



## Housing and Growth Committee

13 February 2022

<b>Title</b>	<b>Thriving update</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Chairman of Housing and Growth Committee
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### Summary

Housing and Growth Committee is the lead committee for the Thriving theme of the Barnet Plan, approved by Policy and Resources Committee in February 2021.

This report provides an update to Committee on progress across the Thriving workstreams:

- Helping residents – especially young people – into work
- Implementing our Growth Strategy
- Building a park town for Barnet at Brent Cross Town
- Creating an efficient, convenient and reliable transport network
- Making Barnet a sustainable borough

# Officers Recommendations

## 1. That the Committee notes the report.

### 1. Why this report is needed

#### Background and context

- 1.1 The Barnet Plan was approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 8 February 2021 and sets out the council's vision and strategy for the next four years. The council and its partners will focus on four priorities to realise the vision:
- Clean, safe and well run: a place where our streets are clean and antisocial behaviour is dealt with so residents feel safe. Providing good quality, customer friendly services in all that we do.
  - Family Friendly: creating a Family Friendly Barnet, enabling opportunities for our children and young people to achieve their best.
  - Healthy: a place with fantastic facilities for all ages, enabling people to live happy and healthy lives.
  - Thriving: a place fit for the future, where all residents, businesses and visitors benefit from improved sustainable infrastructure & economic opportunity.
- 1.2 The priorities of the Thriving theme are:
- To support residents to improve their skills and get good jobs in the post-COVID economy.
  - To enable town centres and our regeneration areas to thrive, and create an environment in which businesses can succeed, by implementing our growth strategy.
  - To accelerate the borough-wide roll out of high-quality digital connectivity  
The report will provide an update on each of the above workstreams.
- 1.3 This report provides an update on the delivery of key workstreams that underpin the Thriving theme.

#### Helping residents – especially young people into – work

- 1.4 The pandemic has had far-reaching impacts on Barnet's residents and employers, and as the furlough scheme and other business support schemes have come to an end, the council's Economic Development team is taking action to promote economic recovery and limit the long-term impacts of the pandemic.
- 1.5 As of December 2021, there were 13,415 Barnet residents (5.2% of the working age population) claiming Job Seekers' Allowance, down from a peak of 19,030 in February 2021, or 7.4% of the working age population. While this shows that unemployment rates are declining, the numbers are still far greater than those seen prior to the pandemic.

For example, there were 6,455 claimants in February 2020, 2.5% of the working population. This is lower than other London boroughs, but higher than the national average.

- 1.6 Furthermore, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) ended in September 2021. Whilst the council had expected to see a significant increase in numbers of unemployed residents following the end of the scheme, this has not been the case as numbers continue to decline. The council is working with partners to ensure that Barnet residents are supported to minimise the risk of long-term unemployment.
- 1.7 Between April and December 2021, the council successfully supported 733 residents into work. This includes council-commissioned programmes: BOOST Project, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) projects and SHAW Trust's delivery of the Work and Health Programme and JETS, but does not include other programmes such as those delivered by the DWP.
- 1.8 One of the biggest barriers to employment for residents is not being able to meet job requirements to speak and understand the English language to an adequate level. In response, the council is working with Barnet and Southgate College to deliver an ESOL for Integration programme, which has already supported 300 people out of an annual target of 400 and identified a further 100 for support.
- 1.9 As outlined in the Work, Skills and Productivity Action Plan, the council is working closely with growth sectors to ensure that there are job opportunities for residents in sustainable and growing areas of the economy. Examples include working with social care providers to attract residents into care roles and working with the Royal Free Hospitals to secure a job pipeline from our employment support providers into meaningful roles in the NHS.

### **Housing and regeneration**

- 1.10 One of the key objectives of the Growth Strategy is to increase housing supply and support our older population to stay independent for longer. Below are updates from some of the borough's main regeneration estates
- 1.11 *West Hendon*: 21 units completed at the end of December and the last remaining tenant in Marsh Drive was decanted.
- 1.12 *Grahame Park*: Wates is continuing with enabling works. They have completed the haul road through Heybourne Park which takes construction traffic away from residents' homes. In December, Notting Hill Genesis hosted the Grahame Park Winter Festival, supported by the council, Barnet Homes and local contractor Pines and Needles. Over 100 residents enjoyed an afternoon of fun, food, and entertainment and were able to find out more about the next phase of the regeneration.
- 1.13 *Colindale*: Activities underway as part of this programme are covered in more detail in agenda item 8.

