA and VAWG Delivery Board and weekly Practitioners leads meeting will continue monitor and adjust the delivery model as required in response to and anticipation of the changing circumstances.

2.25 We have also launched a public communications campaign including a new Domestic Abuse poster, updated Website (information for residents and practitioners):

- The new Domestic Abuse poster asks: "Are you worried about domestic or sexual abuse?" and emphasises that "If you are at home due to Coronavirus, then remember you can still get the support that you need. You are NOT alone." The campaign also provides contact details on how to report Domestic Abuse and get support. Please see poster attached which can be shared and freely.
- We have been in contact with a number of supermarket chains in the borough and a number of them have agreed to display the poster inside / outside their stores
- Updated Domestic Abuse web-page:  
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/community/community-safety/help-and-support-domestic-or-sexual-abuse>
- Domestic Abuse – guidance for practitioners  
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/working-children-barnet/practitioner-guidance/violence-against-women-and-girls>

**[ continued on next page ]**

## **Priority: Holding perpetrators to account**

- 2.26 This priority aims to hold perpetrators to account through enforcement, and placing the onus on perpetrators to change their behaviour.
- 2.27 Some of the key partnership activities that have been delivered or have taken place during 2019/20 to make this happen have been:
- Perpetrator programme for Behaviour change
  - Young Person Perpetrators programme
  - Investigation and Enforcement action
  - Tackling online offending

### Perpetrator programme for Behaviour change

- 2.28 Barnet Council commissions Rise Mutual to deliver a domestic abuse perpetrator programme in Barnet aimed at reducing re-offending and repeat victimisation. The programme uses proven evidence-based models for behaviour change. They help perpetrators to take positive and tangible steps to prevent re-offending.
- 2.29 In 2019/20 RISE Mutual received a total of 148 referrals. Of these 100 were for the adult male perpetrator interventions, 13 were for female perpetrator programme and 34 were for the child to parent violence intervention.
- 2.30 Due to the Covid 19 lock down period at the start of March 2020 there was a slight decrease in the referral volume, and this trend continued into April and May. Referrals increased in the months that followed as the frequency of incidents are reported to rise and greater risk to victims have been identified.
- 2.31 Most referrals were received from children's services and early help teams. However, they are promoting referrals via MARAC and other professional services.
- 2.32 RISE Mutual is a support service and therefore relies on service users consenting to engage and attend appointments and sessions.
- 2.33 However, given it is a voluntary attendance service, engagement rates are very positive. Out of the 148-people referred, 99 attended for an initial suitability assessment.
- 2.34 RISE completion rate is also very strong at with 61 service users starting an intervention and 36 completing. There were 23 service users still engaging with an intervention at the end of 2019/20 Q4.

2.35 Despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, RISE perpetrator programme attrition rate in 2019/20 has remained low, and the programme continually looks for ways to reduce the attrition rate.

2.36 Of the 148 cases received, Safe Relationships was the highest intake at 53 cases and made up 35% of the case load. Child Parent Violence was the second highest at 34 and made up 23% of the case load

2.37 Social impact

- The feedback from pre/post questionnaires carried out by RISE to look at the apparent the impact that different programmes are having on service users. 89% of respondents to the pre-intervention survey indicated that they '[have] used strategies to prevent [my] thoughts escalating to emotional abuse or violent behaviour'. This had risen to 100% of respondents in the post intervention survey.
- Also, 88% of respondents to the pre-intervention survey indicated that they: 'acknowledge that [their] behaviour has an impact on [their] children'. This had risen to 100% of respondents in the post intervention survey.

#### Young Person Perpetrators programme

2.38 There has been an increase in the number of referrals to the Domestic Abuse MARAC which relate to cases of child to parent violence. During 2019/20 – 42 cases or 11% of the Domestic Abuse MARAC cases related to abuse perpetrated by a son or daughter towards their parent as compared to 7.5% of the DA MARAC cases in 2018/19 related to abuse by a son or daughter towards their parent

2.39 Rise Mutual delivers a Young Person Perpetrator programme in Barnet. This programme provides one-to-one and group interventions for young people who have been involved in abusive relationships of child to parent violence.

2.40 The Child to Parent Violence one -to-one programme is for 11 to 18-year olds. The Respect and Principles (RAP) Programme is for 13 to 18-year-old males who have been involved in adolescent intimate relationship abuse.

#### Investigation and Enforcement

2.41 There were **807** Domestic Abuse Violence with Injury offences recorded by the police in Barnet in 2019/20 (an increase of 0.5% compared to the previous year).

- 2.42 In the 12 months between April 2019 and March 2020 in Barnet for Violence with Injury Domestic Abuse offences, **110** suspects were identified and proceeded against by police. This equates to a Sanction Detection Rate of **13.6 %** (down from **17%** a year ago).
- 2.43 The Domestic Abuse Sanction Detection rate has fallen across London, not only in Barnet. Police have a number of actions in place aimed at increasing the Domestic Abuse Sanction Detection rate. These include a plan for the improved use of Body Worn Cameras to secure evidence.
- 2.44 The Body worn cameras being used by Barnet Police to gather evidence at a domestic abuse incident, record the behaviour of the offender, the response of adult and child victims, and the scene itself. This evidence can then support witnesses by providing evidence-led prosecutions to help ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.

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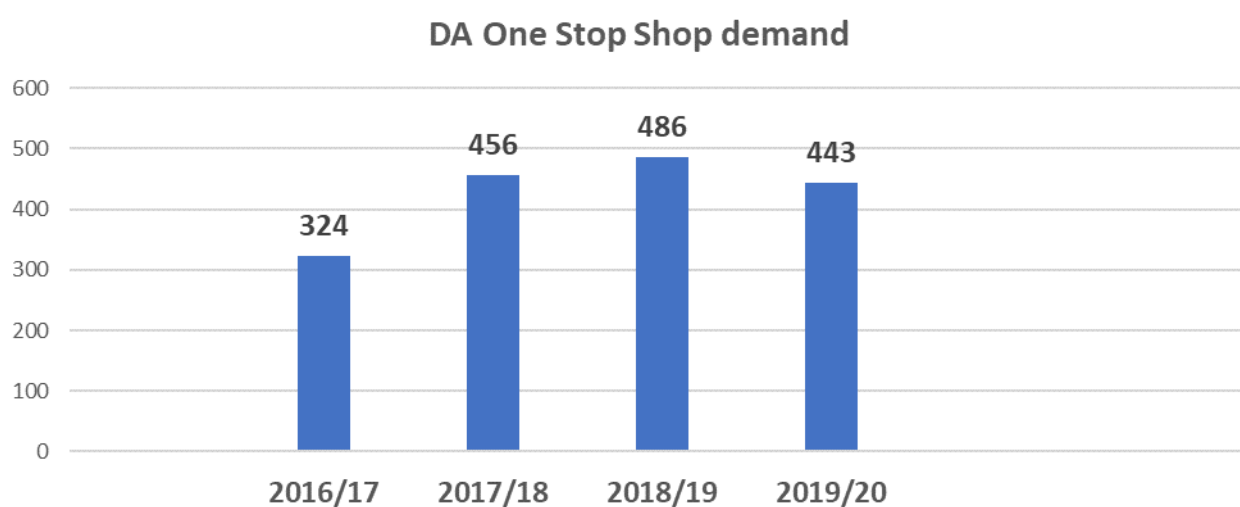
## Priority: Enhancing joint working practices between agencies

