

London Borough of Barnet Local Plan – Examination

Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions for Hearing Sessions - Autumn 2022

Matter 12: Monitoring

Issue:

Whether the Plan would be able to be monitored effectively to ensure timely delivery of its proposals and be in general conformity with the London Plan?

Questions:

- 1) How would the implementation of the Plan policies be achieved? What mechanisms are there to assist development sites to come forward/progress?

The Local Plan sets out the vision and objectives to guide development in Barnet in the period 2021 -2036. It will replace the currently adopted Local Plan (comprising Core Strategy (Core_Gen_14) and Development Management Policies (Core_Gen_15) Development Plan Documents adopted in 2012. Barnet's Local Plan also comprises the Colindale Area Action Plan (2010), Mill Hill East Area Action Plan (2009) (Core_Gen_10) and the North London Waste Plan (2022) (Core_Gen_9). The Plan will be used in conjunction with the London Plan (Core_Gen_16) and the West Finchley Neighbourhood Plan (Core_Gen_30). All these documents form Barnet's Development Plan.

Implementation of Local Plan policies will be achieved through the development management function when the Council makes decisions on planning applications. A suite of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) is also being prepared as detailed in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) (Core_02). These SPDs will complement the Plan by providing further detail on non-strategic matters. The Council's planning enforcement function will ensure development happens in a controlled manner in line with the Local Plan and any the specific directions and conditions determined through the planning decision making process.

A wide range of public and private sector stakeholders as well as existing and new communities will assist with the delivery of the Plan. The Council works closely with the Mayor of London, neighbouring boroughs, statutory agencies and infrastructure providers utilising plans, strategies and delivery programmes. This is demonstrated by the suite of Statements of Common Ground (EB_SoCG 01 to 17). The Council also works closely with development partners and community organisations in ensuring successful and sustainable development over the lifetime of the Plan.

The Plan, as shown by Figure 2 in Chapter 1, has an important outreach role as the spatial expression of corporate strategies, providing a reference point for other plans and programmes produced by key partners and stakeholders. This helps to ensure consistency of approach in terms of delivery of outcomes sought.

To ensure Barnet develops in a sustainable manner, future growth must be supported by the necessary infrastructure, identified in the IDP (Core_Gen_19) and as required by the Local Plan. Developer contributions will be used to mitigate negative impacts associated with development and to ensure the infrastructure necessary to support growth and benefit the local community is provided. The Council refers to its response to Matter 7 with regard to details on infrastructure delivery (including through developer contributions).

In terms of mechanisms to help sites come forward the Council refers to its most recent Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) (EB_H_10), published in December 2021. The HDAP sets out steps to speed up and get the balance right on housing delivery. This is expressed most significantly through the draft Local Plan as well as through revising the Local Development Scheme (Core_02) as the programme for a suite of new SPDs. Improvements to development management processes help ensure the timely determination of planning application decisions. The message on regeneration and growth in Barnet is clearly expressed through the Annual Regeneration Report (Core_Gen_22) and the Growth Strategy 2019 (Core_Gen_18). As a package the measures outlined above all serve to demonstrate the very proactive approach that the Council is taking to boosting housing delivery.

- 2) How would the implementation of the Plan be monitored? Would it be effective? How would the results of monitoring be acted upon, for example what would trigger a review of the Plan?

Table 24 of the Plan provides detail of the monitoring indicators for the Plan. These will be reported through the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) (Core_Gen_21) and the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) (CS106_04) as appropriate.

The Plan will be monitored through the AMR and reviewed as appropriate to ensure policies are effective. The AMR helps assess whether the objectives set out in the Plan are being met and whether any policy amendments or more substantial strategic change are required. In line with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 (LP_LEG_24) and as set out in the LDS (Core_02), a review will take place at least every five years to determine if a partial or full review of the Plan is necessary. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set out in Table 24 of the draft Local Plan will form the basis of the AMR and will provide evidence towards this assessment.

A review of the Local Plan would only be triggered if changes in legislation and regulation meant that the Plan no longer met its objectives, or if several of the

strategic sites that are delivering significant proportions of the housing target could no longer be delivered, for instance the Brent Cross Growth Area. The Council refers to its response to Matter 2 – Spatial Strategy Q7 with regards to any review of the Local Plan’s approach on the Brent Cross Growth Area.

- 3) Is there specific evidence that any of the superseded policies listed in Appendix C – Replacement of Local Plan Policies should not be replaced by the Plan?

No. NPPF (Core_Gen_33) (para 11) highlights the importance of having an up-to-date development plan. There is no specific evidence that that any of the superseded policies listed in Appendix C should not be replaced by the Local Plan