### **Increasing affordable housing to meet homeless need**

- 1.14 The Barnet Group (TBG) established Opendoor Homes (ODH) as a charitable Registered Social Landlord (RSL or Housing Association) in 2017 to complement the council's own development programme and increase the net supply of affordable

housing. Towards this end, its first new build programme of 341 new homes across 27 sites is now over three-quarters complete. In total, 260 homes have been handed over, with all the remainder on site. The programme is due to complete by March 2023. In addition, ODH is delivering its first innovative mixed tenure scheme in Hermitage Lane, Childs Hill which is progressing well onsite and due to complete late September 2022. A further two schemes are in the early stages of feasibility. Alongside this, ODH is delivering a significant acquisition programme on behalf of the council, with over 25% of the 500 programme having been completed at January 2022.

- 1.15 In addition to the ODH programmes, the council's own schemes, funded by the HRA and GLA grant, are progressing well. The Extra Care Housing programme will deliver 179 new homes across three schemes to support elderly residents with care needs. To date, 53 homes have been completed and the remainder are on site, completing in 2023/24.
- 1.16 At Fosters Estate in Hendon, 142 new affordable general needs homes are being delivered utilising private funding secured in partnership with for-profit RSL Sage. The build contract was signed in December 2021.
- 1.17 The next new general needs council housing will see more than 330 new homes delivered across six sites supported through a combination of GLA grant and HRA borrowing. These programmes are increasingly concentrating on larger family sized homes and wheelchair accessible homes which are currently a particular need for the Housing Options service. The business cases for Little Strand, Coppetts Road and The Grange can be found in agenda items 14, 16 and 15 respectively. These programmes are also supplemented by a recently agreed HRA and GLA-funded acquisition programme that will deliver a further 120 affordable homes with an emphasis on buying back homes from leaseholders who are seeking to sell.
- 1.18 In addition to this work, Barnet Homes is currently developing a proposal to bring forward the regeneration of part of the Grahame Park estate. This will be a mixed development concentrating on creating a great place to live and complementing the existing work being undertaken by Notting Hill Genesis. This marks a new era in the direct delivery of housing schemes with an increased focus on more comprehensive regeneration of wider areas of the borough. Overall, the new build and acquisition programmes outlined here will deliver 2,500 with 1,500 of these being new homes. To date over 850 of these have already been completed.

## **Rough Sleepers**

- 1.19 Barnet Homes has successfully moved 120 single homeless people into the private rented sector since the government's "Everyone In" directive. Homeless Action in Barnet continues to support a new 43-unit block in the borough with 25 residents in occupation and further referrals in the pipeline from the 74 rough sleepers still currently residing in temporary accommodation. The number of rough sleepers on the streets at the last count/estimate in December 2021 was nine.
- 1.20 In December the Government announced "Protect and Vaccinate" funding to assist in accommodating vulnerable rough sleepers and encouraging them to get vaccinated. The £150,000 allocated to Barnet will enable people with no recourse to public funds to continue to be accommodated as well as new rough sleepers who are vulnerable. Barnet Homes is working closely with Public Health colleagues to ensure that the

approach to rough sleepers in the borough is appropriate and fully aligned with the public health situation as it transpires over the coming year. Barnet's rough sleepers are reluctant to get vaccinated and the funding will also assist in providing information and support around vaccine hesitancy.

- 1.21 Together in Barnet continues to provide the winter night shelter from 16 hotel rooms until the end of March 2022 with funding secured from the Winter Transformation Fund.

### **Tenants in Private Rented Accommodation**

- 1.22 It continues to be difficult to gauge the extent to which tenants in the private rented sector in Barnet have accrued rent arrears over the course of the pandemic. Data on court possession claims issued by private sector landlords in Barnet<sup>1</sup>, whilst increasing quarter on quarter, shows that rates are still below pre-pandemic levels. Barnet Homes is closely monitoring demand and new applications remain relatively high but stable with most temporary accommodation admissions still being single person households.
- 1.23 Barnet Homes has developed contingency plans to increase homelessness prevention activities as and when required and a contingency budget is being held by the council for this purpose. The additional resources will support staff to manage the homeless application process, focusing on the prevention and relief duties and personalised housing plans. The budget will also provide for an increased homeless prevention fund to help resolve arrears and help families remain in their tenancies or support them into new accommodation that avoids temporary accommodation placements.
- 1.24 Barnet Homes provides a tenancy sustainment service and BOOST delivers employment and benefit support services to help those households facing difficulties, which helps to reduce homeless demand.

