

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Housing and Growth Committee</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>27 January 2020</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Growth Strategy</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Councillor Richard Cornelius</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>Appendix 1 – Growth Strategy  Appendix 2 – Consultation Report  Appendix 3 – Delivery Plan  Appendix 4 – Summary of Equalities Impact Assessment  Appendix 5 – Summary of Health Impact Assessment</p>
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## Summary

The council has developed a Growth Strategy, see Appendix 1, to respond to economic, social and environmental trends anticipated to 2030. It responds to changes in the way people approach work and use our high streets, changes to business needs and skills required, together with the steps necessary to manage the impacts from both environmental and population changes.

The Growth Strategy focuses on the council's roles in relation to growth, setting out three revised guiding principles. These will continue to inform our approach to growth through five key themes and 20 associated objectives, together with three broad areas of change across the borough and their various place-based regeneration projects and programmes. This overall approach met with broad support through the public consultation.

Public consultation on the Draft Growth Strategy took place following approval by Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Feedback received from residents and stakeholders is summarised in Appendix 2 and is responded to and reflected in the updated strategy and its accompanying delivery plan.

Housing and Growth Committee are asked to approve this final amended version of the Growth Strategy and note the consultation report findings that have informed those changes. The Committee are also asked to consider the proposed delivery plan and agree to its annual review and revision by the Committee going forwards.

## Officer Recommendations

- 1. That the Housing and Growth Committee approves the revised Growth Strategy attached at Appendix 1.**
- 2. That Committee note the consultation report, attached as Appendix 2, which summarises feedback from residents and stakeholders in relation to the Draft Growth Strategy.**
- 3. That Committee approves the Delivery Plan and requests it is reviewed annually by this committee.**
- 4. That Authority is delegated to the Director for Growth to make any subsequent non-material changes to the Growth Strategy and its supporting documents.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 Housing and Growth Committee (formerly known as Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee – ARG) authorised the preparation of a new regeneration strategy for the borough.
- 1.2 An update on the preparation of the Regeneration Strategy was presented to Committee in June 2018 and a proposed structure of the strategy was approved.
- 1.3 Considerable work was undertaken to refine the themes and approach to growth more broadly, to incorporate replacement of the Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy and rename it. The ‘Draft Growth Strategy’ was considered and approved for public consultation by the former Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee on 13 June 2019.
- 1.4 The Growth Strategy defines the Council’s approach to how we will build a Barnet fit for the future, where growth will benefit all residents. Two related strategic plans, for spatial development and transport, have been aligned with this strategy to ensure a joined-up approach to the Council’s planning for the future of the borough:
  - 1.4.1 Policy and Resources Committee approved the Draft Local Plan for consultation on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Barnet has fully refreshed its Local Plan to address identified need for housing, as well as to address current challenges around town centres, transport, sustainability and wellbeing. The Local Plan provides the specific spatial framework and policies that will inform all future development proposals in the borough.
  - 1.4.2 Environment Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 will have considered the Draft Long Term Transport Strategy and decided whether to approve this for public consultation.
- 1.5 This final draft of the Growth Strategy is being brought back to Housing and Growth Committee so that members can consider the revisions to the strategy alongside public and stakeholder feedback from a period of consultation between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The revised strategy is attached at Appendix 1, while the consultation report is attached at Appendix 2.
- 1.6 Lastly, this strategy is accompanied by a draft delivery plan, Appendix 3, to inform how the council proposes to take forward the implementation of the strategy. This will necessarily be updated annually, and the outcomes of the delivery programme will also be reported annually to the committee linked to the current Annual Regeneration Report.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The draft Growth Strategy has been updated to take account of responses to the public consultation that took place between July and September 2019. Responses were, on the whole, positive. However, amendment to the guiding principles and some of the detail of the proposed projects and outcomes were required, together with the compilation of a delivery plan to more explicitly set out proposed projects and programmes of work.

- 2.2 It is recommended that the revised strategy and its proposed delivery plan are approved by Housing and Growth Committee to enable the Council to commence work to broaden and strengthen the current regeneration programme in line with the strategy.

