

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

TUESDAY 27TH JULY, 2021 AT 7.00 PM

VENUE

HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON, NW4 4BQ

SUMMONS AND AGENDA



All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Council Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.

Agenda and Timetable
Tuesday 27th July, 2021

Item	Subject	Page Numbers	
	Part 1 - Statutory formalities/Announcements (15 minutes)		
1.	Apologies for absence		
2.	Elect a Member to preside if the Mayor is absent		
3.	Prayer		
4.	Declarations of Interest		
5.	Minutes of the last meeting		5 - 12
6.	Official announcements		
7.	Any business remaining from last meeting		
	Part 2 - Question Time (30 minutes)		
8.	Questions to the Leader (and Committee Chairmen if he/she has delegated)		To Follow
	Part 3 - Statutory Council Business (60 minutes)		
9.	Questions to Council Representatives on Outside Bodies		
10.	Petitions for Debate (20 minutes)		
11.	Reports from the Leader		
12.	Reports from Committees		
12.1	Referral from Audit Committee - Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2020-21		13 - 30

12.2	Referral from Audit Committee - Code of Corporate Governance 2021-22		31 - 48
12.3	Referral from Housing and Growth Committee - Approval of changes to temporary accommodation rents		To Follow
13.	Reports of Officers		
	Break (15 minutes)		
	Part 4 – Business for Debate (45 minutes)		
14.	Motions (45 minutes)		
14.1	Administration motion in the name of Councillor Daniel Thomas - Barnet Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Boundary Review		49 - 52
14.2	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Sara Conway - Community Safety		53 - 54
14.3	Administration motion in the name of Councillor David Longstaff - Protecting Children in Diplomatic Families		55 - 56
14.4	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings - Ending street harassment of women and girls		57 - 58
14.5	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Ross Houston - Planning Reforms		59 - 60
14.6	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Anne Clarke - End our cladding scandal		61 - 62
14.7	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Arjun Mitra - Congratulations to England's football team		63 - 64
14.8	Opposition motion in the name of Councillor Alan Schneiderman - Climate change		65 - 66
15.	Motions for Adjournment		

Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

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Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at Middlesex University, The Burroughs, NWB 4BT. (Please note there will be very limited
spaces for the public at this meeting. The public seats will be allocated on a first come first
serve basis.), on 25 May 2021

AGENDA ITEM 5

PRESENT:-

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Caroline Stock)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Lachhya Gurung)

Councillors:

Golnar Bokaei	Lachhya Gurung	Tim Roberts
Felix Byers	John Hart	Gabriel Rozenberg
Anne Clarke	Ross Houston	Lisa Rutter
Pauline Coakley Webb	Anne Hutton	Shimon Ryde
Dean Cohen	Laithe Jajeh	Gill Sargeant
Melvin Cohen	Kathy Levine	Alan Schneiderman
Sara Conway	David Longstaff	Mark Shooter
Geof Cooke	Kath McGuirk	Elliot Simberg
Alison Cornelius	Arjun Mittra	Thomas Smith
Richard Cornelius	Alison Moore	Stephen Sowerby
Saira Don	Ammar Naqvi	Caroline Stock
Val Duschinsky	Nagus Narenthira	Julian Teare
Paul Edwards	Charlie O-Macauley	Daniel Thomas
Claire Farrier	Alex Prager	Reuben Thompstone
Nizza Fluss	Wendy Prentice	Sarah Wardle
Linda Freedman	Sachin Rajput	Roberto Weeden-Sanz
Eva Greenspan	Barry Rawlings	Laurie Williams
Jennifer Grocock	Helene Richman	Peter Zinkin
Rohit Grover	Danny Rich	Zakia Zubairi

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Jess Brayne Councillor John Marshall
Councillor Anthony Finn Councillor Reema Patel

1. PRAYER

The Mayor's Rabbi, Rabbi Berger, offered prayers.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jess Brayne, Councillor Anthony Finn, Councillor John Marshall and Councillor Reema Patel.

Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor Kath McGuirk.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Worshipful the Mayor called for nominations for the election of Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Daniel Thomas moved, seconded by Councillor David Longstaff, that Councillor Alison Cornelius be elected Mayor.

Upon being put to the vote the nomination for Councillor Alison Cornelius was declared carried.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Alison Cornelius be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for the ensuing municipal year 2021-2022.

Councillor Alison Cornelius then left the Council Chamber to robe. Upon her return, she was invested with the badge and chain of the office of Mayor.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR ALISON CORNELIUS IN THE CHAIR

The Worshipful the Mayor thanked the Council for the honour conferred upon her by her election. The Worshipful the Mayor announced the appointment of Councillor Saira Don to act as Deputy Mayor during her term of office.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Budget Council meeting on 2 March 2021 were agreed as a correct record. One correction was noted to the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting on the 26 April 2021 in that Councillor Rich was present, following that correction, the Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

6. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Worshipful the Mayor passed sincere condolences on behalf of the Council to the Royal family, on the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. As well as serving as Patron of the RAF Museum in Hendon, Prince Phillip had a long-standing association with the Borough of Barnet and its residents. Prince Phillip visited the Borough on a number of occasions. To note just a few of these visits, The Duke of Edinburgh opened the Cophall Stadium in 1964 arriving by helicopter of the Royal Flight, which he piloted himself. In 1984 the Duke of Edinburgh attended the Design Council Awards at the RAF Museum and in 2016 the Duke of Edinburgh visited Middlesex University to present the new Royal Charter to College of Teachers.

The Worshipful the Mayor was also saddened to announce the recent passing of former Liberal Democrat Councillor Jonathan Davies who was a Member of Barnet Council from 1994-1998. Jonathan Davies chaired the English Party of the Liberal Democrats and was Vice President of the Federal Party. He also stood as a Parliamentary candidate in

Finchley & Golders Green and was an executive member of the Barnet Liberal Democrats during the joint Liberal Democrat/Labour Administration.

The Worshipful the Mayor invited Councillor Rozenberg, Councillor Zinkin and Councillor Clarke to say a few words in memory of Jonathan Davies.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, and Jonathan Davies.

7. REPORT OF THE LEADER

There was none.

8. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - RESULTS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BY-ELECTIONS ON 6 MAY 2021

Council noted the return of the Councillors elected at the Borough Council elections held on Thursday 6 May 2021 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report. The Worshipful the Mayor noted the successful candidates were Councillor Nick Mearing-Smith for Edgware and Councillor Nicole Richer for East Barnet, both members of the Conservative party.

9. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

Council considered the Calculation of Political Balance (proportionality) report which provided for the seats on each committee to be correctly allocated in accordance with legislation on proportionality.

Upon all the recommendations within the report being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	59
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	0
Total	59

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Council noted the political balance of the Council as:**
 - **37 Members of the Conservative Group;**
 - **23 Members of the Labour Group;**
 - **2 Members of the Liberal Democrat Group and;**
 - **1 Independent Member;**
- 2. Council agreed the allocation of seats as set out in order to comply with the political balance regulations requiring seats to be allocated proportionately to the political groups on Council;**
- 3. That Council agreed to amend the Constitution to:**
 - **Increase the number of seats on the Financial, Performance & Contracts Committee from eight to 10; and**

- Decrease the number of seats on the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee from nine to eight.

10. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER - 6- MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE

Council considered the report, which requested a waiver for all members of the authority be approved until the end of May 2022, in the event that any member be unable to attend a meeting of the Authority for six months due to the Coronavirus risks or illness which prevent them from attending an in-person Council or committee meeting.

Upon the recommendation being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	59
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	0
Total	59

RESOLVED that Council agreed a waiver for all members of the Authority until the end of May 2022 should they be unable to attend a meeting of the Authority for six months due to the Coronavirus related risks or illness which prevent them from attending an in-person Council or committee meeting.

11. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE - APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Council considered the nominations for appointments to Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that a vote would be taken on all the appointments outlined in Appendix A, where there was competition for membership as follows:

- Finchley and Golders Green Area Residents Forum
- Chipping Barnet Area Residents Forum
- Hendon Area Residents Forum
- Local Pension Board
- Children’s Partnership Board
- Safer Communities Partnership Board
- Lead Member for Children’s Services
- Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Placemaking
- Lead Member for Policing and Community Safety
- North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- West London Economic Prosperity Board
- Diabetes Champion
- Natural Environment Champion
- Design and Heritage Champion
- Ageing well and Mental Health Champion
- Small Business Champion
- NCL Joint Commissioning Committee

Councillor Val Duschinsky moved the Conservative nominations in her name. Councillor Arjun Mittra moved the Labour nominations in his name. Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg moved the Liberal Democrat nominations in his name.

Upon the Conservative nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	36
Against	23
Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

Upon the Labour nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	22
Against	37
Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

Upon the Liberal Democrat nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	1
Against	58
Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

The Conservative nominations were declared carried.

A vote was taken on the remaining nominations in Appendix A that were uncontested which were unanimously carried.

A vote was taken on the Non-Councillor appointments in Appendix B which were unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Conservative Group nominations for the following bodies as set out in Appendix A be approved:

- **Finchley and Golders Green Area Residents Forum**
- **Chipping Barnet Area Residents Forum**
- **Hendon Area Residents Forum**
- **Local Pension Board**
- **Children’s Partnership Board**
- **Safer Communities Partnership Board**
- **Lead Member for Children’s Services**
- **Lead Member for Strategic Planning and Placemaking**
- **Lead Member for Policing and Community Safety**

- North Central London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- West London Economic Prosperity Board
- Diabetes Champion
- Natural Environment Champion
- Design and Heritage Champion
- Ageing well and Mental Health Champion
- Small Business Champion
- NCL Joint Commissioning Committee

2. That the remaining nominations that were uncontested as set out in Appendix A be agreed.

3. That the continuing appointments of Independent, Co-opted, Partner and Officer Members as listed in Appendix B be noted.

12. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council considered the nominations for appointments to Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Councillor Val Duschinsky moved the Conservative nominations in her name. Councillor Arjun Mittra moved the Labour nominations in his name. Councillor Gabriel Rozenberg moved the Liberal Democrat nominations in his name.

The Worshipful the Mayor noted that a separate vote would be taken for the outside bodies where there was a competition for Membership as follows:

- Arts Depot Ltd
- Eleanor Palmers Trust
- Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee
- London Youth Games Limited
- Newable Limited
- North London Waste Authority
- Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London Borough of Barnet
- Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors
- London Council’s Greater London Employment Forum

Upon the Conservative nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	36
Against	23
Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

Upon the Labour nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	22
Against	37

Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

Upon the Liberal Democrat nominations being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	1
Against	58
Abstain	0
Absent	4
Total	59

The Conservative nominations were declared carried.

A vote was taken on the remaining nominations in Appendix A and B that were uncontested which were unanimously carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Conservative Group nominations for the following bodies be agreed:

- **Arts Depot Ltd**
- **Eleanor Palmers Trust**
- **Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee**
- **London Youth Games Limited**
- **Newable Limited**
- **North London Waste Authority**
- **Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London Borough of Barnet**
- **Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors**
- **London Council’s Greater London Employment Forum**

2. That the remaining uncontested nominations in Appendices A and B be agreed.

13. REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Worshipful the Mayor invited Councillor Melvin Cohen, Chairman of the Constitution and General Purposes Committee, to move reception and adoption of the report.

Council Melvin Cohen asked Council to consider the report which outlined the Constitutional amendments proposed by the Constitution and General Purposes Committee.

Upon all the recommendations within the report being put to the vote, the votes were declared as follows:

For	59
Against	0
Abstain	0
Absent	5
Total	59

RESOLVED:

1. That Council noted the report of the Constitution & General Purposes Committee held on 12 April 2021 (Annex 1) and note that the Committee approved the changes as proposed except for the following section of the proposed Contract Procedure Rules changes which would be re-considered at the next meeting:

“CSG Procurement have advised that they are not able to undertake financial evaluation of tenders valued at less than £189,330 for goods or services or less than £4,733,252 for works as they cannot raise financial qualifications for all sub threshold procurements this goes against the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to reduce burden on suppliers for lower value/lower risk opportunities. The second bullet point has been retained and merged with the text in section 8.4.”

2. That Council noted that the Committee agreed that the Chairman be consulted on any Constitution amendments required due to the proposed changes to the Area Committee (Community Infrastructure Levy) Funding changes (being reported to the Policy & Resources Committee on 24 May 2021) and that these are reported directly to Council as follows:

i) Amend Article 7 (Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships), Terms of Reference of Area Committees, section 5) to delete the following wording “...up to a maximum of £25,000 per scheme / project in each case...” with the revised wording to read: “Determine the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funding within the constituency subject to sufficient of the budget allocated to the committee being unspent.”

ii) Amend Article 3 (Residents and Public Participation), section 3.5 to add an additional bullet point under 3. Having considered the issues the Chairman can take the following actions:... “decide that a Road Safety and Parking issue be referred to the Executive Director, Environment” and add to the following bullet point an exclusion that a Road Safety and Parking issue can be referred to an Area Committee.

3. That Council approved the Constitution amendments as set out in Appendices A to N as amended by 1. and 2. above.

4. That Council authorised the Monitoring Officer to implement these revisions and publish a revised Constitution.

The meeting finished at 8.11pm.



Council

27 July 2021

Title	Referral from Audit Committee – Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2020-21
Report of	Chairman of the Audit Committee
Wards	Not applicable
Status	Public
Enclosures	Annex 1 – Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2019-20
Officer Contact Details	Clair Green, Executive Director of Assurance clair.green@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

The Constitution, Article 7 includes the following within the Audit Committee's terms of reference:

“The Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on an annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.”

The Audit Committee at the meeting on the 14th July 2021 resolved to recommend that Council note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2020/21 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.

Officers Recommendation

That Council to note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2020-21 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 14th July 2021, the Audit Committee approved the recommendation for the Annual report of the Audit Committee to be recommended for approval to Council.
- 1.2 As minuted in the Audit Committee minutes 14th July 2021 regarding the Annual Report of the Audit Committee, it was RESOLVED that:
Committee recommend Full Council to note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2020-21 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 As set out in the report at Annex 1.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

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

- 5.2.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Council's Constitution Article 7 states within the Audit Committee's terms of reference that the Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on an Annual basis on its activity and effectiveness.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 As set out in the report attached at Annex 1.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A

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Audit Committee

14 July 2021

Title	Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2020-21
Report of	Chairman of the Audit Committee
Wards	Not applicable
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A – Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2020-21
Officer Contact Details	Clair Green, Director of Assurance clair.green@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

The Constitution, Article 7 includes the following within the Audit Committee's terms of reference:

"The Audit Committee shall prepare a report to Full Council on an annual basis on its activity and effectiveness."

The attached Annual Report describes how the Audit Committee meets its objectives as well as detailing the work of the Committee to date and the outcomes it has achieved for 2020-21.

Recommendations

1. That the Committee recommend Full Council to note and approve the Annual Report of the Audit Committee for 2020-21 as an accurate record of the outcomes and work programme for the year.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Annual Report describes the work of the Committee to date and the outcomes it has achieved for 2020-21.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked whether they wish to make any amendments and note that the report will be presented to Full Council in due course.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is a Constitutional requirement for the Audit Committee to present an Annual Report to full Council each year.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 Once agreed by the Committee the report will be sent to the next Full Council meeting.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

The Audit Committee provides the Council with independent assurance and effective challenge and, therefore, the Committee is central to the provision of effective governance that supports delivery of all corporate priorities.

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

- 5.2.1 None in context of this report

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 None in the context of this report

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 There are no legal issues in the context of this report.

- 5.4.2 The Audit Committee's terms of reference are noted in the Council's Constitution, Article 7. which states that the Audit Committee "shall prepare a report to Full Council on annual basis on its activity and effectiveness".