### **Barnet Households in Temporary Accommodation**

- 1.25 Households in temporary accommodation are reducing as more single homeless households are settled into the private rented sector and households are moved into longer term accommodation. In December, advisers from the Homeless Advice and Support Team within the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) visited Barnet to assess how homelessness was being managed in the borough. They were impressed with Barnet's homeless prevention "toolkit" and the variety of options for increasing supply through private sector procurement and new social housing, both newly built and purchased. This multifaceted approach has meant households in temporary accommodation have reduced to 2,142 at the end of December, the lowest level in over a decade.

### **Barnet Homes/Council Tenants**

- 1.26 Barnet Homes understands eviction should always be a last resort and, as such, always seeks to engage as early as possible with tenants experiencing financial hardship to ensure they are properly supported to address any arrears which may be accruing. There are a variety of support arrangements in place aimed at benefit maximisation, agreeing sustainable payment plans, employment, training and education options, as well as referrals to other agencies for appropriate support.

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<sup>1</sup> [Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics: data visualisation tool \(mojanalytics.xyz\)](https://mojanalytics.xyz)

- 1.27 Even prior to the pandemic Barnet Homes only evicted a very small number of tenants each year for non-payment of rent and exhaustive action is always taken to engage with and support residents to sustain their tenancies wherever possible.

### **Digital connectivity**

- 1.28 Work with gigabit broadband operators continues, with the Community Fibre programme reaching its first anniversary in January 2022. To date, 4,445 homes are confirmed to have live connections, and many more are currently being planned and delivered. As a result, officers expect the programme to have connected almost every Barnet Homes property by December 2022.
- 1.29 In addition, Community Fibre has announced the expansion of its investment programme across London to see over 2.2m homes 'passed' by the end of 2024 – this means a resident can order a service and then a cable is installed from the street to their property. In relation to Barnet, Community Fibre anticipates that this will mean at least two thirds of the homes across the borough being connected, and an even greater number will be possible if owners of privately-owned blocks of flats and housing associations agree to sign wayleaves that will permit fibre cables to be installed.
- 1.30 As part of the Gigabit Broadband Programme, officers have fostered and encouraged fibre investment, especially into those areas that are currently poorly served in terms of Broadband speeds. Further to engagement and support since last summer, in January these two companies commenced street works to install fibre cables. 'Hampstead Fibre' is a local SME that commenced its initial programme of works across several streets in Hampstead Garden Suburb, while 'Open Infra' (a Swedish telecoms company) began their pilot UK investment programme within Mill Hill. This demonstrates how the council is ready to engage with and support all network operators willing to invest within the borough.
- 1.31 Work continues with the West London Alliance in relation to several programmes including the £1.2m grant funding for full fibre connections to council assets, where a tender has been launched through the Crown Commercial Services framework. The assets the council intends to be connected were confirmed to support the tender process.

### **Digital Access and Inclusion**

- 1.32 Digital Inclusion support is being increasingly embedded within the day-to-day business of the council, including changes to the role and responsibilities of customer services and libraries staff, together with an increasing coordination role around digital inclusion for BOOST. A key challenge in relation to Digital Inclusion is that often people do not realise they have become excluded, at least until a problem becomes a significant barrier.
- 1.33 As part of collaboration efforts with the London Office for Technology and Innovation (LOTI) project, four service gateways (libraries, customer services, BOOST and Colindale Communities Trust) are piloting a digital triage questionnaire as part of their regular contact with residents to then refer them to appropriate digital support. The aim is to develop a preventative approach to digital exclusion, spotting opportunities to help get more people online before it becomes a larger issue.

