



APPENDIX 6.1

SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY CONTEXT

ANNEX 1

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1 National Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2018

- 1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework¹ (NPPF) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
- 1.2 At the heart of the NPPF is a “presumption in favour of sustainable development”. It articulates the Government’s vision for how the planning system should operate, and identifies three interdependent roles for the planning system, to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
- An economic role – ensuring that the right amount of land is available at the right time and place in order to support growth, innovation and improved productivity;
 - A social role – providing a sufficient number and range of homes, accessible services, and open space, in a well-designed and safe built environment, to meet the needs of present and future generations and to support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - An environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment.
- 1.3 The policy framework set out within: Chapter 5 ‘Delivering a sufficient supply of homes’; Chapter 6 ‘Building a strong, competitive economy’; and Chapter 8 ‘Promoting healthy and safe communities’ is of greatest relevance to this socio-economic assessment.

Planning Practice Guidance, MHCLG (Live Online Resource)

- 1.4 The PPG² is an online resource which went live in 2014. It provides technical guidance and further detail on the policies contained within the NPPF.
- 1.5 The PPG highlights the need for local authorities to identify both the housing and economic needs of their areas of jurisdiction in order to plan effectively for the future. The objective of identifying need, as set out in the PPG, is to:
- identify the future quantity of housing needed;
 - identify the future quantity of land or floorspace required for economic development uses; and
 - provide a breakdown of that analysis in terms of quality and location in order to provide an indication of gaps in current land supply.

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018. National Planning Policy Framework. London. HMSO.

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Live Document) Planning Practice Guidance [online] Available: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/>

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- 1.6 The outputs of assessments should input into Local Plans that are “positively prepared to deliver sustainable development that meets local needs and national priorities” (Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 12-001-20140306).
- 1.7 There is also recognition that good quality design is an integral part of ensuring that development responds in a practical and creative way to both the function and amenity of a place. Good design is considered to have the potential to deliver a number of planning objectives including safe, connected and efficient streets; crime prevention; security measures; access and inclusion; and cohesive and vibrant neighbourhoods.

2 Regional Planning Policy

The London Plan, Greater London Authority (GLA), 2016

- 2.1 The London Plan³ sets out the Mayor’s vision for London and outlines the strategic approach to economic, social, environmental and transport development in London over the next 20 - 25 years.
- 2.2 An overall vision is set out for London to excel among global cities; expand opportunities for people and enterprises; achieve the highest standard of environmental standards and quality of life; and lead the world in its approach to tackling 21st century urban challenges.
- 2.3 The vision is supported by six key objectives⁴ that aim to embody sustainable development by ensuring London is a city:
- that is internationally competitive and successful city with a strong and diverse economy;
 - that meets the challenges of economic and population growth;
 - of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods;
 - that delights the senses;
 - that becomes a world leader in improving the environment locally and globally; and,
 - where it is easy, safe and convenient for everyone to access jobs, opportunities and facilities.
- 2.4 Among the key themes of the London Plan is the need to increase London’s housing supply, and deliver an average of 42,000 net additional homes per year across London over the plan period (Policy ‘3.3 - Increasing Housing Supply’). The London Borough of Barnet (LBB) has a housing target that aims to provide 23,489 new homes by 2025 (2,349 annually).
- 2.5 Further detail is set out in Policy ‘3.4 – Optimising Housing Potential’ which sets out the approach to optimise housing delivery potential through promoting higher density development in the right locations, and Policy ‘3.8 – Housing Choice’ which focuses on the need to increase housing choice in London. The provision of social infrastructure generally, but particularly school places, healthcare and children’s play space, is another focus of the London Plan. Policy ‘3.6 – Children and Young People’s Play and Informal

³ Greater London Authority (GLA), 2016. London Plan – The Spatial Development Strategy for London Consolidated with Alterations since 2011.

⁴ GLA, 2016. London Plan – The Spatial Development Strategy for London Consolidated with Alterations since 2011, paragraph 1.53, p. 31

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Recreation Facilities’ requires the provision of 10sqm of play space per child as part of housing development across London.

- 2.6 The Site is geographically located within the LBB which is located in ‘Outer London’ as defined by Map 2.2 of the London Plan, and is therefore subject to Policy ‘2.6 – Outer London’ and Policy ‘2.7 – Outer London: Economy’. Policy 2.6 sets out a commitment to realise the potential of Outer London, recognising and building upon its great diversity and varied strengths in order to enhance and promote its district existing and emerging strategic and local economic opportunities.