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 None in context of this report

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Effective systems of audit, internal control and corporate governance provide assurance on the effective allocation of resources and quality of service provision for the benefit of the entire community to assist with compliance with the Council's duties under the 2010 Equality Act.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 None in the context of this decision

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

Not applicable

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 None in the context of this decision

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Appendix 1

Audit Committee Annual Report 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021

Clr Rohit Grover
Chairman of the Audit Committee
July 2021

Contents

1. Introduction and overview

2. Summary of Audit Committee outcomes during 2020-21

3. Conclusions

Annex 1 – Schedule of actual work 2020-21

1. Introduction and Overview

1.1 Good corporate governance requires independent, effective assurance about both the adequacy of financial management and reporting, and the management of other processes required to achieve the organisation's corporate and service objectives. Good practice from the wider public sector indicates that these functions are best delivered by an independent audit committee. In this context, "independence" means that an audit committee should be independent from any other executive function. Further, the National Audit Office regards "well-functioning Audit Committees as key to helping organisations achieve good corporate governance".

1.2 It is important that local authorities have independent assurance about the mechanisms underpinning these aspects of governance.

Specifically:

1.2.1 **independent assurance** of the adequacy of the control environment within the authority;

1.2.2 **independent review** of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and

1.2.3 **assurance** that any issues arising from the process of drawing up, auditing and certifying the authority's annual accounts are properly dealt with and that appropriate accounting policies have been applied.

1.3 Effective audit committees can bring many benefits to local authorities and these benefits are described in CIPFA's *Audit Committees - Practical Guidance for Local Authorities* as:

1.3.1 raising greater awareness of the need for internal control and the implementation of audit recommendations;

1.3.2 increasing public confidence in the objectivity and fairness of financial and other reporting;

1.3.3 reinforcing the importance and independence of internal and external audit and any other similar review process (for example, providing a view on the Annual Governance Statement); and

1.3.4 providing additional assurance through a process of independent and objective review.

1.3.5 Effective internal control and the establishment of an audit committee can never eliminate the risks of serious fraud, misconduct or misrepresentation of the financial position. However, an audit committee:

➤ **can give additional assurance through a process of independent and objective review**

➤ **can raise awareness of the need for sound control and the implementation of recommendations by internal and external audit**

1.4 **Audit Committee at Barnet Council**

The Council's Constitution includes the terms of reference for the Audit Committee, defining its core functions. The terms of reference describe the purpose of the Audit Committee as being:

“to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.”

- 1.4.1 To bring additional expertise from the sector and financial capability the Audit Committee also has two independent members.
- 1.4.2 The Audit Committee has a work programme that has been drawn up to effectively discharge its responsibilities as defined by the terms of reference.
- 1.4.3 The Committee relies upon independent, qualified professionals to provide assurance. Directors and Assistant Directors (or equivalent grade) have attended Committee to support the process and to aid in the Committee's effectiveness/understanding.
- 1.4.4 During the year 2020-21 the Committee undertook all its meetings in the public domain, albeit virtually using Microsoft Teams. Registered speakers were able to call into the meetings and the public were able to access a live stream of the meetings through a link on the meeting webpage. The committee meeting due to take place on 29 April 2020 was cancelled following the lockdown restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no exempt reports this year.
- 1.4.5 Throughout 2020-21, the Audit Committee has been chaired by Councillor Rohit Grover.
- 1.4.6 With regards to the rest of the Committee following Annual Council on 23 July 2020 Councillor Thomas Smith was appointed to the Committee, replacing Cllr Peter Zinkin. Councillor Alex Prager was appointed Vice-Chairman.
- 1.4.7 During the year, two Member Briefing Sessions were arranged for Members of the Audit Committee:
 - 20 July 2020, Statement of Accounts; and
 - 28 January 2021, Understanding Local Government Finance
- 1.4.8 The Chairman during 2020-21 continued to require senior officer attendance where there were high priority Audit recommendations and has continued to encourage public participation at the Audit Committee. The requirement for officers to attend when previously agreed actions were not implemented within agreed timeframes was treated on a case-by-case basis, in light of the impact of COVID on 'business as usual' council activity.
- 1.4.9 The Chairman has encouraged the two independent members to be active participants in meetings of the Committee.

2. Summary of Audit Committee Outcomes during 2020-21

- 2.1 During the financial year (April 2020 – March 2021) the Audit Committee has demonstrated many outcomes with a focus on delivering improvement to the organisation. The way in which these were implemented were as follows: -

2.1.1 **Key controls and assurance mechanisms.** The Committee relies upon information presented from qualified, independent and objective officers and external assurance providers. The key controls and assurance mechanisms are as described within the Annual Governance Statement. The Audit Committee is not a working group, it does not carry out the work itself, but relies on the assurance framework to bring significant issues to the Committee for discussion and make recommendations for the Executive and officers to take forward. The Committee recognises that management are responsible for a sound control environment¹.

2.1.2 **Cross-Council Assurance Service (CCAS).** The Internal Audit service is delivered through a mixed economy model, which includes an in-house team and external provider, currently PwC. In April 2020, a new Framework contract was signed by London Borough of Barnet with PwC for Internal Audit, Advisory and Anti-Fraud and Mazars for Risk Management. As the contract manager, Barnet receives a 1% contract management fee for all invoiced work going through the Framework, which has a maximum OJEU limit of £50m over the four year contract term.

2.2. External Audit financial resilience and value for money. For 2020/21, BDO continue to be the Council's appointed external auditors.

2.2.1 In January 2021, in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260, the council's external auditors (BDO) provided a final report on matters arising from the audit of the Council's Accounts. The ISA 260 report has to be considered by "those charged with governance" (The Audit Committee) before the external auditor can sign the accounts.

2.2.2 The key messages arising from the audit of the 2019/20 financial statements were that they:

- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the council as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the group as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- were prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
- were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

2.2.3 In providing the opinion on the financial statements, the external auditors, concluded on what is known as the Value for Money Conclusion. The Council received an unqualified opinion which means that the External Auditors were satisfied the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

¹ The control environment comprises the systems of governance, risk management and internal control

2.4 Improvement agenda – the Audit Committee is committed to improving shortfalls in the control environment, rather than apportioning blame.

2.4.1 The Audit Committee has been provided with assurances on all internal audit high priority recommendations, and a sample of medium priority recommendations, and the progress against these quarter by quarter. The Audit Committee and its Chairman has asked that leading officers (Directors or Assistant Directors / Strategic Leads) to attend the Audit Committee to explain any deficiencies identified by Internal Audit and how they intend to address and action them. The important aspect that the Audit Committee has been assessing each quarter is whether the direction of travel from one quarter to the next has been improving via recommendations having been implemented. This focus on improving the control environment through follow-up and discussion has made officers accountable for improvement. We followed up a total of 128 recommendations that had been raised and were due to have been implemented by the end of 2020/21. Of those, we found that 122 had been fully implemented by the year end, with 6 ongoing (2 high and 4 medium). The direction of travel for implementing audit recommendations by year end was positive with 95% being implemented, exceeding the target of 90%. This is an improvement on 2019/20 when 76% were confirmed as having been implemented within revised agreed timescales. The prior year performance was impacted by COVID in February and March 2020.

A risk has been maintained on the Council's Strategic Risk Register which recognises that this performance needs to be sustained as if audit actions are not implemented this could lead to a deterioration in the Council's control environment.

2.4.2 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the Head of Internal Audit to provide an annual opinion, based upon and limited to the work performed, on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control (i.e. the organisation's system of internal control). The opinion does not imply that Internal Audit has reviewed all risks relating to the organisation and is based on the work performed in 2020-21. The conclusion should be considered in the context of the financial pressures facing the Council in a period where savings are required to be made but there is a greater demand for local services due to the borough's growing population. For 2020-21 a 'Reasonable' Annual Internal Audit Opinion was given. This is consistent with 2019/20 and an improvement on the previous two years, 2018/19 and 2017/18, when Limited Assurance was given.

2.4.3 In line with the Scheme of Financing Schools, the Chief Finance Officer is required to deploy internal audit to examine the control frameworks operating within schools under the control of the Local Education Authority ("LEA"). In 2020-21, Internal Audit performed 11 schools' visits and undertook 1 follow-up review. The number of schools reviewed was lower than in the previous year (when 20 schools were visited) due to school closures because of COVID.