- 1.34 Funded through the wayleaves programme, the council is working on several projects to improve digital inclusion in the borough by reducing barriers to getting online such as internet access (physical and financial), lack of skills, low confidence and motivation.
- Free fibre broadband for residents: In February, the council and Barnet BOOST launch a campaign and kick-off event to promote nearly 300 free 12-month fibre broadband connections for Barnet Homes residents from Community Fibre.
  - Free-for-life fibre connections for community centres: Two newly connected centres are expected before March 2022 (Tarling Road in East Finchley and Clitterhouse Farm Project in Cricklewood).
  - Laptop scheme: more than 250 refurbished laptops were distributed in 2021 to residents and community centres. More than 450 more are expected to be available in 2022.
  - Digital ambassadors: Community Fibre has recruited two ambassadors who will run digital skills sessions for residents in North Finchley Library from February. This pilot will provide an opportunity to test methods ahead of wider roll out of digital ambassador-led skills training in 2022.
  - Web pages: launched in November 2021, the council's new Digital Barnet web pages help residents and businesses understand the range of digital support available to them, including two new digital inclusion case studies.

### **Business support**

- 1.35 Since the start of the pandemic the council has paid out over £116.5m to 7,426 businesses (up until September 2021) and continues to support businesses through Omicron Additional Restrictions Grants of up to £6,000 per business, with a separate fund specifically aimed at hospitality and leisure businesses.
- 1.36 The council continues to support outdoor trading. Having awarded temporary licences for 23 parklets across nine town centres to help businesses make the most of the outdoor space in front of their premises, officers have now commissioned a follow-up programme to install improved parklets in several locations where businesses have made the best use of the parklets. In line with government policy, businesses are now required to fund the cost of the licence, which most have been happy to do.
- 1.37 Funded through the government's Additional Restrictions Grants, the council is working with the Federation of Small Businesses, Middlesex University and Barnet & Southgate College to offer a range of business support and training programmes from February 2022 onwards. These are aimed at micro and small businesses in the borough who have been negatively affected by the impact of Covid-19 and will provide business owners and their employees with vital new skills, knowledge and certification to help them grow.

### **Town Centres**

- 1.38 In terms of activities to support town centres, the Economic Development team is working closely with colleagues across a range of services to progress recovery plans, as well as engaging directly with businesses, Town Teams and other stakeholders. Key updates include:

- Edgware: the Partnership Board formed with Ballymore, Transport for London and local businesses has continued to develop plans for the town centre, including high street activations, new murals and artwork and other creative approaches to place-making. Alongside this, officers are working with local partners to develop a sustainable business-led approach to the long-term stewardship of the town centre.
- Burnt Oak: the tender for the public realm improvements approved at September Housing and Growth Committee was launched in January and a multidisciplinary consultancy team is due to be in place by Q1 2022-23. A programme of one-to-one business support has been successfully commissioned and will start engaging businesses throughout February and March. Work is also underway to deliver new murals, festive lighting and branding/identity guidelines for the town centre, with works due to commence in March.
- West Hendon Broadway: officers continue to work with Barratt London to enhance the Highways works due to commence on the Broadway. Plans include additional sustainability measures, such as tree planting and rain gardens, and the creation of “green pockets”. Additional street furniture and signage will also be delivered. In advance of the Highways works, the area will also be further uplifted through creative place-making interventions, including new planters and artwork on the Broadway.
- Cricklewood: work is underway to develop feasibility study for the site at 164-168 Cricklewood Broadway. This was subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order and was later demolished as part of the Brent Cross Cricklewood ‘Southern Junctions’ works. Officers will be engaging with local ward members, the Town Team, Business Association and others to develop and test proposals for a landscaped area with seating, greenery and workspace units. Should the proposals prove viable, officers will bring a recommendation to a future Housing and Growth Committee meeting. It should be noted that any recommendation will be for the long-term future of the site and would need to incorporate the engineering requirements associated with the adjacent property. In the short term, plans to improve the remaining plot are underway and will initially involve rendering the side of the adjacent building, before the installation of artwork to improve the look of the plot.
- Golders Green: planning has commenced for the design and delivery of new public realm investments in line with the adopted Golders Green Town Centre Strategy. A multidisciplinary consultancy team will be appointed to lead the engagement and design work by Q1 2022-23.
- Finchley Central: the council, has continued to progress the Finchley Square project, which is due to start on site in August 2022. This is approximately two months later than was reported at September 2021 Housing and Growth Committee, with the delay due to unforeseen circumstances within the consultant team. Several community and cultural events have been held over the winter, receiving positive feedback from local residents and businesses. These will continue to take place in the run up to construction.
- North Finchley: the North Finchley Partnership Board held its first meeting at the end of November. The group comprises 17 members in total, including ten drawn from the community, businesses and other local stakeholders. Prospective Board members applied for their positions and were assessed against selection criteria within the Terms of Reference and to ensure a representative cross-section of the