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

- 3.1 Housing and Growth Committee could decide not to approve the revised Growth Strategy, however responses received during the stakeholder and public consultation regarding the proposed Strategy have been positive and have enabled a general collective vision for growth in the borough to be discussed and agreed.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Subject to approval by Housing and Growth Committee, the Growth Strategy will be published on the council's website alongside its accompanying documents: Consultation Report, Delivery Plan, Environmental Impact Assessment, Health Impact Assessment and a clear framework for monitoring that will be developed over time.
- 4.2 Regular progress against the Growth Strategy objectives and Delivery Plan will be monitored through the Barnet 2024 business planning process, including the Housing and Growth Committee Delivery Plan.
- 4.3 The Growth Strategy will be monitored and progress reported to the Housing and Growth Committee regularly, at least on an annual basis. The Committee will continue to oversee progress in delivering the Strategy, including setting and reviewing indicators for Growth during 2020.
- 4.4 Opportunities for joined-up reporting arrangements between the Growth Strategy, Local Plan and Long-Term Transport Strategy, will be explored. Data collection and reporting, especially in relation to external reporting processes, for example in relation to the London Plan, may be possible to align. Whatever is adopted, it is intended to put such joint arrangements into place during 2020 to ensure a consistent baseline year is used to assess the impact of all strategies / plans on growth and development in the borough.
- 4.5 The main occasions where the Committee will receive reports linked to the Growth Strategy will be:
1. Annual Growth and Regeneration Report
  2. Scheme-specific reports, usually monitoring progress or providing a project update (these will apply to specific regeneration projects, developments or growth areas)
  3. Individual scheme reviews and/or area-based impact assessments
  4. Project closure reports

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

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

- 5.1.1 The Growth Strategy contributes to all three outcomes of Barnet 2024, but most directly

delivers against the outcome 'A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in'. It will also work to capitalise on the opportunities that growth and development can bring to the borough.

<b>Barnet 2024 Outcome</b>	<b>Barnet 2024 priority</b>	<b>Where supported in the Growth Strategy</b>
A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in	Getting Barnet clean through efficient street cleaning services, minimising and recycling waste, and weekly bin collections	A growing borough A borough of thriving town centres themes.
	Keeping the borough moving, including improvements to roads and pavements.	A connected borough
	Getting the best out of our parks and improving air quality by looking after and investing in our greenspaces	A great borough to live in and visit
	Ensuring decent quality housing that buyers and renters can afford, prioritising Barnet residents.	A growing borough
	Investing in community facilities to support a growing population, such as schools and leisure centres.	A great borough to live in and visit
	Responsible delivery of our major regeneration schemes to create better places to live and work, whilst protecting and enhancing the borough	All themes
Our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected	Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do	All themes
	Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities, to remain independent and have a good quality of life	All themes
	Helping people into work and better paid employment	An entrepreneurial borough theme
	Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing.	A great place to live and visit theme
	Ensuring we have good schools and enough school places so all children access a great education	A great place to live and visit theme
Safe and strong communities where people get along well	Keeping Barnet safe	A great place to live and visit
	Tackling anti-social behaviour and environmental crime	All themes
	Celebrating our diverse and strong communities and taking a zero tolerance approach to hate crime	A great place to live and visit
	Ensuring we are a family friendly borough	All themes
	Focusing on the strengths of the community and what they can do to help themselves and each other	A great place to live and visit
	Supporting local businesses to thrive	An entrepreneurial borough

5.1.2 While aligning with Barnet 2024, the Growth Strategy brings together:

- Alignment with the Draft Local Plan 2021 - 2036
- Delivery of the new Housing Strategy 2019 - 2024.
- Alignment with the Long-Term Transport Strategy 2021 - 2041