2.4.4 The **Internal Audit and the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT)** functions, which are organisationally independent from the rest of the Council, have a combined Annual Plan approved annually by Audit Committee which demonstrates their commitment to joint working, making the best use of resources and avoidance of duplication of effort. This also enables them to ensure that any control weaknesses identified through fraudulent

activity are followed up with recommendations to strengthen the control environment and noted on the service risk registers.

2.5 Issues external and internal assurances – during the year the Audit Committee has been presented with various reports regarding control weaknesses. Areas that received an Internal Audit ‘No / Limited’ assurance rating, or where a management letter identified areas of weaknesses and high priority recommendations, are listed below. The Committee has also continued to follow up all High priority recommendations within Reasonable Assurance reports where those recommendations are not implemented within the agreed timeframes. Since 2019-20 Internal Audit also follow-up a sample of Medium priority recommendations and report the outcome to the Audit Committee.

Review Title	Assurance rating	Number of Critical Priority recs	Number of High Priority recs	Number of Medium Priority recs
Housing Benefits	Limited	0	0	7
Land Charges – Review of Planning Data Controls and Policies	Limited	0	2	0
Procurement - Compliance with Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs)	Limited	0	1	8
Finance Global Design Principles (FGDP) - Accounts Receivable	Limited	0	1	3
Adults Restructure - Strategic Risk around Safeguarding	Reasonable	0	1	2
Waste - Health & Safety	Reasonable	0	1	2
Pensions Administration Governance Transition	N/A	0	4	4
Danegrove School	No	2	5	5
Frith Manor School	Limited	0	1	6
St. Joseph’s Catholic Primary School	Limited	0	1	4
Edgware Primary School	Reasonable	0	1	2

2.6 Anti-Fraud – Last year has been subject to the working conditions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, which saw CAFT officers work from home and, for large parts of the year, unable to carry out formal PACE interviews, take witness statements or visit suspected offenders at their home addresses. Because of this CAFT has had to carry out more “desk based” investigations and duties and modify the way it works to engage with the members of the public. In addition to this the UK Courts suspended cases being heard and prioritised only the most serious cases where hearings were essential.

From Mid-July most CAFT officers were redeployed to support the high visibility Covid-19 Enforcement street patrols to assist with monitoring, evidencing and enforcing the new Coronavirus Act in relation to new trading rules brought in for businesses in the borough.

2.6.1 **The Concessionary Travel Fraud Team** has investigated **225** cases of alleged Blue Badge misuse as well as Blue Badge and parking permits fraud as well as fraudulent appeals relating to penalty charge notices (PCNs). Of these, **1** case was successfully prosecuted at Magistrates court. A further **31** cases also concluded in Warning letters being sent to the Badge Holders as well as the offenders. There are many cases that are currently waiting for Covid regulations to be relaxed so that formal interviews and legal actions can resume.

2.6.2 **The Tenancy Fraud team** has particularly had to work in challenging conditions this year, it has investigated **490** cases of alleged Tenancy Fraud. They were responsible for recovering **3** properties and preventing **2** Right to Buy applications due to the applicants not being eligible to purchase under the scheme. In addition to this Tenancy fraud officers prevented **1** new housing application that was submitted by persons who were not eligible to be housed. There are many cases that are currently waiting for Covid regulations to be relaxed so that formal interviews and legal actions can resume.

2.6.3 **The Corporate Fraud Team** investigated **119** cases of alleged fraud. These resulted in **1** member of staffed being dismissed and **1** member of staff resigning because of CAFT investigations.

During the year 2020/21 Barnet has also been responsible for assessing and distributing a new grant scheme, set up to support businesses affected by Covid-19 trading rules. Since the start of the grant scheme CAFT have assisted Finance in this scheme and as such carried out a total of 10,514 prepayment fraud checks on applications valued at £87,373,609.

2.6.4 In relation to **Proceeds of Crime (POCA) Investigations**, CAFT continue to provide advice and support to every aspect of the organisation including its partners and contractors. This advice varies between fraud risk, prevention and detection, money laundering and other criminal activity as well as misconduct and misuse of public funds. Some of the matters will progress to criminal investigation and others will not, but in all cases appropriate actions, such as disciplinary or recovery action is taken.

2.6.5 **Whistleblowing** matters are also reported to the Audit Committee. 3 whistleblowing allegations were received (1 in Q1 and 2 in Q4).

2.7 **Planned and unplanned work** – The Committee has completed its work plan in accordance with its planned level of activity as detailed at annex 1.

3. Conclusions

3.1 In conclusion the Audit Committee feels that it has demonstrated that it has added value to the Council's overall Governance Framework.

3.2 The Audit Committee's focus will continue to be ensuring action is taken on internal control deficiencies and reviewing progress on a regular basis as well as a commitment to improving shortfalls in the control environment, rather than apportioning blame.

Annex 1 – Schedule of actual work 2020-21

Detail of Reports considered:

Audit Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Items
14 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report of the Audit Committee • Revised External Audit Plan 2019/20 • Internal Audit & Anti-Fraud Strategy and Annual Plan 2020-21 • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2019/20 • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q4 Progress Report 1st January to 31st March 2020 • Annual Internal Audit Opinion 2019-20 • Committee Forward Work Programme
19 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Phase 1 Progress Report 1st April to 30th September 2020 • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Combined Q1&Q2 Progress Report 2020-21 • Annual Governance Statement • External Auditor's Audit Completion Report for the year 2019/20 • Committee Forward Work Programme
28 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q3 (Phase 2) Progress Report 1st October to 31st December 2020

Audit Committee Meeting Date	Agenda Items
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Q3 Progress Report 2020-21 • Final External Auditor's Report for the year 2019/20 • Committee Forward Work Programme
28 April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Exception Recommendations Report and Q4 (Phase 2) Progress Report 1st January to 31st March 2021 • Internal Audit & Anti-Fraud Strategy and Annual Plan 2021-22 • Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT) Annual Report 2020-2021 • Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 • External Audit Plan 2020/21 • Committee Forward Work Programme



Council

27 July 2021

Title	Referral from Audit Committee – Code of Corporate Governance 2021-22
Report of	Chairman of the Audit Committee
Wards	Not applicable
Status	Public
Enclosures	Appendix A – Code of Corporate Governance 2021-22
Officer Contact Details	Clair Green, Executive Director of Assurance clair.green@barnet.gov.uk -

Summary

A Code of Corporate Governance is reported alongside the AGS which has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016. This includes the principle and sub-principles of good governance and how the council complies with them. The Code of Corporate Governance was reported to the Audit Committee to comment and note on the 14th July 2021. Full Council is requested to approve the code for incorporated into the Council's Constitution.

The Constitution, Article 4 The Full Council, includes the following within its terms of reference:

“Adopting and changing the Constitution (unless delegated)”

Officers Recommendation

That Council note and approve the Code of Corporate Governance 2021-22 as set out in Appendix 1, for incorporation into the Constitution.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 14th July 2021, the Audit Committee noted the Code of Corporate Governance which was presented alongside the Annual Governance Statement. The code of corporate governance is incorporated into the Council's Constitution, any adoptions, or changes to the constitution, sit within the terms of reference of Full Council to approve.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Full Council is requested to approve the code for incorporation into the Council's Constitution. Any adoptions, or changes to the constitution, sit within the terms of reference of Full Council to approve.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 N/A.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The Code of Corporate Governance within the Council's Constitution will be updated and published to the Council's website.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Barnet Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

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

- 5.2.1 N/A

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 There are no legal issues in the context of this report.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution, article 4, outlines that any adoptions of changes to the Councils Constitution must be approved by Full Council, unless delegated.

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 N/A

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Effective systems of audit, internal control and corporate governance provide assurance on compliance with laws, regulation, internal policies and procedures, including compliance with the Council's duties under the 2010 Equalities Act

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 N/A

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 N/A.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Audit Committee 14th July 2021 - Annual Governance Statement report [Agenda for Audit Committee on Wednesday 14th July, 2021, 7.00 pm \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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London Borough Barnet Code of Corporate Governance 2021/22



Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for citizens and stakeholders are defined and achieved.

