

## Business Planning Appendix B

### ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – VISION AND COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES

#### VISION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Barnet is a green and leafy borough and this is one of the reasons people want to live here
- Ensuring that our parks and open spaces are among the best in London will help to attract more people to the borough
- We will meet the needs of our growing population by minimising waste for disposal and ensuring that collections are sustainable
- We will support the prosperity of our growing borough by keeping the streets consistently clean and safe, day and night
- Highways are maintained to a high standard and areas of high growth and strategic importance being progressively upgraded and improved
- We will meet the highest standards of air quality possible and develop policies to support this, for example, through emission-based permits and our Transport Strategy which is being developed to support moving people away from cars to other means of transport.

#### COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES

##### Summary

- We're **investing in our parks and open spaces** to put in place **better governance**, while exploring opportunities for **more sustainable funding** and **using parks as community assets**
- We're **making it easier for businesses and residents in all types of accommodation to recycle**, while listening to their concerns in order to **maintain high levels of satisfaction with waste collection services**
- We're **using new technology to clean the streets more efficiently** and make it **easier for residents to tell us where to focus our efforts**, and keeping them clean through **increased use of enforcement** with a particular focus on town centres
- We're **improving the management of traffic flows and parking across the borough**, which will also help to maintain **road safety and air quality**, and working at regional and national level to **improve radial routes for public transport**
- We are developing a **Transport Strategy** to support the move from cars to other modes of transport, together with an **approach to fees and charges based on environmental impact to help improve overall air quality**
- **Highways and Network Management** within Barnet delivers a high quality, responsive service that optimises travel times across the borough, and taking a **strong enforcement approach against developers who damage highways and footways**
- We are working to deliver the **preferred option within the Street Services ADM**

##### Parks and open spaces

Attractive suburban parks that promote health and wellbeing, conserve the natural character of the area, and encourage economic growth.

- We will be delivering a 20-30% reduction in funding for parks, so we are looking at **alternative funding streams** to sustain them, such as the Community Infrastructure Levy, heritage funding and commercial use for outdoor events
- We have carried out a thorough **assessment of our parks as community assets** and will now look at how residents use them and how they are likely to want to use them in the future, particularly as the density of housing in the borough increases
- We are delivering major Parks and Open Spaces developments supported through the regeneration programme, drawing on private sector investment as well as our own investment, for example, Montrose Playing Fields, Silk Stream Park, and Clitterhouse Park as part of the Brent Cross development
- We will consult on the Playing Pitch Strategy and develop schemes with national bodies and local interest groups.

## Recycling and waste

**High levels of resident satisfaction with recycling and waste services and a green and clean borough.**

- Recycling is better for the environment and cheaper for the council than disposing of waste; we have set a target to **recycle 50% of all waste by 2020**
- We're **focusing our efforts on 'hot spots'** where the majority of waste for disposal comes from because recycling facilities are often not easily accessible, such as blocks of flats and commercial centres
- We believe businesses should recycle as much as households so we are transforming our commercial waste service to offer all of our customers comprehensive recycling services
- For those who fail to deal with their waste responsibly enforcement action will be taken to ensure fairness to all residents

## Street cleansing

**Low levels of littering compared with similar councils; resulting in high levels of resident satisfaction and a green and clean borough.**

- The biggest cost associated with running the street cleansing service is staff. Therefore, we are **investing in new technology** where this can be used in place of human resources to help the service do its bit to make the necessary savings
- The efficiency of street cleansing services is being improved by using new technology to allocate more resources to areas that tend to get dirty quickly and less to those that tend to stay clean for longer
- It is fair that those who create demand for street cleansing services, for example by littering and fly tipping, should have this behaviour discouraged with **enforcement and fines**. This is particularly important in busy town centres where a lack of **street cleanliness can have a detrimental effect on the local economy**
- There will be a **reduced demand for services** if a stronger line of enforcement is taken, and a small contribution of income from fines will help support the service

## Roads and transport

**A high quality, responsive, service that optimises travel times across the borough; and which is safe for users and reflects the growing nature of the borough.**

- The population of the borough is growing, and with it the need to **keep the roads safe and well maintained** while addressing congestion and air quality issues. We will do this through the development of a borough-wide **Transport Strategy**
- **Investment in key junctions** will improve traffic flows and safety for pedestrians
- It is fair that **motorists should have to compensate for the pollution and congestion their vehicles cause** through CPZs, emissions based parking permits and other charging mechanisms
- Barnet's public transport links in and out of central London are strong, but **radial routes across the borough need to be developed** and made more reliable, so residents across the borough can travel to town centres without using their cars
- **Car free development** is becoming a higher priority for the local planning authority
- We will make **strategic investment** in our **highway network** and will focus on good **value for money from a whole life costing approach**
- We will work with the public and private sector to **improve accessibility to car clubs and electric vehicle charging points**
- As part of the Transport Strategy, we will look to **improve facilities and infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians**
- We will ensure that we **protect the borough's infrastructure by enforcement against developers who damage highways and footways**

## Parking

**Parking is an important service to residents** and initiatives are in place to enable the parking service to fulfil its aims of **keeping traffic moving, making roads safer, reducing air pollution, ensuring that there are adequate parking spaces on high streets and that residents can park as near as possible to their homes.**

- We have implemented a **Parking Database with improved customer experience** with online permit and PCN transactions and will continue to make improvements to the customer journey
- We have introduced **CCTV enforcement in key locations** outside of schools and junctions **to keep traffic moving and** vulnerable road users safe and will continue to monitor local traffic issues
- We have introduced **transparent parking information** including details of the number of penalty notices issued in which locations and we will publish an annual report
- We will provide more effective and **customer focused web content** making it easier for our residents to perform parking transactions and find out information
- We will continue to **improve our services for disabled residents** in terms of access to freedom passes and taxi cars whilst ensuring that we take a firm approach to **Blue Badge fraud.**

## Regulatory Services

**Effective, targeted, proportionate services that are easy to access and navigate by users. Breaches in regulatory services are effectively and efficiently enforced and costs recovered by the council. Regulatory services are directly contributing to public health and improved public safety.**

- We will continue to inspect the **highest risk food businesses and new food businesses** and work with operators to ensure standards are improved or maintained

- A large number of major roads and high levels of traffic passing through Barnet lead to poor **air quality**. We will work with neighbouring boroughs to implement project plans under the **Mayors Air Quality Fund**
- We will continue to investigate **public health, noise, nuisance and anti-social behaviour** service requests and work with interested parties to resolve problems
- The Trading Standards service will continue to investigate serious complaints of **unfair trading, fraud and consumer safety**
- We work to ensure that **licensed premises** meet the licensing objectives
- We will ensure that the **Pest Treatment Service** provides the highest standards of customer care and effective and reliable treatments at a fair and reasonable cost.

## Cemetery and Crematorium

**Highest possible standards in meeting the needs of the bereaved safely – including administration, burial, cremation, memorial management, and ground maintenance and cremation memorial options.**

- We will seek to implement the **latest technology** to enable us to meet the needs of the bereaved and to ensure the funeral service offering is the best available locally.
- We will invest in the **repair and modernisation of the cemetery buildings** to provide a **modern and fit for purpose bereavement service office** and associated facilities, including **on-site catering facilities**.
- As available space at Hendon Cemetery becomes scarce, we will investigate means to **prolong the life of the cemetery** and to **provide additional burial space locally**.