- 5.1.3 In addition, the Strategy supports the delivery of a range of outcomes relating to other adopted council strategies, including: The Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, the Fit and Active Barnet Framework, the Playing Pitch Strategy, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Arts and Culture Strategy, the Adult Social Care Market Position Statement, and the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 5.1.4 It actively responds to and provides tangible actions within the delivery plan that address all four current council priorities: 'Growing Well', 'Family Friendly', 'Promoting Healthy Lifestyles' and to be 'Well run and easy to deal with':
- It will enable Barnet to grow well through a comprehensive and sustainable approach to growth that focuses on housing, infrastructure and the local economy and provides clarity about the role of regeneration in addressing areas most in need of change.
  - It will support Barnet's ambitions to become London's most family friendly borough through focusing on social infrastructure needs such as for schools and childcare improvements, alongside investments in open spaces and opportunities for play.
  - It will promote healthy lifestyles through the creation of healthier and more resilient new neighbourhoods, providing investment in sports and leisure facilities to transform residents' relationship to parks and open spaces, as well as planning health facilities.
  - It will ensure Barnet is well run and easy to deal with through specifically seeking to ensure Council services are joined-up and support the needs of local businesses.

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

### **Finance and value for money**

- 6.1.1 The report to Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee on 27 November 2017 and 14 June 2018 noted the requirement for a £50,000 budget for the Strategy. Following costs associated with evidence preparation and public consultation, a sufficient but small amount of the budget remains to enable the strategy to be finalised and published.
- 6.1.2 This budget was funded from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) administration income on the basis that the Growth Strategy will inform development opportunities that will generate future CIL income, therefore informing future work on the viability of such development. In addition, it clarifies proposals for infrastructure that needs to be provided, feeding preparation of a revised borough infrastructure delivery plan.
- 6.1.3 Outside of the agreed project budget, the cost of staff input into the production of the strategy has been met through core staffing expenditure. Although background work to consider future development opportunities, was funded through planning fee income as this was designed to also support preparation of a revised Local Plan.
- 6.1.4 The proposed Growth Strategy Delivery Plan focuses on programmes of work that need to be developed to ensure the Council fully responds to growth opportunities. It intentionally addresses the role of the Delivery Plan to inform day to day regeneration- and growth-related workstreams, so is oriented around council revenue expenditure.

- 6.1.5 Policy and Resources Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 approved the Draft Council Budget for 2020/21 – 2024/25 which included reference in paragraph 1.4.19 to a commitment to invest in services and growth. The related table references a budget titled 'housing and growth committee' that provides £975,000 to support investing in growth, development and income generation in 20/21.
- 6.1.6 A future Infrastructure Delivery Plan will be prepared and published during 2020 to support the Regulation 19 stage of the Local Plan; this is where capital costs for infrastructure programmes will be considered, and it will inform future iterations of the Growth Strategy Delivery Plan and updates to the Council's capital programme.
- 6.1.7 The Growth Strategy supports and informs MTFs savings relating to growth in council tax income alongside other proposals within the MTFs relating to Housing and Growth Committee. As set out in the Strategy, one-off income is also generated from development that can fund both revenue projects and capital investment in infrastructure.

### **Procurement**

- 6.1.8 Preparation of the strategy has fully complied with Contract Procedure Rules.
- 6.1.9 Any projects identified in the Growth Strategy or its delivery plan will be subject to procurement plans that will comply with the council's Contract Procedure Rules

### **Staffing**

- 6.1.10 Resource requirements are considered as part of the Delivery Plan and changes to staffing arrangements for Growth and Development are expected as a result of the additional investment and programme requirements set out in the Growth Strategy and its delivery plan. These will be taken forwards separately under delegated powers.

### **IT and Sustainability**

- 6.1.11 There are no anticipated implications in relation to IT or sustainability. Changes have been made to the Growth Strategy to provide stronger reference to sustainability.

## **6.2 Social Value**

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process to support any of the projects identified in the Growth Strategy, consideration will be given as to how contracts can best secure additional benefits for the area or stakeholders.

## **6.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 6.3.1 The Council's Constitution Article 7.5 Responsibility for Functions, states that the Housing and Growth Committee is responsible for the regeneration strategy and overseeing major regeneration schemes, asset management, employment strategy, business support and engagement.