To deliver good governance within the Council, all councillors, officers and partners should strive to achieve the Council's objectives while acting in the public interest. This should result in positive outcomes for service users and other stakeholder's

The Council should keep governance arrangements up to date and relevant. The main principle underpinning the development of the new Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 (CIPFA/Solace) continues to be that local government is developing and shaping its own approach to governance, taking account of the environment in which it now operates. The overall aim is to ensure that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities, that there is sound and inclusive decision making and that there is clear accountability for the use of those resources, in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.

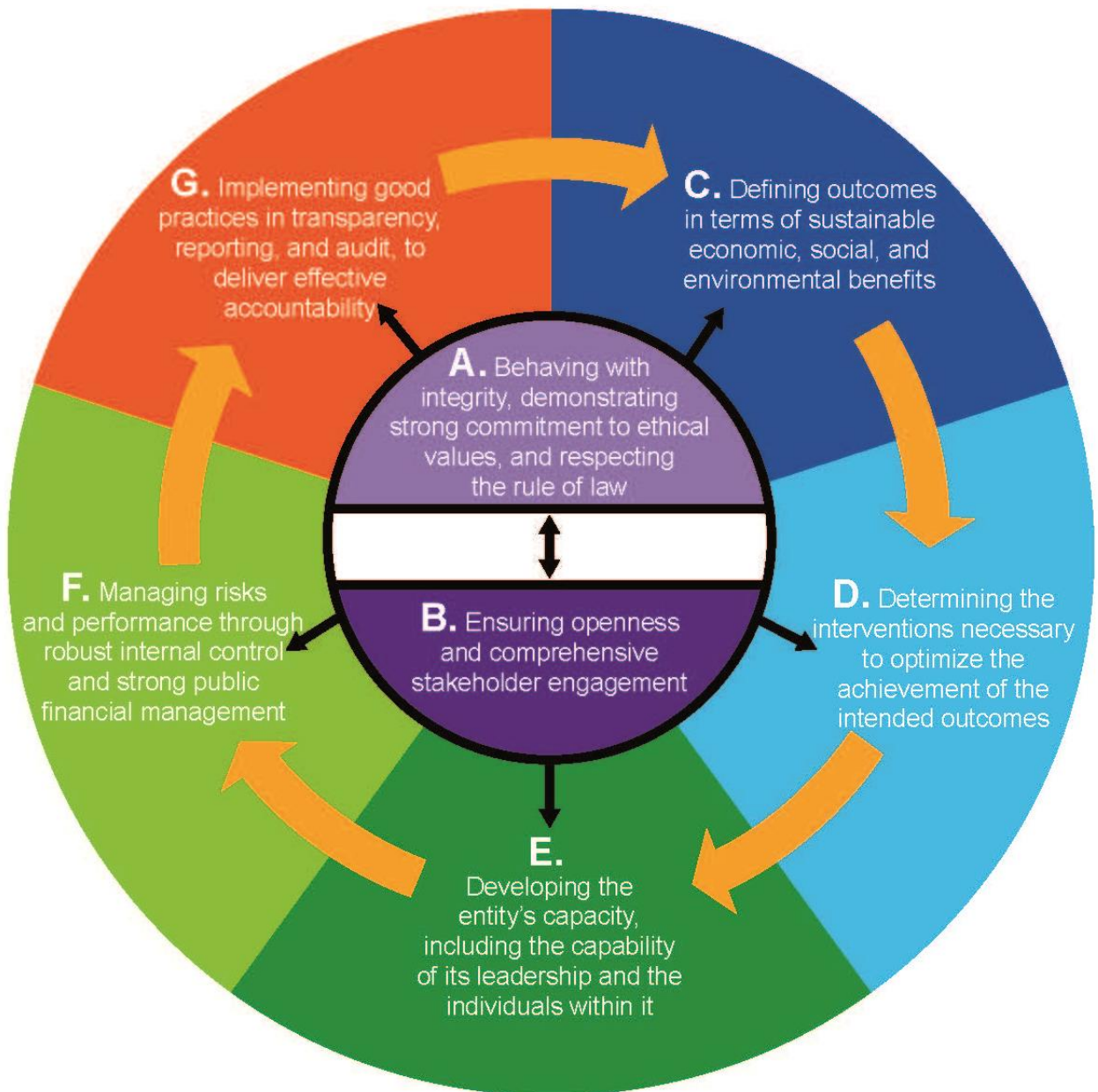
As outlined in the CIPFA Framework, the governance processes and structures focus on achieving economic, societal, and environmental outcomes.. Furthermore, the focus on sustainability and the links between governance and public financial management are crucial – the Council recognises the need to focus on the long-term. The Council has responsibility to more than their current electors and should take account of the impact of current decisions and actions on future generations.

The core principles and sub-principles of good governance and how they are met at Barnet are set out in the table below. However, good governance cannot be achieved by rules and procedures alone. Shared values that are integrated into the culture of the organisation, and are reflected in both behaviour and policy, are hallmarks of good governance.

The Council produces an Annual Governance Statement to report publicly on the extent to which the Council complies with its local code and this is a statutory requirement.

Principles of Good Governance

Relationships between the Principles for Good Governance in the Public Sector



A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
<p>Ensuring Members behave with integrity and develop robust policies which place emphasis on agreed ethical values.</p>	<p>The Principles of Public Life are established within the Members Code of Conduct. The Code outlines the behaviours and values that are required when acting in the capacity of an elected Councillor. The Council's Monitoring Officer is responsible for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.</p>
<p>Seeking to establish, monitor and maintain the Council's ethical standards and performance.</p>	<p>Under the Localism Act the Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members of the authority.</p> <p>The Constitution & General Purposes Committee consider and make recommendations to Council on how it can satisfy the continuing duty to promote and maintain standards of conduct by Members, as well as ethical standards in general across the authority.</p> <p>A Standards Committee is in place to investigate and determine allegations of any breaches of the code.</p>
<p>Ensuring that external providers of services on behalf of the Council are required to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards.</p>	<p>Contractors must act in compliance with all relevant council policies and the law.</p>
<p>Creating the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders, and members, are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>All committee reports are subject to clearance procedures, to ensure decisions taken are compliant with the budget and policy framework, the law and the council's constitution. Comprehensive schemes of delegation are in place detailing how chief officers will discharge the statutory powers within their remit. The Assurance Group is responsible for governance and</p>

	compliance and includes Internal Audit, Governance and the statutory Monitoring Officer. Members oversight is through the council's formal governance arrangements, primarily theme committees and their review of financial and corporate performance information, the Audit Committee, the Constitution & General Purposes Committee and Full Council.
Dealing with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectively.	Appropriate action is taken by the Council's legal services (Harrow & Barnet Public Law) with oversight by the Monitoring Officer in liaison with officers within the Assurance Group.
Ensuring corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively.	The Monitoring Officer and Corporate Anti-Fraud Team investigate all allegations of fraud and irregularities across the council and its partners.

B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
Providing clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders and being explicit about the criteria, rationale and considerations used.	Committee reports cover the options available and the reasons for recommendations. Every report sets out why the report is needed, reasons for the recommendation(s) and alternative options considered but not recommended. The formal minutes of the meeting will record the reasons for Members decisions, which are then published on the council's website. Delegated powers reports by officers also record reasons for decisions.
Effectively engaging with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully.	Where formal partnerships exist between institutional bodies, joint strategies and plans are developed in a collaborative way and jointly adopted through a joint body. Examples include the Safer Communities Strategy (agreed by the Safer Communities Partnership Board) and Health & Wellbeing Strategy (agreed by

<p>Developing formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectively.</p>	<p>the Health & Wellbeing Board). In addition, the councils recently updated, Project Management Guidance provides advice on stakeholder engagement.</p>
<p>Ensuring that partnerships are based on trust, a shared commitment to change, a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners and that the added value of partnership working is explicit.</p>	<p>A number of partnerships are in place to support work in specific joint areas including community safety (Safer Communities Partnership Board), health and social care (Health & Wellbeing Board), improving the wellbeing of Children across the Borough (Barnet Children's Partnership Board) and sub-regional joint working (West London Economic Prosperity Board).</p>
<p>Establishing a clear policy on the type of issues that the organisation will meaningfully consult with or involve communities, individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomes.</p>	<p>A Consultation & Engagement Strategy is in place which details the type of decisions that the council will consult on, who we will consult with and how feedback will inform decisions taken. Consultation takes place on any issue that affects residents such as service or policy changes, or various statutory processes (such as planning, traffic or highways matters).</p>