- 2.45 This priority aims to prevent violence against women and girls by developing joint working practices to provide a consistent, co-ordinated response to victims and their children
- 2.46 Some of the key partnership activities that have been delivered or have taken place during 2019/20 to make this happen have been:
- The Barnet Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop
  - Delivery of the Barnet IRIS project
  - Safeguarding Children in Barnet through Operation Encompass
  - Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs)
  - Governance arrangements for the delivery of the VAWG Strategy

### The Barnet Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop

- 2.47 Barnet's One Stop Shop (OSS) is a drop-in service for early intervention and advice for victims of DA and VAWG. The OSS which is delivered by Barnet Homes (with partners including Barnet council, Solace Women's Aid, private solicitor firms, Barnet Magistrate, Asian Women Resource Centre and Cyber Care) has provided advice and support to **443** victims of Domestic Abuse in the 12 months to March 2020. The demand has been constant from **486** in 2018/19, **456** in 2017/18 and **324** in 2016/17.

Table 5: One Stop Shop demand



- 2.48 In addition to bringing together a breadth of partnership expertise to support victims of Domestic Abuse the OSS receives referrals from a wide range of agencies across the partnership as well as self-referrals.

#### Delivery of the IRIS<sup>4</sup> project- Overview of Q4 2019-2020

- 2.49 The project started in February 2018; 26 GP Surgeries have received training under this programme.
- 2.50 Feedback about the impact of the IRIS project, from the GP practices has been positive and this has been reflected in a marked increase in the rate of Domestic Abuse referrals from those surgeries. Of the GP surgeries to have received training the number of Domestic Abuse referrals has increased from **4** per year prior to the IRIS training to **110** referrals from 1st April 2019 –26 June 2020.

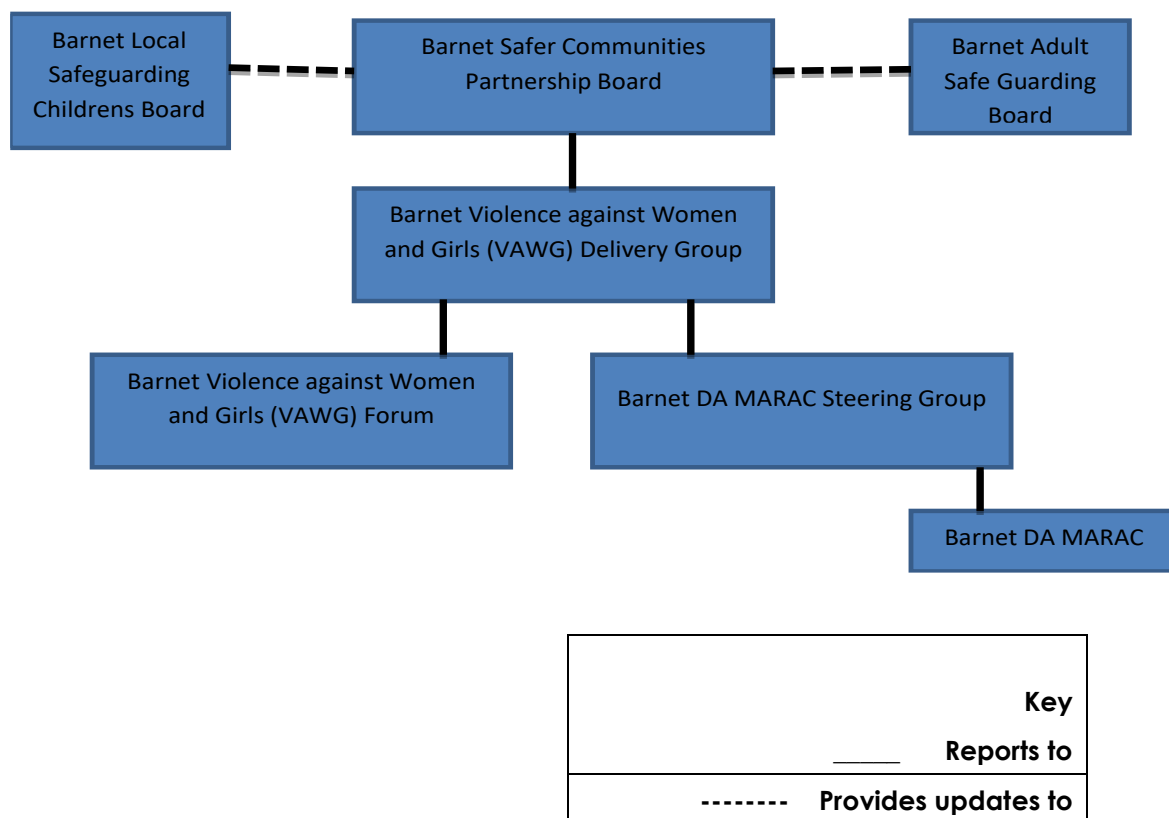
#### Governance arrangements for the delivery of the VAWG Strategy

- 2.51 The delivery of the Barnet VAWG strategy is managed by Barnet's VAWG Delivery Group (a subgroup of Barnet's Safer Communities Partnership Board). The VAWG Delivery Group meets on a quarterly.
- 2.52 Alongside the VAWG delivery group there is a VAWG Forum which is comprised of agencies from the statutory and voluntary sector that work or have an interest in supporting the delivery of the VAWG strategy in Barnet. The forum seeks to monitor performance of multi-agency delivery of the VAWG action plan, share good practice, identify gaps, recognise emerging needs and issues.
- 2.53 Updates on progress of delivering on the VAWG strategy are provided quarterly to the VAWG Delivery Group and annually to the Safer Communities Partnership Board.