community. The Board reviewed the programme for the year ahead, focusing on the Regal London timetable as well as other short-term activities to enhance the town centre. The Partnership Board will be an important vehicle for local voices to be heard as development progresses, although officers will also be leading engagement activities to ensure that others can provide feedback.

- Chipping Barnet: officers have continued to develop feasibility work to develop the business cases for the five community projects identified in the Community Plan. Work has focused in particular on opportunities to bring forward employment space and flexible workspace. The council is also engaging with public sector partners through the One Public Estate programme to influence future development.
- Finally, the council officially launched the borough-wide Town Centre Heroes Exhibition in January 2022 with an event at the Colindale Office headed by the Mayor of Barnet. Part of the Discover Barnet campaign, the project captures and celebrates the stories of more than 50 people within Barnet's town centres who have gone above and beyond to serve their community. An exhibition of the heroes will be displayed in shop windows, on billboards, at libraries and other venues as well as via a dedicated website and book.

### **Building a park town for Barnet at Brent Cross Town**

- 1.39 Brent Cross Town continues to take shape and the first phases of the development are clearly visible from the recent drone footage of the area<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.40 On the Brent Cross West station programme, works on the new platforms and station concourse continue at pace, and the cladding of the station footbridge is well underway. Construction of the East and Western entrances are also progressing well. The plans for the Western public realm outside of the station are developing, and a public consultation has been undertaken to inform the design with a full planning application to be submitted in the next few months. On the Eastern side, Argent (the council's development partners) are close to mobilising their contractor who will be developing the eastern interchange and linking the station into the new town infrastructure that has already been constructed.
- 1.41 The Pavilion visitor centre has been completed and opened on 30 November. The Pavilion, a striking timber framed building, incorporates a new locally run public café, Spruce & Larch, which also has plants for sale. The space is also designed as a gallery for exhibitions and will be home to a permanent exhibition about the Brent Cross Town development and a large-scale neighbourhood model. While Covid restrictions limited the number of events being held through December and January, local interest and visitor numbers have been high.
- 1.42 Improvements to the Claremont Way parade of shops (opposite the Pavilion) are also being brought forward, and additional parking is planned to service the Exploratory Park, as well as Claremont Park which is due to open later this year. Design work on the other major greenspace in the area, Clitterhouse Playing Fields, is ongoing following the conclusion of a public consultation. A planning application for the new layout is expected later this year. Further improvements are also being implemented on the 'route from the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.brentcrosstown.co.uk/2021/12/14/december-2021-drone-footage>

tube' to enhance the main walking/cycling route from Brent Cross tube station to the new Town.

- 1.43 Housing and Growth Committee receive a quarterly update report on the Brent Cross Cricklewood programme which can be found in agenda item 7.

### **Creating an efficient, convenient and reliable transport network**

- 1.44 The Long-Term Transport Strategy, adopted by Environment Committee in September 2020, sets a vision and action plan for transport in the borough.

- 1.45 Since the last update to Housing and Growth Committee in November 2021, progress has been made on a number of projects as noted below. In addition, there are a number of transport projects which are noted within other updates within this report including Brent Cross. On Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding, Barnet as well as LoTAG and London Councils have written to the Department for Transport seeking urgent clarifications about the future of this fund as it affects the ability to provide Barnet's statutory functions as well as supporting local communities in sustainable transport.

