

Summary – Health Impact Assessment of Barnet Growth Strategy

Introduction and methodology

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is conducted to assess the potential Impacts (positive and negative) of a proposed policy on population health and wellbeing. The assessment also addresses the distribution of these impacts within the population. A HIA produces a set of recommendations that aim to maximise the positive health impact while minimising negative health impacts of the proposed policy and address wider determinants of health.

To assess the potential health impact of the Barnet Growth Strategy, a range of existing evidence and resources were reviewed. Part of this methodology involved reviewing previous HIAs that were done on regeneration schemes, town centre plans and local plans. Academic literature and toolkits for best practice such as from the London Healthy Development unit were also reviewed.

Summary of assessment

The table below is a summary of the HIA separated into the three regions discussed in the growth strategy.

The summary uses the following scoring criteria¹:

++	Likely to benefit a large proportion of Barnet population. The effects are likely to be direct and permanent and the magnitude will be major.
+	Positive health impact affecting a small proportion of the Barnet population. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible.
0	Neutral
-	Negative health impact affecting a small proportion of the Barnet population. The effects can be direct or indirect, temporary or reversible.
--	Negative health impact affecting a large proportion of the Barnet population. The effects are likely to be direct and permanent and the magnitude will be major.
?	Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact
NA	Not applicable for the assessment criteria

¹ Scoring criteria developed from: Camden Council (2017). Consolidated Sustainability Appraisal of Camden's Local Plan, Available at: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/local-plan-documents>

Regeneration Area focus	Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs	Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing	Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do	Creating a healthy environment	Continuing improvements on preventative interventions	Overall health impact (including assessment on PHE evidence)	Comments <i>Public Health England (PHE) evidence identified five key areas where spatial planning can influence population health (neighbourhood design, housing, healthier food environment, natural and sustainable environment and transport)². These are considered for each area focus and comments are provided for relevant aspects.</i>
West of the borough	- (during implementation) + (outcomes aspired to)	- (during implementation) ++ (outcomes aspired to)	? Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact	--(during implementation) + (outcomes aspired to)	NA	-- (during implementation) ++ (outcomes aspired to)	<p>Housing – Housing improvements are beneficial, but process of displacement is negative for vulnerable populations’ health.</p> <p>Transport – short term disruption to networks from development, focus on healthy streets and expected increase in Public Transport Accessibility Level (PTAL) score are positive.</p> <p>Natural & sustainable environment – Initial issues arising from construction will be detrimental to the environment. Long term improvements in transport connectivity may improve access to existing greenspaces for some of the population.</p> <p>Neighbourhood design - Aspirations for a healthy streets approach and mixed-use neighbourhoods are positive for health.</p> <p>Healthier food environment - The strategy references using more local government powers in shaping town centres. If applied with a focus on food options this could be very beneficial for the local population.</p> <p>Other – the extensive development work offers employment and training opportunities positive for health, however there is the potential much of these opportunities may not go to local residents.</p> <p>.....</p>

² Public Health England. (2017). Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729727/spatial_planning_for_health.pdf

Regeneration Area focus	Integrating health and social care and providing support for those with mental health problems and complex needs	Encouraging residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles and maintain their mental wellbeing	Improving services for children and young people and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do	Creating a healthy environment	Continuing improvements on preventative interventions	Overall health impact (including assessment on PHE evidence)	Comments <i>PHE evidence identified five key areas spatial planning can influence population health (neighbourhood design, housing, healthier food environment, natural and sustainable environment and transport). These are considered for each area focus and comments are provided for relevant aspects.</i>
Centre of the borough	? Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact	+	? Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact	++	NA	++	<p>Natural & sustainable environment – aspirations to enhance biodiversity, access to open spaces and develop a new park promote health.</p> <p>Neighbourhood design – the planned sports hub offers extra opportunities for physical activity for residents.</p> <p>Transport – extension of bus route positive, but the area remains poorly connected.</p>
East of the borough	? Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact	- (during implementation) ++ (outcomes aspired to)	? Not sufficient information to make a robust assessment of impact	- (during implementation) ++ (outcomes aspired to)	NA	- (during implementation) ++ (outcomes aspired to)	<p>Neighbourhood design – A focus on a healthy streets approach, development of arts/leisure opportunities and mixed-use neighbourhoods offer the potential for wide health gains.</p> <p>Healthier food environment - The strategy references using more local government powers in shaping town centres. If applied with a focus on food options this could be very beneficial for the local population.</p> <p>Transport – issues remain in improving Transport for London (TfL) infrastructure for some transport links in the east of the area.</p>

Mitigations and recommendations

Mitigations for reducing the potential health and wellbeing harms were recommended in the draft HIA. The mitigation actions were as follows:

- Considerate construction practices will be key to minimise disruption and harm in areas of heavy development such as the west of the borough (e.g. ensuring air pollution is minimised);
- Community consultation could be undertaken in these areas to reduce resident concerns about developments;
- Formulation of a strategy to include mitigation actions for those affected across the borough can help address this, together with community consultations to alleviate concerns about displacement;
- Provision of shared amenities across all mixed-tenure housing, whenever possible, can promote community cohesion;
- Consultation with local commissioning teams and healthcare providers to ensure the expected population growth across the borough, and in the west particularly, is met with adequate health and other infrastructure plans;
- New high-density developments across the borough to include playscapes for children that are open, attractive & safe;
- Adequate planning of infrastructure support to match housing growth is essential.

The draft HIA made the following recommendations to maximise health benefits of the growth strategy:

- Recruitment schemes/apprenticeships targeting the local area before wider advertising would bring more economic opportunity to Barnet residents. This could be achieved via Targeting Training and Recruitment clauses.
- It would be positive if new housing developments meet the New London Plan Housing Quality & Standards³ to protect health
- Appropriate number of new homes could be designed in a dementia friendly style to reflect the older demographics in areas such as High Barnet & Underhill.
- Aspirations in the final strategy to create a green centre of the borough which promotes physical activity.
- Consultation with TfL to improve connectivity in areas of the east of the borough;
- Following active design principles when redeveloping town centres across the borough, integrating a healthy streets approach.
- Building further HIAs and other assessment into delivery of the strategy.
- Utilising local government regulatory powers to ensure town centres promote healthy choices and avoid over proliferation of outlets such as fast-food takeaways and gambling establishments that can be negative for health.
- Ensure that all new community areas built include access to free drinking water and changing places.

³ <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan/draft-new-london-plan/chapter-3-design/policy-d4-housing-quality-and-standards>