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<sup>4</sup> IRIS stands for: 'Identification and Referral to Improve Safety'. Its aim is to improve awareness among GP practices around domestic abuse and thereby to increase the early identification (and appropriate referral) of victims of domestic abuse by primary care practitioners.

Diagram 1: Barnet VAWG governance chart



### 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To update the Community Leadership and Library Committee (CLLC) regarding the progress made in relation to the delivery of the Barnet Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

### 4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 4.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

### 5. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 Not relevant in relation to this report.

### 6. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

#### Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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
- 6.3 Six key priorities have been set to support the delivery of the third outcome.
- Keeping Barnet safe
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime
  - Celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime
  - Ensuring we are a family friendly borough
  - Focusing on the strengths of the community and what they can do to help themselves and each other
  - Supporting local businesses to thrive
- 6.4 The effective implementation of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy supports Barnet in achieving the outcomes and priorities set out in the corporate plan by helping to keep residents of Barnet safe and protecting the most vulnerable.

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

- 6.5 The council has an annual budget of £696,400 to commission the following services:
- 6.6 All these services have been procured in line with the Councils procurement procedures, and a contract performance monitoring regime is in place to ensure the services deliver and demonstrate value for money. The cost for the delivery of the above services will remain within the existing budget allocations.
- The Advocacy services
  - Refuge Services
  - Perpetrator programme Services
  - DA MARAC

- 6.7 Where suitable opportunities exist we work local partners, including health, police, education, housing, and the wider third sector to secure additional external sources of funding to fund initiatives to support the delivery of the VAWG strategy in response to our local needs assessment and the best available evidence of what works. Given the above, there are no significant resource implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **Social Value**

- 6.8 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.

## **Legal and Constitutional References**

- 6.9 S6 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 ('the 1998 Act') places a statutory duty on responsible authorities as set out in s5 (including local authorities, the Police, Probation Trusts, and Fire and Rescue Authorities) to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder (including anti-social behaviour), for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and for the reduction of reoffending.
- 6.10 The BSCP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with the requirement of the section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.
- 6.11 Under s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, it is also a duty of the Council (and other partner agencies, including Police, Fire & Rescue, GLA, TfL) when exercising its functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder (including antisocial behaviour), misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances and re-offending
- 6.11.1 The terms of reference of this committee includes community safety and to receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee

## **Risk Management**

- 6.12 Risk management varies according to the different initiatives. The partnership or appropriate agencies are made aware of risks and actions to mitigate the risk are agreed and put in place. There is always risk that the partnership may not achieve the targets set due to factors outside its direct control – however there is

strong partnership working in place enabling agencies to identify and highlight risk and be open to addressing the risk collectively.

## **Equalities and Diversity**

- 6.13 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision making of the council.
- 6.14 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 require 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 statutory grounds of the public sector equality duty are found at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and are as follows:
- 6.15 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 this 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.
- 6.16 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.

- 6.17 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.
- 6.18 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.
- 6.19 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
- 6.20 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.

## **Corporate Parenting**

- 6.21 Not applicable to this report.

## **Consultation and Engagement**

- 6.22 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.

6.23 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.

6.24 The refresh of the Domestic Abuse and VAWG strategy will be informed by consultation - including with partnership organisations through the Domestic Abuse and VAWG delivery Board (subgroup of the Safer Communities Partnership Board), the Domestic Abuse and VAWG Forum (a quarterly forum which provides feedback from partner agencies, service providers, the VCF sector in relation to development and implementation of the Domestic Abuse VAWG strategy). In addition, an extensive consultation exercise has been undertaken with service users.

## **Insight**

6.25 None in the context of this report

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Community Leadership and Libraries Committee 20th Nov 2019

Agenda Item 9 "London's Blueprint for a Whole System Approach for Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System 2019-22"

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56435/CLLC%20Cover%20Paper%20Blueprint%20for%20Women%2020%20Nov%202019.pdf>

Community Leadership and Libraries Committee 11th June 2019

Agenda Item 9 "Preventing and Responding to Violence against Women and Girls & Domestic Abuse (VAWG & DA) - Annual Report (2018/2019)"

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s52884/6826769%20->

Community Leadership Committee 21st June 2017

Agenda Item "London Borough of Barnet Violence against Women and Girls(VAWG) Strategy 2017-2020"

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s40298/London%20Borough%20of%20Barnet%20Violence%20against%20Women%20and%20GirlsVAWG%20Strategy%202017-2020.pdf>

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## REPORT CLEARANCE CHECKLIST

**(Removed prior to publication and retained by Governance Service)**

*Note: All reports must be cleared by the appropriate Committee Chairman, Chief Officer, Legal, Finance and Governance as a minimum. Report authors should also engage with subject matter experts from other service areas where this is required (e.g. procurement, equalities, risk, etc.). The name and date that the chairman or officer has cleared the report must be included in the table below or the report will not be accepted.*

**Legal, Finance and Governance require a minimum of 5 working days to provide report clearance. Clearance cannot be guaranteed for reports submitted outside of this time and your report is likely to be withdrawn from the agenda and deferred to the next scheduled meeting.**

**AUTHOR TO COMPLETE TABLE BELOW:**

Who	Clearance Date	Name
Committee Chairman		Councillor Reuben Thompstone
Chief Officer		Clair Green
HB Public Law	24/02/2021	Sharon Clarke
Governance	24/02/2021	Tracy Scollin



## Community Leadership and Libraries Committee

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Title

**Item Referred from Environment Committee**

Report of

[Head of Governance](#)

Wards

[All](#)

Status

[Public](#)

Urgent

No

Key

No

Enclosures

[Appendix 1 and its appendices \(A and B\)](#)

Officer Contact Details

Tracy Scollin, [tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk)  
Governance Officer

### Summary

A Member's Item was presented to Environment Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and was referred CLLC for consideration.

### Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee's instructions in relation to this item is requested.

#### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Member's Item below (1.2) was submitted to the Environment Committee for its consideration and determination. The Environment Committee resolved to support the item and to request that CLLC provides instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

1.2

**MAKE OUR PARKS SAFER – Member's Item in the Name of Cllr Jo Cooper**

Barnet's parks and open spaces are valued by residents and more important than ever during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.

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.

## **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)**

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.

## 5.4 **Insight**

5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.5 **Social Value**

5.5.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.6 **Risk Management**

5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.7 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.7.1 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.

## 5.8 **Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 None in the context of this report.

## 5.9 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.9.1 None.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**



Appendix 1 -Review  
of Community Infrastru



Appendix A Area  
Committee Budgets A



Appendix B Area  
Committee Budgets F.