## 6.4 Risk Management

5.5.1 As set out in the report to Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee on 27 November 2017 and 14 June 2018, the existing Regeneration Strategy was approved by Cabinet in 2011 setting out the existing regeneration programme, but without a new strategy there will be a lack of agreed direction for the council's role in growth and regeneration.

6.4.1 The Corporate Risk Register currently recognises several key risks associated with Growth and Development at the programme level:

- Firstly, whether public acceptance of a new housing target can be secured, which is demonstrated by feedback on the Draft Growth Strategy about overdevelopment and the need to push back against government housing targets. This has been mitigated through taking a balanced approach within the Draft Local Plan, and
- Secondly, whether general market uncertainty in the development sector will significantly delay or hinder the ability to take forward a wider growth programme.

6.4.2 There are no other specific risks associated with the adoption of the Growth Strategy nor the approval of the proposed delivery plan at a programme level. The Growth and Regeneration Operations Board will continue to monitor and report on project level risks and ensure these are raised with the relevant council committee in a timely manner.

6.4.3 In preparing the Growth Strategy Delivery Plan it became apparent that it would not be possible to deliver on the ambitions of the strategy unless the expanded remit of the service was matched with a budget to support investment in growth and regeneration. This is noted and highlighted in 5.2.5 above.

6.4.4 As the Growth Strategy Delivery Plan is taken forward, risks associated with individual projects will be reviewed to ensure that individual project-level risks are not combining to introduce new programme-level risks for the council that are not being appropriately mitigated and managed. This process will be managed through the corporate risk register and any risks that need to be considered by this committee will be reported to when the implementation of this strategy is first reviewed.

## 6.5 Equalities and Diversity

6.5.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the public-sector equalities duty requiring Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

6.5.2 The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design of policies and the delivery of services. The nine protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment

- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

6.5.3 The Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 sets a strategic equalities objective that citizens will be treated equally, with understanding and respect, and will have equal access to quality services that provide value to the tax payer.

6.5.4 Changes to policies and services are therefore analysed to assess the potential equalities impacts and risks and identify any mitigating action possible, through an equalities impact assessment, before final decisions are made. Consideration will also be made to the equalities and data cohesion summary.

6.5.5 A full equalities impact assessment has been produced that has identified that in relation to most protected characteristics there is minimal impact or a net positive impact because of the strategy, in the long term. However, relating to protected characteristics such as disability and race that are disproportionately greater amongst residents of existing social housing within regeneration estates, the HIA highlights potential negative short-term impacts relating to construction would disproportionately affect these communities and therefore steps to minimise such impacts must be taken on a project by project basis.

6.5.6 In general, the approach taken in the strategy has deliberately sought to account for demographic shifts. This change has most significantly affected the strategy in relation to the disproportionate increase in the 65+ age group which will more greatly affect the centre and east of the borough. The objectives and priorities set out in the strategy have therefore sought to ensure suitable housing including extra care provision is made available for older people, but importantly also improvements to transport accessibility, an enhanced leisure offer, a strengthened role for and range of services within town centres, together with investment in the quality of open spaces to get people outdoors.

6.5.7 In addition to the protected characteristics identified under the Equalities Act, the Council also seeks to track the impacts of its policies and strategies upon five groups, namely:

- Unemployed people and young people not in employment, education or training
- People with specific disabilities (including people with mental health problems)
- Lone parents
- Families and people with low incomes
- Carers (including young and parent carers)

6.5.8 The entrepreneurial borough theme, with its objectives around employment and training support, specifically seeks to address the needs of many of these groups of people and maximise the impact of growth for this section of Barnet's population. The council will ensure potential benefits from growth are targeted towards communities with higher incidence of need and this is expressly committed to in the first guiding principle. In so doing the council will ensure that people with a protected characteristic are supported.