- We have installed over 200 Electric Vehicle Charge Points across the borough to date. The majority of these have been residential charge points, located in lamp columns and based on resident requests; however, additional community charging hubs and freestanding units have been installed in town centre car parks to ensure a range of charging solutions.
- Additionally, we have secured over £3.5m in grant funding to deliver 500 on-street Electric Vehicle Charge Points by November 2022.
- As part of the controlled parking zone programme, we have launched engagement on parking proposals in four areas of the borough. The programme aims to support the Transport Strategy through addressing demand for parking restrictions, improving traffic flow and safety.
- The Highway Network Recovery Plan for 2021/22 has been progressing well. A major carriageway resurfacing programme has been completed and the remainder of the programme is on target for completion by 31 March 2022. A total of £6.8m is being invested on this programme this financial year and the same investment will continue in 2022/23.
- Work has progressed on the development of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) service and associated policy framework, as noted in the report to Environment Committee in November 2021. Barnet's Public Rights of Way includes public footpaths (for walkers only) public bridleways (for walkers, horse riders and pedal cyclists) and restricted byways (for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers). In particular, Public Rights of Way supports active travel across the borough. The PRoW budget has delivered repairs and improvements on the rural and urban network of paths that will continue into the next financial year with focus on circular and strategic routes.
- A report on Social Distancing Measures was taken to Environment Committee in January 2022. The report provides detail on progress on schemes under the three social distancing threads, Cycling, School Streets and town centres.

## **Making Barnet a sustainable borough.**

- 1.46 The council is in the process of developing a Sustainability Strategy which will propose new actions and objectives which will enable us to meet the ambitious targets of the government, respond to legislation as well as detailing how we can empower residents, businesses and partners to make similarly make meaningful changes.
- 1.47 Barnet's Sustainability Strategy Framework was presented to Policy & Resources Committee in December 2021 and was unanimously approved. The Framework lays the groundwork for the Sustainability Strategy by defining our net zero ambitions, setting some commitments and detailing the next steps for the development of the strategy. It has been agreed that we will set the target of being net zero as an organisation by 2030, and for Barnet as a place to be net zero as soon as possible following this, and by 2050 at the latest. Actions which support these net zero ambitions are already being undertaken and have been highlighted in other sections of this report as well as the Sustainability Strategy Framework.
- 1.48 Over the next few months, the council will be conducting engagement prior to the pre-election period. This will allow officers to better understand the needs of the community and inform the development of the draft Sustainability Strategy, which will be presented to committee in the Summer. Following this, a full public consultation will be undertaken to inform the final Strategy.

## **2. Reasons for recommendations**

- 2.1 All measures and interventions set out above directly support the Thriving theme of the Barnet Plan 2021-2025.
- 2.2 Additionally, all measures outlined in this report align with council strategy and priorities, for example, as set out in the Growth Strategy 2020-30, the Long-Term Transport Strategy, the Housing Strategy 2019-24 and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24.

## **3. Alternative options considered and not recommended**

- 3.1 None in the context of this report

## **4. Post decision implementation**

- 4.1 Following Committee, officers will continue to maintain regular communication with relevant stakeholder groups – notably businesses, Members and residents – in accordance with the various programmes of work.

## **5. Implications of decision**

### **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1 All measures and interventions set out above directly support the Thriving theme of the Barnet Plan 2021-2025.

- 5.2 Additionally, all measures outlined in this report align with council strategy and priorities, for example, as set out in the Growth Strategy 2020-30, the Long-Term Transport Strategy, the Housing Strategy 2019-24 and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-24.

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

- 5.3 Where there are financial implications or decisions associated with projects outlined in the Growth Strategy annual report and Work, Skills and Productivity Action Plan, these will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.4 Any procurement activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as applicable. If the Council chooses to use an existing Framework Agreement to appoint a contractor to deliver any services, it must comply with the requirements of the Framework Agreement. In accordance with Rule 5.4 of the Contract Procedure Rules, before entering into a call-off contract under a Framework Agreement due diligence checks must be carried out to demonstrate that the Council can lawfully access the Framework Agreement and that it is fit for purpose and provides value for money.
- 5.5 Post Brexit, the State Aid rules have been replaced by the Subsidy Control Rules 2021. The Procurement of public works and services contracts over the relevant financial thresholds must still observe the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and Subsidy Control Rules 2021 where applicable. There is a new process for advertising the tender in the Contracts Finder. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires the Council to consider whether it can achieve an improvement to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area as part of the procurement of these services. If so, the social value objectives identified must be written into the procurement process. All of this must be achieved with regard to value for money and in a way that is compliant with existing public procurement law. "Social value" objectives can include the creation of employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities for local people, trading opportunities for local businesses and the third sector through contract delivery.