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	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Policy and Resources Committee</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">8 February 2020</h3>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Review of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Eligibility Criteria and Guidance</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix A – Area Committee Budgets Applications Guidelines for 2017/18 Appendix B – Area Committee Budgets FAQ's – April 2016
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Geoff Mee, Executive Director - Environment <a href="mailto:Geoff.Mee@Barnet.gov.uk">Geoff.Mee@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance <a href="mailto:Andrew.Charlwood@Barnet.gov.uk">Andrew.Charlwood@Barnet.gov.uk</a> Salar Rida, Governance Officer <a href="mailto:Salar.Rida@Barnet.gov.uk">Salar.Rida@Barnet.gov.uk</a>

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Summary</h2>
<p>This report outlines the background and current arrangements in respect of Area Committees budgets including the allocations of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and requests that the Committee review the position and agree more specific guidance to enable funding applications to be assessed in accordance with local priorities as determined by Members.</p>

## Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee note the background and current arrangements in respect of Area Committees allocations of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.
2. That the Committee agree that each Area Committees should develop and approve their own CIL funding priorities for each financial year starting in 2021/22.
3. That the Committee agree that the funding limit for each individual CIL funded scheme be increased to £30,000.

### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

#### Area Committee Budgets – Background and Context

- 1.1 On 10 June 2014 the Policy & Resources Committee agreed a budget of £100,000 per annum for each Area Committee (Chipping Barnet, Finchley & Golders Green and Hendon) and resolved that the detailed arrangements should be agreed by the Community Leadership Committee. On 25 June 2014 the Community Leadership Committee agreed the framework for the funding which comprised an open grants process for which community groups could apply for funding to deliver projects, schemes or services which sought to improve the quality of life for people who lived or worked in the area.
- 1.2 On 24 June 2015, the Community Leadership Committee undertook a review of area committee's operation and delegated budgets. This report noted that the Policy & Resources Committee had agreed to supplement the existing Area Committees budgets (of £100,000 per annum) with an additional amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding (of up to £150,000 per Area Committee). The report introduced changes to the arrangements for allocating the existing £100,000 budgets – instead of an open grants process Area Committees would instead define local priorities (around March annually) and allocate their budgets on this basis. CIL funding would be restricted to infrastructure in accordance with the statutory definition.
- 1.3 Area Committee Budget arrangements were amended further for 2017/18. A proposal included in the 2017/18 budget report to the Policy & Resources Committee was to make a saving from across the three Area Committees to help balance the council's budget. The proposal was agreed by Full Council on 7 March 2017 and as consequence of the decision, the £100,000 budgets were removed from the Area Committees. CIL funding was retained. From 1 April 2017, Area Committees have been allocating CIL funding only.

## **CIL Funding Arrangements**

- 1.4 Following the decision to reduce the budget CIL funding application guidelines were issued in April 2017 (see Appendix A) and this is the framework that has been used for assessing applications being reported to Area Committees from 2017/18 onwards.
- 1.5 Prioritisation of funding can be an issue for Area Committees as legal definition of infrastructure is broad. Details are set out in section of the guidance titled 'How can CIL be applied?' (see [section 216\(2\) of the Planning Act 2008](#), and [regulation 59](#), as amended). As such, Area Committees have, over several years approved various uses of CIL funding for local matters including (but not limited to):
- CPZ's;
  - one-way systems;
  - yellow lines;
  - 20 mph zones;
  - weight restrictions;
  - width restrictions;
  - speed surveys;
  - repairs to damaged hedges;
  - fencing in parks;
  - benches;
  - providing an access path to a local hospice and allotments;
  - improvements to road junction markings;
  - footway parking reviews;
  - outdoor play equipment;
  - outdoor gym equipment;
  - expansion of a local church facilities;
  - compost bins;
  - forest school;
  - investment in a community hub;
  - all weather table tennis table; and
  - modernisation of a school playground.
- 1.6 During 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years there has been increasing pressure on the Area Committee CIL budgets, particularly for the Finchley & Golders Green and Hendon Area Committees. Budget reports suggest that the whole funding allocation is used relatively early in the financial year. Details can be accessed in the CIL funding budget reports presented regularly to each committee:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

## **Request to Review CIL Funding Guidelines**

- 1.7 At the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee on 3 February 2020, the Committee considered a Member's Item for CIL Funding in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton which requested funding for the refurbishment of a Community Hall (Stephens Hall) in North Finchley which is owned and administered by Christ Church in North Finchley. The Members Item sought funding of £25,000 towards the refurbishment of toilets, the kitchen and glazing. Following debate, the Committee decided to defer the item subject to

further clarification on the CIL criteria and Area Committee policy. The detailed minute extract is as set out below:

**“Refurbishment of Stephens Church Hall at Christ Church, High Road, North Finchley N12 to improve capacity for community use**

Cllr Hutton introduced her Member’s Item. Mr Will Hawks, Stephens Parochial Church Council Member made a verbal representation.

Cllr Zinkin reported that he had asked officers prior to the meeting on clarification on the Council’s policy on CIL funding as applications for buildings may set a precedent and criteria needed to be set.

Cllr Hutton noted that she had been advised by officers that this was appropriate for CIL. She agreed that policy should be clear.

The Chairman moved a motion to defer the item subject to further clarification on CIL criteria and the Area Committee policy, and was duly seconded.

**RESOLVED that the Committee unanimously agreed:**

- 1. that the Area Committee consider the request as highlighted in Section 1 of the report.**
- 2. that the Area Committee decides to defer the decision for funding for further information.”**

- 1.8 Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on committees and their business, the request made at the 3 February 2020 meeting to clarify the funding criteria was not taken forward. Councillor Hutton’s Members Item was re-presented to the Committee at their meeting on 8 October 2020 and the following was minuted:

“The Chairman welcomed the item noting that the Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2020 had requested clarification on the Council’s policy on CIL funding. Councillor Hutton spoke about the Member’s item for CIL funding in her name and stated that the Committee may also potentially consider partial funding if the Committee deem this appropriate.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

**The Committee agreed to defer and to urgently seek formal clarification and review of CIL funding Policy and eligibility guidelines from the Policy and Resources Committee in respect of the application.**

Pending the outcome, the Member’s CIL Funding application can be listed for consideration at the next F&GG Area Committee.”

This report has been prepared pursuant to that request.