C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
<p>Having a clear vision, which is an agreed formal statement of the organisation's purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provide the basis for the organisation's overall strategy, planning and other decisions.</p>	<p>The Barnet Corporate Plan 2021-2025 sets out the four priorities for the Borough, to be clean, safe and well run, family friendly, healthy and thriving. The plan outlines these priorities and how the council will work to achieve them.</p> <p>The Budget for 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 outlines how resources will be aligned to the strategic outcomes set out in the Barnet Corporate Plan. Performance indicators are also regularly reported to the Policy &</p>

	<p>Resources Committee and theme committees.</p> <p>In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a programme has been set up to co-ordinate recovery activity across the organisation. This has been based on the four workstreams of the Barnet Plan and provides regular updates to Council Management Team.</p>
<p>Specifying the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders including citizens and service users. It could be immediately or over the course of a year or longer.</p>	<p>Impact of decisions will be evidenced in council committee reports and in delegated powers reports.. Equality issues will be further evaluated within equality impact assessments.</p>
<p>Delivering defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be available.</p>	<p>The Barnet Corporate Plan and Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out the council's strategic priorities and how resources will be allocated to support these.</p> <p>All committee reports must include a section on any implications any decisions or recommendations will have on resources.</p>
<p>Identifying and managing risks to the achievement of outcomes.</p>	<p>Risk Management Framework is in place and a Corporate Risk Register is maintained, which is published as part of the Annual Business Planning report taken to Policy & Resources Committee. Mitigating actions are put in place where required. Risks are reported periodically to Executive Directors, the Policy & Resources Committee, Financial Performance & Contracts Committee and other theme committees.</p>
<p>Managing service users' expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available.</p>	<p>Where appropriate, and in compliance with statutory duties, public consultation is carried out with service users. The Council also maintains an effective Citizens Panel which informs priorities and resource allocation.</p>

Considering and balancing the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provision.	Committee reports cover this principle and strategic cross-borough planning is also undertaken in liaison with the Mayor of London and the West London Economic Prosperity Board.
Determining the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offs.	Committee reports cover this principle, with alternative options considered and implications of all decisions being outlined in every report. The Medium Term Financial Strategy also covers these principles.
Ensuring fair access to services.	Committee reports will cover equality legislation and ensure that decision-makers are aware of impact upon citizens with the protected characteristics. Equality impact assessments are completed where relevant. The Council also ensures impacts on other disadvantaged local citizens are considered.

D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
Determining the right mix of corporate (legal, assurance, regulatory, and finance) interventions to ensure intended outcomes are achieved.	The Chief Executive in liaison with Chief Officers carries out this determination quarterly, in liaison with chief officers.
Decisions made need to be reviewed frequently to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.	Committee reports detail post-decision implementation steps. If outcomes are not delivered, the relevant chief officer will ensure that the decision is reviewed, and remedial steps taken.
Ensuring decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes would be achieved and of associated risks –	Chief Officers and their direct reports evaluate options and give appropriate advice to decision-makers. Committee reports include sections on 'Alternative options considered and not

therefore ensuring best value is achieved however services are provided.	recommended', 'implications of decisions' and 'Risk management'.
Considering feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available.	Feedback from public consultations and the Citizens Panel is set out within relevant committee reports and delegated powers reports and used to inform decision making..
Establishing and implementing robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targets.	Quarterly reporting to the Policy & Resources Committee, theme committees and Financial Performance & Contracts Committee including results of key performance indicators and the management of strategic contracts. In addition, an annual planned programme of work is undertaken by Internal Audit.
Considering and monitoring risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risks.	Shared risks are identified in a register and reviewed at least quarterly; significant risks facing each partner are subject to quarterly review.
Ensuring arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering goods and services can be adapted to changing circumstances.	When making a decision, or making recommendations to Members regarding a preferred option, chief officers take into account the following: delivery of high-quality services; value for money; and the scope to vary arrangements to take into account changing circumstances.
Establishing appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs).	The Corporate Plan details the KPIs required to deliver the council's objectives.
Ensuring the budgeting process is all-inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer term.	As set out within the Constitution's Financial Regulations and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. –

E. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
<p>Reviewing operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectiveness.</p>	<p>An Asset Management Plan is in place, which provides a strategic approach to the management of property assets (approved and overseen by the Housing and Growth Committee). Performance reports are presented to all theme committees and to the Financial Performance & Contracts Committee, which detail KPIs and financial monitoring. Chief Officers are responsible for the performance of services within their remit and a Commercial Team is in place for oversight and management of key strategic contracts.</p>
<p>Improving resource use through application of techniques such as benchmarking to determine how resources are allocated so that defined outcomes are achieved effectively.</p>	<p>CIPFA benchmarking exercises are undertaken across the Council. Best practice reviews are undertaken as part of service improvement initiatives.</p>
<p>Recognising partnership benefits and collaborative working where added value can be achieved.</p>	<p>Full engagement through the Barnet Partnership Board, sub-regional partnerships (such as the West London Alliance), the Mayor of London and Greater London Assembly, London Councils and with public sector partners, particularly Health and the Police.</p>
<p>Publishing a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the governing body.</p>	<p>The council's Constitution is explicit about which decisions are reserved to Council or committees and which are delegated to officers. Chief officers maintain schemes of delegated authority that are published and regularly updated.</p>
<p>Ensuring the leader and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads in implementing strategy and</p>	<p>The council's Constitution details the roles and responsibilities of the leader (Article 6) and chief executive (Article 9). The leader and councillors set the councils' priorities and strategic direction; the chief executive</p>

<p>managing the delivery of services set by members.</p>	<p>is responsible for delivering these priorities, supported by chief officers.</p>
<p>Developing the capabilities of members and officers, including induction, continuing professional development training, and lessons learnt from governance weaknesses.</p>	<p>A Member Development Programme is agreed and implemented during each council cycle. Members must attend mandatory training before serving on some committees and are strongly encouraged to keep their knowledge and skills up to date in relation to the committees that they serve on. A comprehensive induction programme is provided to all new Councillors following the local elections, as well as following any by-elections. The Council has now achieved chartered status for its member development programme and will be working with Councillors towards the achievement of Charter Plus status.</p> <p>Officers have an induction programme, a corporate learning and development programme and an e-learning Hub is in place. Where governance weaknesses are identified, remedial actions are put in place and delivery is monitored.</p>
<p>Ensuring that there are structures in place to encourage public participation.</p>	<p>Public participation rights are set out in the Constitution (Article 3); decisions that affect residents are usually the subject of public consultation.</p>
<p>Holding staff to account through regular performance reviews which take account of training or development needs.</p>	<p>Performance Related Pay is in operation within the Council. Performance Reviews take into account training / development needs and ensure that these are addressed.</p>
<p>Ensuring arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing.</p>	<p>Arrangements are put in place by Human Resources with oversight by the Constitution & General Purposes Committee (which has responsibility for HR matters).</p>

F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
Implementing robust and integrated risk management arrangements and ensuring that responsibilities for managing risks are clearly allocated.	A Risk Management Framework is in place, with officer responsibilities clearly allocated. Strategic risks are reported to the Policy & Resources Committee, theme committees, the Financial Performance & Contracts Committee and chief officers.
Monitoring service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation review.	Chief Officers are responsible for delivering services within their respective portfolios including specifying outcomes/outputs, monitoring performance, contract management and post-implementation reviews. Internal Audit provide independent assurance on key financial systems and areas of service delivery on a risk-based approach.
Making decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the organisation's financial, social and environmental position and outlook.	All committee reports and delegated powers reports require information on relevant risks and how these will be managed.
Encouraging effective and constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives to support balanced and effective decision making.	A 'Committee System' governance structure is in place (distinct from a Leader/Cabinet model) which permits cross-party political discussion at all committee meetings on major strategic decisions. All Members are entitled to submit one Members item for an agenda for a meeting of a committee or sub-committee on which they serve. Members are also entitled to attend and speak at any committee meeting by giving notice to the Chairman before the start of the meeting.
Providing Members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievement.	Regular reports are taken to the Policy & Resources Committee, theme committees, the Financial Performance & Contracts Committee. Chief Officers are provided regular updates and reports via the Council Management Team meetings.

Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in place.	Responsibilities are set out within the Constitution and Code of Conduct. In addition, the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team is in place within the Assurance Group with the necessary specialist skills to undertake various types of fraud and anti-corruption investigations.
Ensuring additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk management and control is provided by the internal auditor.	Assurance undertaken by Internal Audit within the Assurance Group with a plan of work being approved by the Audit Committee on an annual basis.
Ensuring an Audit Committee or equivalent group function provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risk and maintaining an effective control environment.	Assurance provided by the Policy & Resources Committee, theme committees, the Financial Performance & Contracts Committee and also by the Audit Committee.
Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for data use and storage and when sharing data with other bodies.	Arrangements in place with the Information Management Team and Insight and Intelligence Team.

G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability

Supporting Principles	How the Principles are met by the Council
Writing and communicating reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style.	Report writing guidance is in place to clarify information required in each section of reports. Officers, via the report clearance process, review the content and structure of reports to ensure that they can be understood by the public and stakeholders. The Governance Service offers report writing workshops to departments across the council, to provide advice and training on how to ensure reports are easy to understand not unnecessarily complex. It is acknowledged that this is an area for continuous improvement.

<p>Providing sufficient information to satisfy transparency demands while not being too onerous for users to read and understand.</p>	<p>The Open Barnet data portal can be accessed via the council's website. Published datasets and other information of interest can be searched via one searchable database for anyone to access.</p>
<p>Ensuring robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this Framework have been applied and publishing the results on this assessment, including an action plan for improvement.</p>	<p>The Council produces an Annual Governance Statement, which provides a self-assessment of compliance with the Framework and actions which need to be undertaken to address any governance or practice weaknesses identified. The statement is reported to the Audit Committee.</p>
<p>Ensuring that this Framework is applied to jointly managed or shared service organisations as appropriate.</p>	<p>Included within Assurance and Barnet Group protocol arrangements.</p>
<p>Ensuring an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon.</p>	<p>In place through Internal Audit and the tracking of recommendations via quarterly Audit Committee reporting.</p>
<p>Gaining assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that this is evidenced in the Annual Governance Statement.</p>	<p>Via contract clauses within our contracts with Capita, CSG Re, BELS (Barnet Education & Learning Service) and the Barnet Group the council have the right of access to their records and internal audit reports. The council can also undertake our own audits of their systems and processes and this right is exercised, with protocol / liaison meetings in place to support this.</p> <p>Chief Officer structure details accountability lines for services and portfolios of activity. Public accountability requirements are met via publication of committee information on the website, opportunities for public participation, consultation on key decisions, Freedom of Information requests and information on the Open Data Portal.</p>

Barnet Council's Submission to the Parliamentary Boundary Review

This Council notes that:

1. There are currently three Parliamentary constituencies in Barnet: Chipping Barnet, Finchley and Golders Green, and Hendon. Each of these constituencies is entirely within the London Borough of Barnet.
2. The Boundary Commission for England has recently submitted its initial proposals for Parliamentary constituencies across England.
 - a. As they stand, these proposals would create sweeping changes to boundaries within Barnet.
3. The initial proposals call for five constituencies to cover the London Borough of Barnet. All but one of these, High Barnet and Mill Hill, would include areas from other London boroughs:
 - a. Finchley and Muswell Hill would include Haringey
 - b. Hendon and Golders Green would include Brent
 - c. Southgate and Barnet East would include Enfield
 - d. Stanmore and Edgware would include Harrow

This Council believes that:

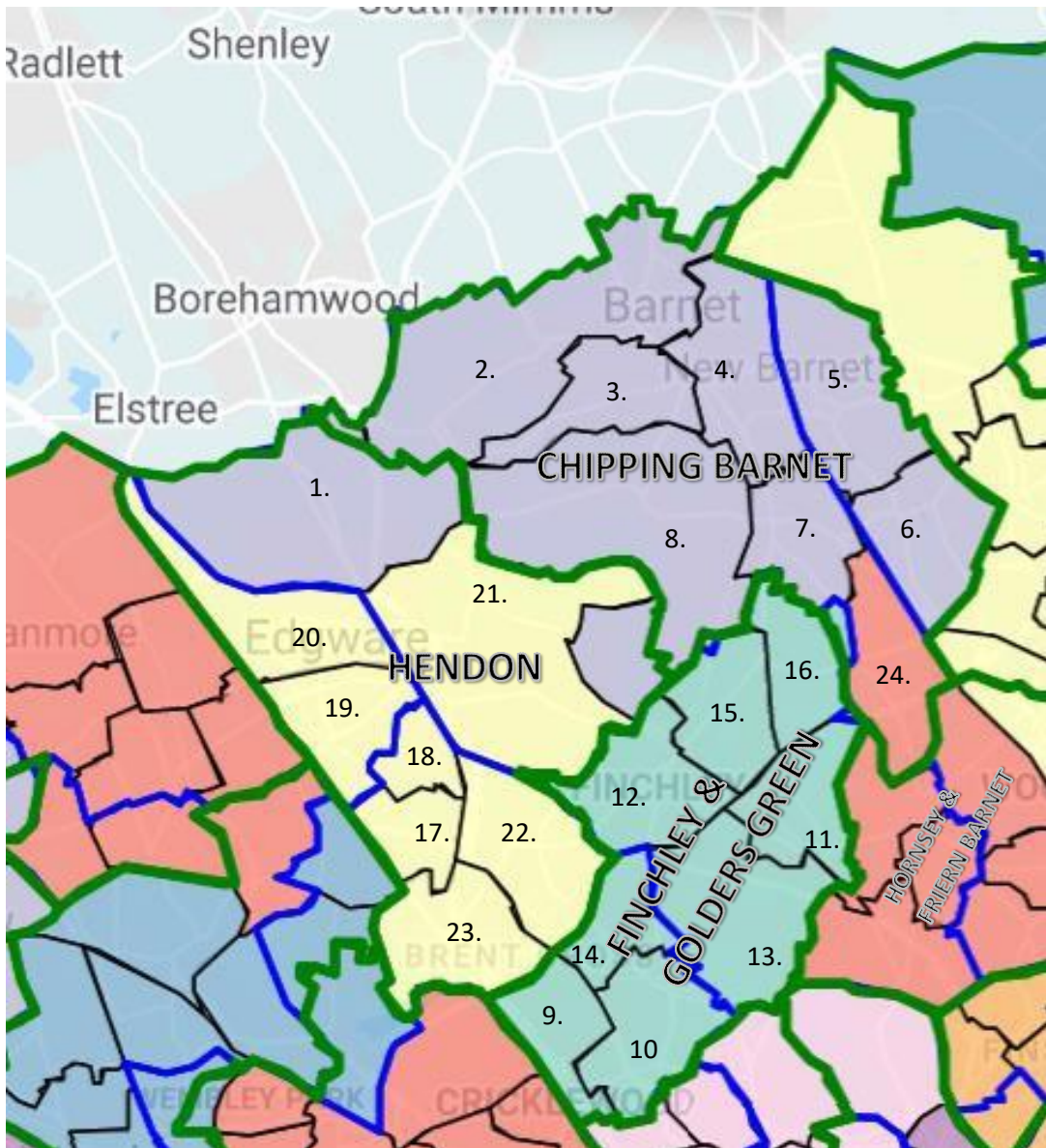
1. Having five Members of Parliament covering areas of Barnet, and four other boroughs, would be impractical.
2. These proposals in no way take into consideration the communities, transport infrastructure or local links in the area.
 - a. For instance, the main public transport routes across Barnet run North-South, which is how our communities are connected. Therefore:
 - i. Golders Green has far more in common with Finchley than with Kingsbury
 - ii. Finchley Church End has more in common with Childs Hill than with Muswell Hill
 - iii. Brunswick Park has far better connections to Totteridge & Whetstone than to Palmers Green
 - iv. Burnt Oak shares more communal and transport connections with Colindale than with Stanmore

3. An approach that ensures that local communities and connections are preserved, while containing fewer than 77,062 electors; the maximum number the Commission says that any constituency should have, should be sought.
 - a. This could be done while maintaining the vast majority of Barnet wards within three constituencies of *Chipping Barnet*, *Finchley and Golders Green*, and *Hendon*. To do this, the wards could be separated as below:
 - i. Chipping Barnet would contain the wards of: Edgwarebury, High Barnet, Underhill, Barnet Vale, East Barnet, Brunswick Park, Whetstone, Totteridge and Woodside
 - ii. Finchley and Golders Green would contain the wards of: Cricklewood, Childs Hill, East Finchley, Finchley Church End, Garden Suburb, Golders Green, West Finchley, Woodhouse
 - iii. Hendon would contain the wards of: Colindale South, Colindale North, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Mill Hill, Hendon, West Hendon
 - b. A fourth constituency, *Hornsey and Friern Barnet* could then straddle Barnet and Haringey, with the *Friern Barnet* ward sitting inside a constituency otherwise made up of those solely in Haringey. This would be the only Barnet ward that would be within a constituency that covers two boroughs.