### **Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.6 The council's Constitution, Article 7.5 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, sets out the functions of the Housing and Growth Committee:
- 5.7 Responsibility for housing matters including strategy, homelessness, social housing and housing grants, commissioning of environmental health functions for private sector housing, regeneration strategy and oversee major regeneration schemes, asset management, employment strategy, business support and engagement.
- 5.8 To receive reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services, under the remit of the Committee.

### **Insight**

- 5.9 In recent months, the council has significantly improved the way in which it uses data, insight and analysis to drive decision making and service delivery. A new cross-cutting data insight team has been established which is now working closely with Growth

colleagues as well as others across the organisation. This report draws on various analyses undertaken by the Insight Team.

## **Social Value**

- 5.10 The council must take into account the requirements of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 to consider how what is to be procured might improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area and how it might act to secure such improvement in conducting procurement. Social value is a core part of the Recovery Framework and will be maximised throughout.

## **Risk Management**

- 5.11 The council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. Strategic and operational risks are being reviewed in light of our response to COVID-19 and priorities for recovery and the Barnet Plan. Managing risk will be an essential part of programme management and will be used to inform key decisions relating to economic recovery and the delivery of the Corporate Plan.
- 5.12 There is a risk that there will be resistance from the community with regards to some proposals in town centres. All work identified in this report builds directly on priorities already identified through strategies that have been consulted on and the Council has allowed for ongoing community and stakeholder engagement throughout the delivery of these projects.

## **Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.13 The Equality Act, 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act, 2010;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people of different groups; and
  - Foster good relations between people from different groups.
- 5.14 Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
- 5.15 The Barnet Plan, the council's Recovery Framework and the Growth Strategy are intended to benefit all communities and groups who live, work and visit the borough, including those with protected characteristics.
- 5.16 An Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment was undertaken on the Growth Strategy, and the outcomes of these were summarised in the report to Housing and Growth Committee of January 2020 seeking approval of the Strategy.
- 5.17 Where individual decisions are required in relation to the recovery programme or Growth Strategy Delivery Plan, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis to ensure no group is disadvantaged or left behind. As required, officers will undertake

Equalities Impact Assessments (EQIA) on a case-by-case basis to fully appraise the impacts associated with any proposed course of action in line with the legislation.

### **Corporate Parenting**

- 5.18 In line with the Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in all relevant decision-making. These will be considered as specific plans for recovery are further developed.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.19 Officers are clear that the Corporate Plan cannot be delivered in isolation if they are going to be fully responsive and effective in enabling the borough to emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. Consultation with other levels of government, partners, service users and the wider community is critical to ensuring that our recovery activities are focused on the end user.
- 5.20 Meaningful stakeholder engagement remains a key part of project development. Consultation and engagement plans will be prepared for all new housing, regeneration and development projects where required. Any new schemes brought forward will be subject to consultation where legally required or where the council considers it appropriate.

### **Environmental Impact**

- 5.21 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. The environmental impact of projects supporting the Thriving priority will be assessed on a project-by-project basis.

## **6. Background papers**

- 6.1 Housing and Growth Committee, 27 January 2020: Growth Strategy  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s52934/Growth%20Strategy.pdf>
- 6.2 Housing and Growth Committee, 14 September 2020, item 12: COVID-19: Recovery Plan – Thriving,  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=10226&Ver=4>
- 6.3 Housing and Growth Committee, 25 November 2020, item 17: COVID-19: Recovery Plan – Thriving  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=10227&Ver=4>
- 6.4 Housing and Growth Committee, 25 January 2021, item 9: COVID-19 Recovery Plan,  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=10228&Ver=4>
- 6.5 Housing and Growth Committee, 14 June 2021, item 7, COVID-19: Recovery Plan – Thriving, <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s65201/COVID-19%20Recovery%20Plan%20Thriving.pdf>
- 6.6 Housing and Growth Committee, 13 September 2021, Covid-19: Recovery Plan – Thriving, Item 8,  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=10846&Ver=4>

- 6.7 Housing and Growth Committee, 16 November 2021: Thriving Update, Item 7  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=696&MId=10847&Ver=4>
- 6.8 Decision - Approval of sites for connection to Fibre Breadboard using grant funding, 28 January 2022:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8741>