Draft New London Plan showing Minor Suggested Changes, GLA, 2018

- 2.7 The Draft New London Plan⁵ is subject to an examination in public which commenced in January 2019. It is a new Plan covering the period 2019 to 2041, and will replace the existing Plan once adopted.
- 2.8 The plan is underpinned by the concept of Good Growth – which is defined as growth that is socially and economically inclusive and environmentally sustainable – and builds strong and inclusive communities.
- 2.9 Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities sets out requirements that planning:
- Ensures London generates a wide range of economic and other opportunities;
 - Provides access to good quality services and amenities;
 - Ensure streets and public spaces are designed to allow communities to flourish; and
 - Promotes town centres that provide opportunities for social interaction.
- 2.10 Policy GG2 “Making the best use of land” sets out a range of measures supporting development of high-density, mixed-use places – particularly in areas close to transport, and existing town centres.
- 2.11 Policy GG3 “Creating a healthy city” encourages development that promotes healthy lifestyles, uses the Healthy Streets Approach, and improves access to green spaces.
- 2.12 Policy D7 “Public realm” requires development proposals deliver safe, accessible, inclusive, attractive, well-connected, easy to understand and maintain public realm.
- 2.13 Policy H1 “Increasing housing supply” sets out ten-year housing targets for each London borough (2019/20-2028/29) – the target for the LBB is 31,340, equivalent to 3,134 homes per year.
- 2.14 Policies S1-S7 set out policies with respect to social infrastructure – including healthcare, education facilities, open space and play space – requiring boroughs to plan to ensure social infrastructure meets the needs of London’s diverse communities.
- 2.15 Policies E1-E11 set out policies to support London’s economy. Policy E1 “Offices” supports increases in the current stock of offices where there is authoritative local evidence of sustained demand for such space. Policy E11 encourages development proposals that support employment, skills development, apprenticeships and other education and training opportunities in both the construction and end-use phases.

⁵ GLA, 2018. Draft New London Plan showing Minor Suggested Changes.

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London Housing Strategy, GLA, 2018

2.16 The London Housing Strategy⁶ sets out the Mayor's plans to meet the needs of London's growing population and is underpinned by five priorities:

- Building homes for Londoners;
- Delivering genuinely affordable homes;
- High quality homes and inclusive neighbourhoods;
- A fairer deal for private renters and leaseholders; and
- Tackling homelessness and helping rough sleepers.

3 Local Planning Policy

Barnet's Local Plan (Core Strategy), Development Plan Document, LBB, 2012

3.1 LBB's Local Plan (Core Strategy)⁷ forms part of Barnet's Local Plan. This document sets out the long term spatial vision and strategic objectives for the Local Planning Authority area.

3.2 Key policies of relevance to this ES chapter are summarised below:

- Policy CS3: Distribution of Growth in Meeting Housing Aspirations – this policy sets out a housing growth target of 28,000 across the borough during the 15 years of the plan period (2011/12 to 2025/26);
- Policy CS4 seeks to ensure the creation of successful communities through the provision of quality homes and a housing choice across the Borough. The Borough sets a minimum affordable housing target of 5,500 new affordable homes by 2025/26 and a borough-wide target of 40% affordable homes on sites capable of accommodating ten or more dwellings;
- Policy CS7 seeks to create a greener Barnet and sets out various measures to achieve this; and
- Policy CS8 encourages measures which enable Barnet residents to access work. These measures include delivery 1,500 new jobs in Colindale and Mill Hill East by 2021 and requiring major developments to provide financial contributions to delivery employment and training initiatives;

3.3 In terms of social infrastructure the Council will amongst other things, expect development that increases the demand for community facilities and services to make appropriate contributions towards new and accessible facilities, particularly within the regeneration and development areas of the Borough (Policy CS10).

3.4 In terms of health and well-being, the Council highlights its intention to work closely with key partners/stakeholders to ensure the delivery of modern primary and community care, to progress better service integration, to support healthier neighbourhoods, and ensure increased access to Barnet's green spaces and opportunities for higher levels of physical activity (Policy CS11).

⁶ GLA, 2018. London Housing Strategy, May 2018.