6.5.9 The prevalence of these additional protected characteristics is unsurprisingly higher in areas with greater levels of deprivation. Parts of the west of the borough, particularly

around Burnt Oak, together with specific areas of Underhill and Finchley (near the A406) are therefore priority locations for growth projects to be used to unlock economic and social opportunities that will promote healthier, more resilient and cohesive communities.

- 6.5.10 Improvements to the broader environmental context benefit older and younger people disproportionately; likewise, these five groups should equally experience a focused net beneficial impact from improved transport accessibility and connectivity, healthier streets and high streets, as well as enhancements to social infrastructure and open spaces.
- 6.5.11 A summary version of the Equalities Impact Assessment is attached to this report at Appendix 4.

### **Health Impact Assessment**

- 6.5.12 A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has been conducted on the strategy to consider how it will meet the health and wellbeing priorities for the council. This assessment has mapped existing health indicators for each area and provided a review of academic literature and previous HIAs on regeneration to explore potential impacts of the strategy through the prism of the Health & Wellbeing Board priorities.
- 6.5.13 The Growth Strategy describes a variety of place-based interventions that are likely to have wide-ranging economic, social and physical impacts across the borough. The importance of the environmental context in shaping wellbeing and contributing to societal health inequalities is recognised. The activities listed within the Growth Strategy therefore have the potential to significantly influence the health of Barnet's population.
- 6.5.14 The HIA indicates the Growth Strategy will over time benefit the West of the borough; through enhanced connectivity, new active travel choices, local employment and training opportunities, improved housing quality, and better social and economic opportunities within new mixed-use neighbourhoods. There will, however, be some negative health impact in the short to medium term relating to disruption to travel networks alongside noise & air pollution associated with construction activities. In addition, the impact upon social networks where existing tenants need to be relocated may have some longer-term impacts for specific individuals or families if appropriate project-level measures to mitigate such issues are given insufficient attention.
- 6.5.15 The greatest concern is where multiple long-term programmes of construction activity intersect with disadvantaged and vulnerable populations. Here, effective scheme design and tenant relocation strategies will be critical, in addition to general mitigation efforts including 'considerate construction' practices, construction management plans, community consultations, and timely infrastructure improvements. With the appropriate mitigation in place, over time the net positive health impact could be realised.
- 6.5.16 In the centre of the borough, lower density suburban forms of development have reduced concerns about negative health impacts during construction phases, whilst the aspirations for a new regional park and improved sports hubs are seen as beneficial for a large proportion of residents across the borough, provided that accessibility and connectivity limitations can be overcome.
- 6.5.17 In the east of the borough, beyond temporary negative impacts of construction activities, the enhancement of town centres and the focus on delivering healthy streets will not only

ensure more sustainable forms of development that positively promote more active travel behaviour and healthier lifestyle choices, but should have a more generally positive impact on the health of the population as a whole within this area.

6.5.18 A summary version of the HIA is attached at Appendix 5.

## **6.6 Corporate Parenting**

6.6.1 Whilst there is no direct impact on the council's corporate parenting role as a result of this strategy, the objectives set out in the strategy do provide opportunities to support the council's role as corporate parent through the employment, skills and training programmes that are delivered in relation to the strategy.

6.6.2 In addition, through the procurement processes for largescale projects the Council will take forwards when delivering the Growth Strategy; there will be opportunities to introduce social value outcomes and spin-off benefits that present opportunities for residents that could be targeted towards meeting the Council's corporate parenting role.

## **6.7 Consultation and Engagement**

6.7.1 Public consultation on the draft Growth Strategy ran from 2 July until 15 September 2019, although a handful of responses from stakeholders were accepted after the deadline.

6.7.2 Consultation consisted of an online survey and supporting documents on the 'Engage Barnet' consultation portal, which allowed residents to view and comment on the draft strategy. In addition, written letters and emails were accepted together with comments from residents that attended the various consultation events.

6.7.3 The consultation was widely promoted through Barnet First, the council's website and the council's Twitter, and Facebook accounts.