## **Proposed Changes to CIL Funding Guidelines**

- 1.9 Officers have consulted with Members and the senior officers who support Area Committees and manage the CIL funding process. It is proposed that the current CIL funding guidelines and FAQ's attached at Appendices A and B remain in place, but each Area Committee be requested to develop and approve their own CIL funding priorities for each financial year starting in 2021/22.
- 1.10 In addition, it is recommended that the funding limit for each CIL scheme be increased to £30,000 as this limit has not been increased to reflect inflation since the arrangements were introduced in 2015/16.
- 1.11 The Committee are requested to note that any revisions to the CIL funding guidelines will be an interim measure. Area Committee and Residents Forum arrangements will be comprehensively reviewed as part of the ward boundary changes coming into effect in May 2022. In addition, it is expected that there may be some increase to the amount of CIL funding available to Area Committees which will come into effect during the 2021/22 financial year and this is expected to be subject of a report to this Committee in April 2021.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Policy & Resources Committee have been requested by the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee to review CIL guidelines as is considered that the current criteria are too broad and require amendment to focus on local priorities. Clarification of the criteria will assist officers in making recommendations to Area Committees regarding whether proposals are compliant with the criteria or not.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Guidelines could be retained un-amended. This is not recommended as it will not support the request from the Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee.
- 3.2 Policy & Resources Committee could agree some additional borough-wide criteria for Area Committee CIL funding. This approach is not recommended as it doesn't allow for the Area Committees to discuss and agree their own local priorities which could be different for each area.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Area Committees will be requested to consider and agree local priorities at their March and April 2021 meetings for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 4.2 The Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee will decide the CIL Members Item referred to in sections 1.6 and 1.7 in accordance with the CIL Area Committee Applications Guidelines set out in Appendix A.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

#### **5.1.1 Community Infrastructure Levy funding enables supports delivery of the following Corporate Plan's objective:**

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

Getting the best out of our parks and improving air quality by looking after and investing in our greenspaces

Investing in community facilities to support a growing population, such as schools and leisure centres

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

#### **5.2.1 As set out in section 1. a proportion of the Council's CIL income is allocated to Area Committees to spend on local priorities.**

### **5.3 Social Value**

#### **5.3.1 Clarification of the usage of CIL funding will support future requests for CIL funding. This provides an avenue for Members to consider funding requests which may have added social value.**

### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

#### **5.4.1 CIL is a planning charge that was introduced by the Planning Act 2008 Part II to help deliver infrastructure to support the development in an area. It came into force on 6 April 2010 through the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 as amended ("the Regulations") . Section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008 lists some examples of infrastructure which CIL can fund. I.e. roads and other transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreation facilities and open spaces**

#### **5.4.2 Additionally, Regulation 59 (f)(3) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 as amended allows the Council, as the Charging Authority to use the CIL to support the development of the relevant area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or, anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.**

#### **5.4.3 The Localism Act 2011 introduced requirements that a 'meaningful proportion' of CIL income is allocated to parish councils to support their neighbourhood infrastructure requirements. Under Regulation 59A (5) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) a charging authority must pass 15 per cent of the relevant CIL receipts to the parish council for that area; this is limited by Regulation 59A (7) to a cap of £100 per dwelling in the area of the Local Council.**

- 5.4.4 Regulation 59F enables a similar application of CIL receipts in cases where, as in Barnet, a charging authority does not have a local council structure.
- 5.4.5 Since the introduction of Area Committee Budgets, reports have been presented to various committees for decision including: Policy & Resources Committee; Community Leadership & Libraries Committee; Environment Committee; and Area Committees. Details are set out in section 6 below. Article 7 states: *“If any report appears to come within the remit of more than one committee, to avoid the report being discussed at several committees, the report will be presented and determined at the most appropriate committee. If this is not clear, then the report will be discussed and determined by the Policy and Resources Committee.”* It is considered that the Policy & Resources Committee is the most appropriate committee in this instance as they delegated the CIL budget to the Area Committees and the report cuts across the remit of several committees.
- 5.4.6 Under the Council’s Constitution Article 7, the terms of reference of the Policy & Resources Committee includes responsibility for: “Strategic policy, finance and corporate risk management including recommending: Capital and Revenue Budget (including all fees and charges); Medium Term Financial Strategy; and Corporate Plan to Full Council.”

## **5.5 Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 The Finchley & Golders Green Area Committee have requested clarification of the CIL funding criteria as they consider that the current guidance is too wide and could be used on projects that do not benefit the whole community. This is a possible reputational risk to the Council.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.6.1 The Equality Act 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between 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.
- 5.6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 5.6.3 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design policies and the delivery of services.

## **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

- 5.7.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

## 5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 None.

## 5.9 Insight

5.9.1 Members may wish to utilise insight data to inform local priorities for 2021/22 and future years.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Policy & Resources Committee, 10 June 2014, Area Sub-Committees – Budget Arrangements, Item 9:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=7856&Ver=4>
  - 6.2 Policy & Resources Committee, 10 June 2014, Area Sub-Committees – Budget Arrangements, Item 9:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=7856&Ver=4>
  - 6.3 Community Leadership Committee, 25 June 2014, Area Sub-Committees – Budget Allocation Draft Framework, Item 7:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=7874&Ver=4>
  - 6.4 Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015, ‘Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets’  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>
  - 6.5 Policy & Resources Committee, 9 July 2015, ‘Delegating a proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income to the Council’s Area Committees’  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=8346&Ver=4>
  - 6.6 Council, 7 March 2017, Report of the Policy & Resources Committee – Business Planning 2017 to 2020:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=8819&Ver=4>
  - 6.7 Community Leadership Committee, 8 March 2017, Area Committee Funding – Savings from Non-Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Budgets  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=8721&Ver=4>
  - 6.8 Minutes, Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee, 8 October 2020, Item 9  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=712&MId=10255&Ver=4>
  - 6.9 Minutes, Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee, 3 February 2020, Item 10  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=712&MId=9959&Ver=4>
-



## **AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2017/18: For all applications from 1 April 2017**

This guidance relates to applications to the Area Committee Budget for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding only.

<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-tax-and-benefits/grants-and-funding.html>

### **INTRODUCTION**

Each of the Council's three Area Committees is able to consider requests for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from Ward Members in the constituency area. Members are encouraged to work with officers prior to submitting their applications for Area Committee CIL funding Member-led, to determine the viability of a proposal.

### **GUIDELINES FOR ASSESSING APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

1. Requests for funding must fall within the definition of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (*see 'How can CIL be applied?' guidelines below*)
2. Members are encouraged to work with officers prior to the completion and submission of a Member's Item for CIL funding to determine if the proposal is a viable use of funding and falls within the classification of CIL
3. Applications for CIL funding should not result in revenue costs for the Council. Completing an initial assessment with officers should enable revenue implications to be identified early in the process.
4. The maximum value of an award is £25,000

### **WHAT HAPPENS TO REQUEST / MEMBER'S ITEM**

**The Members Item must be submitted to the Governance Service 10 clear working days before the meeting.** However, it is recommended that Members contact officers as early as possible to discuss the outline proposal and understand if the proposed scheme is an appropriate use of CIL and a viable scheme at earliest opportunity. It is strongly advised that applications are submitted as soon as they are completed rather than just before the deadline – this should aid the Area Committees in making informed decisions and will minimise the likelihood of items being deferred to future meetings.