⁷ Barnet Council, 2012. Barnet's Local Plan (Core Strategy) Development Plan Document, September 2012.

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Barnet's Local Plan (Development Management Policies), Development Plan Document, LBB, 2012

- 3.5 Policy DM02 – ‘Development Standards’ of LBB’s Development Management Policies⁸ states that play space should be delivered in line with the standards sets out in the London Plan.
- 3.6 Policy DM15 – part b ‘Open Spaces’ states that in areas which are identified as deficient in public open space, where the development site is appropriate or the opportunity arises the council will expect on site provision in line with the following standards:
- Parks (1.63 hectares (ha) per 1,000 residents);
 - Children’s play (0.09 ha per 1,000 residents);
 - Sports pitches (0.75 hectares per 1,000 residents);
 - Natural green spaces (2.05 hectares per 1,000 residents).

Sustainable Design and Construction – Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), LBB, 2016

- 3.7 The Sustainable Design and Construction SPD⁹ sets out sustainability and construction related requirements to be applied in Barnet. Of relevance to socio-economics, section 2.3 ‘Outdoor Amenity Space’ specifies requirement of 5sqm of outdoor amenity space per habitable room for flats. The SPD states that “*where the standards cannot be met and an innovative design solution is not possible the council will seek a Planning Obligation*”.

Planning Obligations – Local Plan: Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), LBB, 2013

- 3.8 This document¹⁰ has been revised from an earlier version in order to focus on when obligations will be required and how these will sit alongside the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 3.9 Of relevance to socio-economics, the SPD states that planning obligations may be sought for social infrastructure including:
- Public open space – where a proposal addressed public open space deficiency then the value of the land transferred will be offset against the CIL contribution required.
 - Outdoor amenity space – to be assessed in line with the standards set out in the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD).
 - Children’s play space – to be assessed in line with the London Plan standards.
 - Community, health and educational facilities – to be assessed against existing capacity and additional need arising from a development.

4 Guidance

Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), GLA, 2016

⁸ Barnet Council, 2012. Barnet’s Local Plan (Development Management Policies) Development Plan Document, September 2012.

⁹ Barnet Council, 2016. Local Plan – Supplementary Planning Document: Sustainable Design and Construction, October 2016.

¹⁰ Barnet Council, 2013. Local Plan – Supplementary Planning Document: Planning Obligations, April 2013.

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- 4.1 The Housing SPG¹¹ provides guidance on the implementation of the London Plan housing policies which promote the delivery of housing by setting ambitious minimum housing provision targets and optimising density in suitable locations with good transport accessibility, and ensuring access to a range of accommodation (of different, tenures, types and sizes).

Social Infrastructure SPG, GLA, 2015

- 4.2 The Social Infrastructure SPG¹² sets out further guidance on the implementation of a number of London Plan policies relating to the provision of social infrastructure.

- 4.3 The importance of social infrastructure in creating ‘Lifetime Neighbourhoods’ is also set out within the SPG. Lifetime Neighbourhoods are places where people are able to live and work in safe, healthy, supportive and inclusive environments. A number of characteristics for Lifetime Neighbourhoods are identified within the SPG. These include:

- Neighbourhoods which are well-connected and walkable;
- A choice of homes, accessible infrastructure and services, places to spend time and to work, with a mix of accessible and adaptable uses; and
- A cohesive community which fosters diversity, social interaction and social capital.

Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation SPG, GLA, 2012

- 4.4 This SPG¹³ provides guidance and detail on the implementation of London Plan Policy 3.6 which requires provision of children’s play space as part of housing development across London. Specifically, it sets a benchmark of 10sqm of playspace per child.

- 4.5 Tables 4.1 and 4.2 of the SPG set out the maximum distances that children of different ages should have to walk from their home to find appropriate play space and provides details of the type of space/facilities that should be provided. According to these tables Under 5s, 5 to 11 year olds and over 12s should have access to play space within 100 metres (m), 400m, and 800m of their homes respectively. These typologies and distances provide the benchmarks against which play provision is assessed in this chapter.

¹¹ GLA, 2016. Housing Supplementary Planning Guidance.

¹² GLA, 2015. Social Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Guidance.

¹³ GLA, 2012. Shaping Neighbourhoods: Play and Informal Recreation Supplementary Planning Guidance.