This Council resolves to:

1. Support constituency changes that preserve the character, community and infrastructure of the areas that they cover, and oppose those that do not.
2. Oppose proposals that will damage links between constituencies and local authorities, as well as those that don't take local ties into account.
 - a. To recommend that the Boundary Commission reviews its initial proposals for the constituencies that would impact Barnet residents, in line with the proposals set out in *Council Believes, Paragraph 3, above* (a map has been added, Appendix 1, showing the wards within the constituency boundaries proposed above).
3. Instruct the Leader to submit a detailed rationale on behalf of the Council, supporting the alternative proposal laid out in this motion, to the Boundary Commission for England.

Appendix 1



Chipping Barnet

- 1. Edgwarebury
- 2. High Barnet
- 3. Underhill
- 4. Barnet Vale
- 5. East Barnet
- 6. Brunswick Park
- 7. Whetstone
- 8. Totteridge & Woodside

Finchley and Golders Green

- 9. Cricklewood
- 10. Childs Hill
- 11. East Finchley
- 12. Finchley Church End
- 13. Garden Suburb
- 14. Golders Green
- 15. West Finchley
- 16. Woodhouse

Hendon

- 17. Colindale South
- 18. Colindale North
- 19. Burnt Oak
- 20. Edgware
- 21. Mill Hill
- 22. Hendon
- 23. West Hendon

Hornsey and Friern Barnet

- 24. Friern Barnet

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Sara Conway

Community Safety

AGENDA ITEM 14.2

Following a spate of violent crimes and anti-social behaviour in locations across Barnet including Whetstone, East Barnet, Friern Barnet, East Finchley, Colindale, Brent Cross, Mill Hill East and Burnt Oak, Council asks the relevant Committees to consider what more the Council can do to support the police and improve community safety in the Borough.

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Council: Tuesday 27th July 2021

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr David Longstaff

AGENDA ITEM 14.3

Protecting Children in Diplomatic Families

Council notes:

1. The *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation”.
2. The Director of Children's Services (DCS) is responsible for securing the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers.
3. 196 of 197 UN Member States are States Parties to the *Convention*. All 197 Member States have signed the *Convention*.
4. The law on diplomatic immunity and its effect on parents and the children of diplomatic staff is complex.
5. Barnet Council was recently involved in a case involving child abuse and a diplomatic family.
6. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office has a key role in resolving issues around safeguarding the children of diplomatic staff.

Council believes:

1. Every child should grow up free from abuse.
2. There should be an international review of child protection and diplomatic immunity, that seeks consensus on the paramount importance of the protection of children.
3. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) should support all Local Authorities in carrying out their statutory duties to protect children.

Council resolves to:

1. Urge the FCDO to support Barnet Council and all other Local Authorities in carrying out our statutory duties to protect all children of diplomatic families, by way of having a clear protocol for how they will work with a local authority in circumstances where there are concerns about the welfare of those children.
2. Call on the Government to lead an international review of child protection and diplomatic immunity.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Ending street harassment of women and girls

AGENDA ITEM 14.4

The following message was posted on a local online neighbourhood forum recently:

“Respecting our Girls. I know this is a shout out for all females on the planet but this is especially for my teenager daughters. Women and men teach your sons, grandsons, brothers, cousins, uncles, male friends or just any male you know how intimidating, scary and the long lasting the effects your unwanted attentions have on young girls. My 15 year old at the bus stop in school uniform does not want to chat with you, or have u follow her on the bus.... look at her face... she is scared of you. To the 40 year old man at Victoria station who thinks even after my 17 year old daughter tell him he is making her uncomfortable still tries to intimidate her, just STOP. You are scaring her! I don’t know if men realise a bit of banter for them is a life changing experience for a young girl. When that girl phones her mum in tears because she doesn’t know what to do and is scared. Just try and see how that girl might be feeling, imagine if that was your daughter, sister, cousin, auntie, mother or any female you know and love. This is not a male bashing as I know how amazing and respectful all the men in my life are but it’s just a thought for a lazy Sunday afternoon.”

Council asks the relevant Committees to consider what more can be done within their powers to end street harassment of women and girls.

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Ross Houston

Planning Reforms

AGENDA ITEM 14.5

Council believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications.

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Anne Clarke

#EndOurCladdingScandal

AGENDA ITEM 14.6

In January, Council agreed a motion to support Inside Housing's 10-point campaign to #EndOurCladdingScandal. The campaign includes calling on Government to make the protection of residents from historic and future costs a key commitment of new building safety legislation.

Unfortunately, the Government's Building Safety Bill, which has just been published, does not include this commitment.

This is despite Ministers and two Prime Ministers promising more than 17 times in Parliament that they would protect leaseholders from costs, and despite repeated assurances during the Fire Safety Bill that the Building Safety Bill is the place where the "who pays" argument should be focused.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the relevant Government ministers setting out Council's position that leaseholders must be protected from cladding remediation costs and that this should be included in the Building Safety Bill as promised.

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021

Motion: Cllr Arjun Mittra

Congratulations to England's football team

AGENDA ITEM 14.7

Barnet council congratulates Gareth Southgate and the England men's football team on their historic success in the recently concluded UEFA Euro 2020 competition and reaching the final at Wembley.

Residents of Barnet, and indeed the entire country, were united in support of a team that has displayed a strong set of values. Inclusivity, diversity and comradeship are values we should all aspire to, and were demonstrated by the team time and time again throughout the competition.

Whilst football is not yet coming home, it certainly came very close.

However, the immense pride this borough feels towards our National team is matched only by the sadness of hearing the appalling racist abuse suffered by a number of players.

Barnet Council has supported the Black Lives Matter movement because it recognises that racism still exists in society, and that all citizens have a role to play in defeating it and calling it out.

The abuse of a 19-year-old and a player who's campaign secured millions in funding from the Government to feed hungry and poor children across the country is abhorrent. It shows why the team chose to take the knee and shows that they were right to do so.

The Council therefore re-commits to rooting out racism and eliminating discrimination against people from diverse backgrounds.

The Council stands with the English football team and condemns unequivocally the racist abuse players have received.

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Council meeting, 27 July 2021
Motion: Cllr Alan Schneiderman
Climate emergency

AGENDA ITEM 14.8

On 29 October 2019, Council agreed a motion asking each relevant Committee to consider the Friends of the Earth report for Barnet on tackling climate change and review what more could be done in their remit to tackle climate change.

To date, this has not happened.

When it comes to climate change, Barnet Council's Conservative administration has no sense of urgency, and only two speeds - go slow and stop.

The UK Government has declared a climate emergency, hundreds of local councils across the political spectrum have declared a climate emergency, and each of Barnet's neighbouring councils have declared a climate emergency. But the Barnet Conservatives have refused to do this.

Council believes LB Barnet can and should do more.

Council asks each relevant Committee to review the Friends of the Earth report on climate change in Barnet and consider implementing the proposals to tackle climate change in the Borough - as was agreed nearly two years ago.

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