At the Area Committee meeting when the Members Item will be considered, the Member will be given the opportunity to provide an overview of the proposal and any officer advice received and answer questions from committee members. An officer will be available to answer any technical questions that may arise during the Members presentation of their proposal. Decisions on Area Committee CIL funding will be made at the meeting and in one of the following ways:

1. To award funding → *this will be subject to due diligence* (see below)
2. To defer a decision → proposals should be returned to the next Area Committee with more information
3. To reject a proposal and state reasons why

### HOW EXPENDITURE IS MONITORED

The Council's Finance Team will monitor decisions made by Area Committees and track the use of CIL funding. A finance report will be presented to each meeting outlining use of CIL funding.

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### What is CIL?

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge on new development where it creates net additional floor space and where the gross internal area of new build exceeds 100 square metres. Payments are liable upon commencement of the types of development for which a defined rate applies (residential and retail uses in the case of Barnet CIL, everything except health and education uses in the case of Mayoral CIL). The CIL must be paid from commencement where it is not subject to an approved claim for statutory or discretionary relief.

*NB/ In London there are two tiers of CIL charge, though both are collected by the Council; only the Barnet-set CIL is required to contribute to the neighbourhood proportion (i.e. money that goes to area committees)*

### How can CIL be applied?

The levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure (see [section 216\(2\) of the Planning Act 2008](#), and [regulation 59](#), as amended) to support the development of its area, the Act specifically names roads and transport, flood defences, schools and education facilities, medical facilities and recreational facilities; but is not restrictive. Therefore the definition can extend to allow the levy to fund a very broad range of facilities provided they are 'infrastructure'; further examples are play areas, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, district heating schemes, police stations and community safety facilities...etc. The flexibility in how the funds can be applied is designed to give local areas the opportunity to choose the infrastructure they need to deliver their Local Plan.

Guidance however states that the levy is intended to focus on the provision of new infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies in infrastructure provision unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new

development. Therefore if funds are intended to be used to address existing deficiencies, it is recommended that funds are used to either increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, where it is recognised as necessary to support development in the area.

### **What are the controls on Area Committee funds?**

Guidance says that Local authorities must allocate at least 15% of levy receipts to spend on priorities that should be agreed with the local community in areas where development is taking place, although the changes to the CIL Regulations introduced following the Localism Bill 2011 only require this where a Parish Council is in place. Therefore the decision was made to honour the provision of a 15% contribution to each Area Committee, but acknowledging that there would be large one-off CIL payments coming from the Regeneration Schemes in Colindale and Dollis Valley, it was felt this should be capped at £150,000 per annum in order for the Council to be able to invest these larger funds in the local projects that were discussed but not able to be made a specific S106 requirement at the time of the Area Action Plan / planning applications.

E.g. Highways, Transport, Parks, Schools and Community Facilities in Colindale, Parks and Highways around Dollis Valley.

This percentage increases to a minimum of 25% when a neighbourhood plan is in place; but currently in Barnet only one area is actively working on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan (Mill Hill). The way the Neighbourhood Proportion of CIL funding is provided to Area Committees will need to change if a Neighbourhood Plan is adopted in the area, as a large chunk of the Hendon Area Committee income and responsible area for funding projects will be informed by the Neighbourhood Plan.

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### **AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS – FAQs**

These Updated FAQs reflect Member decisions on Area Committee budgets made by the Community Leadership Committee in March 2016.

- 1 How many area committees are there, what areas do they cover and when do they meet?
- 2 What do Area Committees do?
- 3 How much does each Area Committee have to spend?
- 4 What type of projects can Area Committee budget be spent on?
- 4 How will Area Committees know how much they have to spend during the year?
- 5 How do Members submit a Members Item to an Area Committee?
- 6 Which Members can put forward proposals for Area Committee funding?
- 7 How are requests made for Area Committee funding?
- 8 How do Area Committees know how much they have to spend during the year?
- 9 How does the relationship between ACs and Theme Committees work?
- 10 Is there a consultative element to the relationship between area committees and theme committees – particularly the environment committee?
- 11 Can ACs refer issues to theme committees for resolution, if they cannot be resolved by an AC or residents forum?
- 12 Do referrals need to be coordinated with any external funding cycles?
- 13 Are AC budgets still allocated via an open public grants process?
- 14 What are the criteria for funding community-led projects?
- 15 How will due diligence be taken on community-led projects?
- 16 Are there other council grant fund open to local groups and residents to bid for?

#### **1. How many area committees are there, what areas do they cover and when do they meet?**

- Three. They cover the constituency areas of Chipping Barnet, Finchley & Golders Green, and Hendon. Committees meet four times a year in January, March, June/July, and October.

#### **2. What do Area Committees do?**

- The Terms of Reference for the Area Committees include:
  - Considering issues raised at the linked Residents Forums meetings and determining how these matters are to be taken forward.
  - Discharging functions delegated by Theme Committees that the Theme Committees agree are more properly discharged at a local level. These may include, but are not limited to, place-focused services such as environmental improvements; local highways; and safety schemes; and Town Centre management.
  - Dealing with small-scale public works.
  - Administering any local budget delegated by the Policy & Resources Committee.

#### **3. How much does each Area Committee have to spend?**

There are two source of funding for Area Committees:

**I. £100K PER YEAR TO EACH AC UNTIL 2017/18 FOR SPENDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL OR NON-ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

- In June 2014, Policy & Resources Committee agreed that each AC would receive a budget of £100k for each financial year up to 2017/18.
- Any annual under spends can be rolled forward for spending in the subsequent financial year.
- The £100k can be used to fund environmental and non-environmental projects.
- On the environmental side, an example might be for an AC to fund traffic calming measures in a 'hot spot' area, such as vehicle activated speed limit signs. On the non-environmental side, examples might include initiatives to increase sport and physical activity; activities for young people; or proposals to improve community safety.