6.7.4 103 responses were received to the consultation via the online survey on [engage.barnet.gov.uk](http://engage.barnet.gov.uk), with overall general support for the strategy, these responses are summarised below:

- Overall, the draft Growth Strategy 2020-2030 was supported by respondents, with 54% of respondents agreeing with the aims and objectives of the strategy to some extent, in contrast to 15% of respondents disagreeing.
- The guiding principles outlined within the strategy were also strongly supported by respondents, and 61% of respondents confirmed their agreement with the principles.
- The council's approach to growth was outlined, which was strongly supported by respondents with all five strategic themes receiving support from respondents; with the Connected Borough theme recognised as most important across the borough.
- While all 21 objectives were supported by respondents to some extent, the 'Establish Brent Cross as a destination' was not considered as important by respondents and therefore was integrated into the wider objective associated with the visitor economy.
- The draft Growth Strategy identified a number of boroughwide infrastructure priorities, tying the five strategic themes to the 'spatial approach'. Overall these priorities were

supported by respondents, who identified the connected borough related priorities as of greater importance: new and improved rail services and capacity; improving east-west transport; healthier streets; and tackling poor air quality / noise hotspots.

- Respondents also responded to emerging principles for housing growth across the borough, respondents most strongly asserted that new homes should be built in areas with good public transport, and no new homes should be built in protected open space such as green built and nature reserves.
- Respondents were asked to rank the most important strategic theme for each spatial area proposed within the draft growth strategy. As noted previously the connected borough theme was identified as the most important across all three spatial areas, but interestingly the growing borough theme was completely split being identified as the most and least important priority in all three areas of the borough to some extent or other. It is thought this may reflect the difference between respondents indicating a view that housing affordability is most important, versus respondents indicating that the overall housing target and proposal to increase housing supply went too far.
- Alongside the questions outlined above, respondents also had the opportunity to provide qualitative comments on the draft Growth Strategy 2020-2030. Comments from Engage Barnet are summarised in the consultation report, and most frequent responses broadly cover five main categories.
  - **Environment / Sustainability** – respondents asserted that the draft Growth Strategy required greater and more explicit emphasis on a range of environmental issues including climate change, energy efficient housing, preservation of green belt / metropolitan open land, as well as a stronger shift away from the dominance of the car to public and other active forms of transportation.
  - **Infrastructure provision** – respondents asserted that the draft Growth Strategy required greater emphasis and clarity about the nature of the appropriate physical and social infrastructure required and the importance of its timely delivery to accommodate future growth; this is addressed through the attached delivery plan.
  - **Affordable Housing** – respondents asserted that the draft Growth Strategy required greater emphasis on the delivery of affordable housing in the borough. Amendments to the text of the strategy alongside the delivery plan frame have addressed this. In addition, the forward programme for future affordable housing delivery has been revised and is updated in a parallel report.
  - **Heritage** – respondents asserted that the draft Growth Strategy required greater emphasis on protecting Barnet's heritage. The risk of losing green belt, together with concerns about overdevelopment affecting the character of town centres were relevant related concerns. This is now more clearly referenced in the strategy and is more broadly addressed through the new Local Plan.
  - **Overdevelopment** – many respondents, most of whom were connected to a 228-signature petition (two letters from local resident's associations), were concerned about the density and height of housing within the A5 Corridor leading to overdevelopment and a disproportionate burden on the West of the Borough. Almost all are residents of West Hendon. The petition may, in part, have resulted from the timing of the growth strategy public consultation coinciding with a public

consultation on the planning application for the Sainsburys site in The Hyde. Although in a more general sense, there were other comments on the strategy that also noted concern about disproportionate development in the West and the pressure of government housing targets driving inappropriate development.

- 6.7.5 In addition to the online survey presentations were made to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, the Health and Well Being Board, the Fit and Active Barnet Partnership Board the Hendon Residents Forum, the Chipping Barnet Residents Forum, the Finchley and Golders Green Residents Forum and the Local Planning Authority's Developer Forum. Four resident and stakeholder drop-in sessions were held in public venues across the borough, including in Colindale, Finchley Central and Chipping Barnet to make the public consultation accessible to people both geographically and from all backgrounds and circumstances.
- 6.7.6 In total, 40 responses were received from a range of stakeholders, including residents' associations, developers, Transport for London, The Greater London Authority, Historic England and the Home Builders Federation.
- 6.7.7 The draft Growth Strategy has been updated to take account of the consultation responses, and the main changes can be summarised as follows:
- The context of growth in Barnet has been more clearly set out and the relationship between housing delivery, transport and other infrastructure has been strengthened. In particular, the extent to which development supports and is intricately tied up with the delivery of infrastructure is now more explicit.
  - Additional council strategies and plans have been added to reflect where there are growth-related connections that were not previously noted.
  - Concerns about insufficient focus on the heritage and character of the borough have been addressed through explicit reference to the Council's Local Plan as the place where policy in these matters is considered. In addition, there is further mention of the role of heritage in relation to town centre identity as well as the visitor economy.
  - Concerns about a lack of reference to the environment and climate change have been addressed with more explicit reference to the Council's Air Quality Management Plan, recognition of the national target for carbon neutrality by 2050, and commitment to sustainable development being taken forward as the basis of the Local Plan.
  - The three guiding principles have been revised in response to broad consultation feedback that greater and more explicit emphasis was required to reflect messages about: the need for development to be sustainable, support for health and wellbeing as a driver of council activities, stronger focus on securing resilience and community cohesion. They now focus the council's role around 'shaping healthy, resilient and cohesive communities'; 'using sustainable development to increase housing supply, invest in the local economy and deliver infrastructure'; and to 'ensure growth brings the greatest possible benefits to existing and new residents'.
  - The five themes and the three areas have been broadly kept the same except for the incorporation of the Brent Cross destination objective into the wider visitor economy objective, together with minor amendments and clarifications to the supporting text.

- The Council's Local Plan has published a housing target of 46,000 homes by 2036, equating to just over 30,000 homes during the lifetime of the Growth Strategy (rather than the 45,000-home target suggested in the Draft Growth Strategy). Paragraphs 1.4-1.7 of the Policy and Resources Committee Report on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 explain how this Local Plan target was set; determined with due consideration of resident's concerns about the government's standard methodology target and its unconstrained approach to growth in a London Borough with many constraints upon growth.
- The final section of the report has been revised to set out that the strategy will be delivered in accordance with the proposed Delivery Plan, including clarification that the method for monitoring and measuring the impact of the strategy will be brought together with the monitoring of the Local Plan and Long-Term Transport Strategy.
- The Delivery Plan includes various projects and programmes that more explicitly address comments and feedback from the consultation, for example reference to a review of building heights along the A5 Corridor to ensure future proposals consider the appropriate scale for development along the A5 corridor as a whole.

6.7.8 Detail of the consultation process and feedback provided is attached at Appendix 2. Consultation information and materials is provided on the council's consultation hub: <https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/growth-strategy>

## 6.8 Insight

6.8.1 The Growth Strategy has been informed by an evidence base that was published on Barnet's consultation hub as a supporting document to the consultation. The full evidence base and accompanying impact assessments will be published on the council's website and Open Barnet subsequent to the adoption of the strategy.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Assets Regeneration and Growth (ARG) Committee has been retitled Housing and Growth (H&G) Committee following its merger with Housing Committee. All former papers of ARG can be located on the council website in the H&G Committee history.
- 7.2 Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee, 27 November 2017, Regeneration Strategy, <https://barnetintranet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=9435&Ver=4>
- 7.3 Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee, 14 June 2018, Regeneration Strategy, <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=9480&Ver=4>
- 7.4 Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee, 13 June 2019, Growth Strategy, <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=9928&Ver=4>
- 7.5 Policy and Resources Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Barnet's Local Plan Preferred Approach (Regulation 18 Stage) <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s56947/Reg%2018%20PR%20Committee%20Report2.pdf>