**II. IN ADDITION, UP TO £150K PER YEAR TO EACH AC FROM COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) RESOURCES, FOR SPENDING ON ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES.**

- In July 2015, Policy & Resources Committee agreed that each AC should receive a proportion of CIL funding, in addition to their £100k allocations.
- CIL is a planning charge on new developments to help pay for community infrastructure. Allocating a proportion of CIL income to ACs helps ensure that communities affected by development benefit directly from the income it brings in.
- To ensure the Council does not spend a disproportionate amount of CIL on small-scale, local projects, CIL allocations to ACs are capped at £150,000 per Committee; and CIL funding will be returned to the Council's reserves if not allocated within two years, or spent within five.
- In contrast to the £100k above, CIL is restricted for uses relating to 'the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure'.
- The definition of 'infrastructure' is set out in the Planning Act 2008, including reference to: Roads & other transport facilities; Flood defences; Schools and other educational facilities; Medical facilities; Sporting and recreational facilities; and Open spaces.

**4. What type of projects can Area Committee budget be spent on?**

Area Committee budgets can be spent on the following types of projects:

***FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE / CIL ITEMS (e.g. highways issues)***

- Members who wish to bring items relating to environmental infrastructure to an AC are encouraged to discuss it with the Commissioning Director for Environment in advance. Items are brought via a Standard Members Item.
- The AC will consider the item and may use some of its budget to conduct a data collection and feasibility study e.g. if the item relates to fast moving traffic, the AC could instruct Re officers to conduct a speed survey, collision data report and a feasibility study to determine the best way to alleviate the problem, paid for from the AC's budget.
- The results would be compiled into a report back to the AC with options for a solution e.g. installation of vehicle activated speed limit signs. If agreed, the AC would use some of its budget to implement the proposals.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – CAPPING FUNDING AT £25,000 PER PROPOSAL (NOT INCLUDING FEASIBILITY, CONSULTATION AND DESIGN COSTS)***

- ACs will need to have a realistic view of the sort of projects they can implement using their budgets and an idea of the full costs involved, which are likely to include feasibility and design costs, consultation costs (if required), as well as the cost of physical infrastructure.
- Community Leadership Committee and ACs have agreed that – as a general rule – ACs should not fund any project for which the estimated cost of implementing it is greater than £25,000. This £25,000 would not include the cost of feasibility studies, consultation and design costs which would need to take place to determine the final implementation costs.
- Capping expenditure at £25,000 enables each AC to respond to a broader range of local issues rather than spending all their funding on a single project.
- In practice, as set out above, if there is an environmental issue that an AC would like to resolve, they would instruct officers to carry out the necessary investigative work and authorise funding for this. Officers would report back to the AC with proposals and costs for resolving the issue, funded from the AC's budget. If implementation exceeds £25,000, the AC could refer it to Environment Committee for consideration for funding through another route.

### ***FUNDING FOR NON-ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OR COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES***

- ACs may wish to fund non-environmental issues such as those to improve community safety, or to support local residents.
- Members who wish to bring items relating to non-environmental or community led schemes to an AC are encouraged to discuss it with the relevant commissioner in advance.
- Constituency Members submit their Members Item via the non-CIL, community funding application form to the Governance Team submitted 12 clear working days before the meeting.
- ACs could, in the same way that they might request a feasibility study for an environmental improvement, instruct the relevant commissioning teams to investigate the issue and bring options to address it back to the Committee. If agreed, the AC would use their funding to implement the proposals.

#### **5. How do Members submit a Members Item to an Area Committee?**

- Members can request funding for an issue that they are aware of by submitting a Members Item. There are two forms that a Members Item can take; a Standard Members Item or a Non-CIL Community Funding Application.
- In both instances, Members are encouraged to discuss the Members Items with the relevant officers.

#### **6. Which Members can put forward proposals for Area Committee funding?**

- Only Members of an Area Committee can put forward a Standard Members Item. Standard Members Items often relate to issues which Members would like the Council to investigate and take action on. Members submit their Members Item via e-mail to the Governance Team 7 days in advance of the Area Committee date.

- Any Member of the constituency can submit a Non-CIL community funding application as a Members Item. Non-CIL community funding applications are made by a Member on behalf of a community group, organisation or individual. Members submit their application form submitted 12 clear working days before the meeting.

## **7. How are requests made for Area Committee funding?**

- There are a number of routes through which priorities for funding can be determined:
  - **Issues referred from Resident Forums** – Forum Chairs are able to refer items raised by residents to ACs. ACs can determine whether or not they can resolve the issue themselves – and use their budgets – or, if not, refer it to a Theme Committee.
  - **Referrals from Theme Committees** – the Environment Committee, or any Theme Committee, can refer projects or schemes to ACs which they have identified but may have chosen not to fund because they are not borough-wide priorities. ACs would be able to consider such schemes and use their resources to fund them if necessary.
  - **Members items brought to Area Committees** – Members are able to bring items to ACs for consideration. As set out in Question 5 – there are two ways in which Members can submit a Members Item.

## **8. How do Area Committees know how much they have to spend during the year?**

- The finance team keep a record of spending against each ACs annual budget. A financial update report is presented at the beginning of each AC meeting.

## **9. How does the relationship between ACs and Theme Committees work?**

- The Environment Committee approves the highways planned maintenance programme at a borough-wide level. The Committee system avoids delegation of powers to Committee Chairs and there is no equivalent of the executive power which let the previous Sub-Committees put decisions into practice.
- As a consequence, there is a need to: 1) Ensure that ACs can resolve issues which fall within their remit; and 2) be clear about the routes ACs can use to refer issues to Theme Committees which they cannot resolve and how progress is reported back.
- AC chairs can refer their budget reports to the Community Leadership Committee or the Environmental Committee.

## **10. Is there a consultative element to the relationship between area committees and theme committees – particularly the environment committee?**

- Yes – strategies, schemes and projects coming to Theme Committees which need local input should be considered by ACs, with feedback to the Theme Committee. Where ACs have provided input, they should receive progress updates from the Theme Committee.

## **11. Can ACs refer issues to theme committees for resolution, if they cannot be resolved by an AC or residents forum?**

- Yes. A Chairman of an Area Committee may refer applications to the Area Committee Budget to the relevant Theme Committee (Environment Committee for environment related schemes or Community Leadership Committee for community related projects). The report to the relevant Committee to which the Area Committee refers the application shall set out the reasons given for the referral.

## **12. Do referrals need to be coordinated with any external funding cycles?**

- Potentially, yes. For example, large-scale highways infrastructure works are usually funded through the Transport for London Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programmes,

with is agreed by Environment Committee. LIP funding applications are submitted in September each year, so if ACs want to refer an item to be considered and implemented in the following financial year, they would need to refer it to Environment Committee at the first AC meeting of the year (June or July).

### **13. Are AC budgets still allocated via an open public grants process?**

- No. It was agreed by the Community Leadership Committee and ACs that the allocation process for the first year would be a pilot which would be reviewed before future allocations were made. The review – which reported to Community Leadership Committee in June 2015 and to ACs in July 2015 – recommended no longer running allocations as an open public grants process. This was agreed, based on the following reasons:
  1. **Size of awards and the organisations that bid** – the size of grants was much higher than anticipated (average grant £6.5k) and most grants were awarded to existing groups. The process did not attract bids for small-scale community activities and from new and emerging groups as had been the intention.
  2. **Duplication of other funds** – the process duplicated the Council's existing Corporate Grants Programme which created confusion and contributed to reduced demand for the Corporate Grants Programme.
  3. **Prioritisation** – the process did not give Members an opportunity to consider how they might want to prioritise funding and ensure they got the most value for their local area.
  4. **Administrative costs** – Administration took more than 200 hours of officer time with around 20 officers involved from across the Council. The process was not sustainable without additional resources being provided, and Members were not keen to divert resources to pay for admin.

### **14. What are the criteria for funding community-led projects?**

1. Area Committee community funding will be for projects or initiatives that meet the priority areas agreed by the Community Leadership Committee in March 2016.
2. Area Committee community funding will be for locally based projects or initiatives that tackle local issues, rather than borough-wide schemes
3. Area Committee community funding may be used for the feasibility, start up, or scaling phase of a local project OR for one off events or purchases which fit the criteria of the Area Committee
4. The maximum value of an award is £9,999

#### **The priority areas are for initiatives which will:**

- Improve community safety;
- Improve local mental and physical health, physical activity and independence;
- Support local people to improve their skills or find employment;
- Provide support to local businesses;
- Improve the local environment.

#### **Areas agreed not to be considered for funding include:**

- Self interest groups – where there is no evidence of wider community benefit;
- Funding must not be used to meet a budget deficit in a specific area, to meet the debts of an organisation in financial difficulty, or to cover a shortfall in a service which would normally be provided by the Council or another public sector organisation;
- Funding will not be given to assist with the administration and/or research costs of preparing an application;

- Funding will be for one-off projects which do not require on-going support from the Council. They must not require maintenance from the Council, or future expenditure;
- Community-led projects that are successful in securing funding will not be permitted to re-apply for funding for the same project at a future Area Committee.

**15. How will due diligence be taken on community-led projects?**

- Once an AC approves a community-led proposal, the decision will be subject to due diligence checks carried out by the Governance and Finance Teams.

**16. Are there other council grant fund open to local groups and residents to bid for?**

- Yes. Each AC contributes £17k (a total of £51k) to the council's Corporate Grants Programme to ensure residents and community groups have access to grant funding.
- Corporate Grants offer help to either set up a new project or activity in Barnet in response to identified needs; or with specific events, purchases and other non-recurring items of expenditure. These grants are only available to the voluntary and community sector.
- Where a proposal complements one or more of the council's corporate priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan, the programme offers grants of:
  - Up to £10k (over a maximum of one year) to help set up a sustainable new project or activity in Barnet in response to identified needs; and
  - Up to £5k in support of community events, purchases or non-recurring items of expenditure.
- If Members receive requests from residents and community groups for funding for Barnet-wide projects, they should be referred to the Corporate Grants Programme. The programme is administered by Ken Argent and further details can be found at [www.barnet.gov.uk/grants](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/grants)

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND A RECORD OF DECISION MAKING CAN BE FOUND HERE:**

**Community Leadership Committee – 24 June 2015**

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24009/Area%20Committees%20-%20Community%20Leadership%20Committee%2025%20June%202015%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

**Area Committees – 2 July 2015**

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24254/Review%20of%20Area%20Committee%20Operations%20and%20Delegated%20Budgets.pdf>

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24244/Review%20of%20Area%20Committee%20Operations%20and%20Delegated%20Budgets.pdf>

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24250/Review%20of%20Area%20Committee%20Operations%20and%20Delegated%20Budgets.pdf>

**Policy & Resources Committee – 9 July 2015**

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s24360/Delegating%20a%20proportion%20of%20Community%20Infrastructure%20Levy%20CIL%20income%20to%20the%20Councils%20Area%20Committee.pdf>

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**Community Leadership and  
Libraries Committee  
Work Programme  
2021-22**

Contact: Tracy Scollin Tel 020 8359 2315 [tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.scollin@barnet.gov.uk)

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of ( <i>officer</i> )	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
18 November 2020			
Business Planning and Recovery Planning	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2024/5 – for comment</p> <p>Fees &amp; Charges – for approval</p> <p>Recovery Planning Programme – for approval</p>	Director of Assurance	Key
Re-provision of Hendon Library and Local Studies Centre, and Relocation of School Libraries Resource Service	To note/comment	Head of Libraries Service	Non-key
8 March 2021			
Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Annual Update	For approval	Community Safety Manager	Non-key
Barnet Zero Tolerance to Hate Crime Project update	To note	Community Safety Manager	Non-key
Make Barnet's Parks Safer	Member's Item referred from Environment Committee, 25.11.20		Non-key

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of ( <i>officer</i> )	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
<b>9 June 2021</b>			
Community Participation Strategy Update	To note	Deputy Head of Strategy – Strategy and Engagement	<b>Non-key</b>
MOPAC blueprint for women in contact with the criminal justice system	Update to note	Community Safety Manager	<b>Non-key</b>
Barnet, Brent and Harrow BCU Update	Policing update to note	Community Safety Manager	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>6 October 2021</b>			
Q1 2021/22 Delivery Plan Performance Report	Barnet Plan 2019-24	Head of Programmes, Performance and Risk	
Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan	Update	Mayoral Services, Civic Events Manager and Armed Forces Champion	<b>Non-key</b>
Update on the Community Safety Strategic Assessment	To note	Community Safety Manager	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>22 November 2021</b>			

Title of Report	Overview of decision	Report Of ( <i>officer</i> )	Issue Type (Non key/Key/Urgent)
Q2 2021/22 Delivery Plan Performance Report	Barnet Plan 2019-24	Head of Programmes, Performance and Risk	<b>Non-key</b>
Business planning		Director of Assurance	<b>Key</b>
<b>26 January 2022</b>			
<b>10 March 2022</b>			
Q3 2021/22 Delivery Plan Performance Report		Head of Programmes, Performance and Risk	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>To be allocated</b>			
Re-provision of Hendon Library and Local Studies Centre, and Relocation of School Libraries Resource Service	To note/comment	Head of Libraries Service	<b>Non-key</b>