

One Barnet

A Sustainable Community Strategy for Barnet 2010 – 2020



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Foreword

Barnet is one of the best places in the UK to live and work. People want to live here because of our green spaces, quality housing, low crime, good education, and thriving business and retail community. We will also be one of the fastest growing areas of London over the coming years.

However we face great challenges to our continued success. Reductions in public spending to tackle the deficit mean that life will be tough for the next few years, for both those who depend on good public services and those who provide them.

It is important that, along this difficult journey, we do not lose sight of the prize of making Barnet an even more special place to be. One of our strengths is the resilience and enterprise of the whole Barnet community and this makes the Borough well placed to continue to thrive.

Achieving this vision requires a new relationship with citizens, to harness this energy and creativity, and ensure the right balance between providing public services, and people doing things for themselves without the state interfering. It also requires all local public services to work together to ensure that every pound of public money is efficiently spent and people receive joined up services that meet their needs.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure that Barnet becomes even better over the next decade.



Lynne Hillan

Leader of the Council

Chairman of Barnet's Local Strategic Partnership

A snapshot of Barnet in 2010

Our place

Barnet is a vibrant, diverse and successful London suburb. We are the most populous London borough with 345,800 residents, having recently overtaken Croydon. We are also one of the largest by area. We are bounded by Harrow, Brent, Camden, Enfield and Haringey in London as well as Hertfordshire. The Borough is geographically very mixed. We are one of the greenest suburbs with over 200 parks, 36,000 street trees and 36 percent undeveloped land (Metropolitan Open Land). We have residential suburban communities as well as 20 town centres, including one of South-East England's biggest retail locations at Brent Cross.

Generally, Barnet is affluent, but there are significant variations from area to area, and this overall affluence masks the presence of areas of deprivation. We have six localities (Local Super Output Areas) that are within the top 10 per cent most deprived in the country. Deprivation is mainly concentrated around the A5 corridor that forms the Borough's western boundary.

Transport

Barnet has excellent connectivity- the North Circular (A 406) runs through the Borough, and the M1 begins in Barnet, with the M25 just outside the Borough boundaries. Both branches of the Northern Line serve Barnet, and there are also two major suburban rail routes that pass through the Borough.

The rate of car ownership is higher than the London average, while use of public transport is 19 percent lower than the London average.

Local economy

Around 60 percent of Barnet residents commute out of the Borough, many to the City and West End, but although the Borough is a net exporter of jobs, we also support over 110,000 local jobs. Around three quarters of these are filled by people who also live in the Borough.

Retail, public services and business services have a particularly strong presence. There are very high levels of business start ups.

Our residents are well-qualified compared to London and elsewhere, with over 40 percent of them qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above (ie graduate or equivalent).

Our people

We have used the Mosaic classification system which provides a more sophisticated way of understanding the local population through analysing their socio-economic characteristics and their lifestyles. There are two significant Mosaic Groups in Barnet – “career professionals living in sought after locations” (Group A) and “educated, young single people living in areas of transient populations” (Group E). Each group represents about 28 percent of households in Barnet.¹

Ethnic and Faith Diversity

In common with much of London, Barnet is one of the most diverse areas in the country in terms of ethnicity and faith. As an example over 170 first languages and dialects are spoken in schools across the borough, yet at the same time we are proud that our communities are cohesive and people get on well with each other.

Over a third of our population were born outside the United Kingdom. The borough's largest ethnic minority group, as defined by Census categories, is people describing themselves as Indian, which is 10 percent of the population. Barnet has the largest Chinese community in England.

Barnet is also the second most religiously diverse borough in the country and home to the largest Jewish community in the country. In the last census 15 percent of people described their faith as Jewish.

¹ Experian, Mosaic Public Sector 2010

Our public services

Education

Barnet's schools enjoy an excellent reputation, with nearly 80 percent rated good or outstanding for overall effectiveness, and our educational attainment levels are high.

Health

Barnet residents on average also live healthier and longer lives than the national average, although we do experience significant health inequalities relating to socio-economic and other factors. In some areas, life expectancy is below the national average.

Coronary heart disease, cancer and respiratory problems are the three biggest causes of premature death in Barnet.

The most common causes of acute ill health in the borough are coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, diabetes and cancer.

Environment

Our recycling rates are above average. However Barnet has one of the largest carbon footprints per head of population in London.

Housing

70 percent of Barnet households are owner-occupied, much higher than the London average, and over half of these are mortgage-free.

- House prices remain well beyond the reach of many residents – the average house price is £435,400 (Feb 10) compared to a London average of £375,900²
- 39 percent of Barnet's dwellings are flats – the fourth highest proportion in outer London.³

² Hometrack Housing Intelligence System

³ Census 2001

Crime

Crime is relatively low, with the ninth lowest crime rate in London. Crime figures have fallen by 13 percent since 2000 although concerns remain with issues such as burglary.

Civic Activism

Barnet has a very altruistic community, heavily involved in doing things for others. Just over a quarter of Barnet residents volunteer once a month, compared to just a fifth of the wider London population.⁴ There are around 1000 local voluntary and community organisations in the Borough.⁵

⁴ 26.1 percent compared to 20.8 percent, NI 6, Place Survey 2008/9; CommUNITY Barnet data

⁵ 'Barnet's Big Society is on your doorstep – analysis of local voluntary and community organisations', CommUNITY Barnet, Sept 2010

Looking ahead: a snapshot of Barnet in 2020

Barnet in 2020 will look very different from the Barnet we know today. Many future trends cannot be predicted – but this is what we know and think about how the borough might change:

Population Growth and Change

Growth in Barnet

By 2020, Barnet's population is likely to exceed 378,000 and its economy will grow by 11 percent, making it the fastest growing suburban borough in London. This will place additional burdens on the local infrastructure such as roads, schools and healthcare over the next twenty years.

We have ambitious plans to regenerate the borough's major social housing estates, working in partnership with local residents, and creating new homes and more mixed communities. In addition imaginative major regeneration schemes will provide homes for the increasing local population.

The developments are all phased and are spread over 10 – 25 years, with work already well under way.

Our Local Development Framework is the overarching local policy framework for managing how Barnet grows and changes over the next fifteen years. Our overall strategy is to manage growth in Barnet so that it meets our needs for homes, jobs and services in a way that conserves and enhances the character of the borough. On the basis of this approach we expect an additional 28,000 new homes to be built in Barnet by 2026.

In addition, Middlesex University already teaches around 10,000 students at their Hendon campus. Their longer-term plans to consolidate all teaching and research at Hendon mean this number could potentially double. The University will become an increasingly significant part

of Borough life, and the opportunities and challenges that this change brings will need to be actively managed.

The majority of the population rise will be through natural change due to a rising birth rate and steadily improving life expectancy.

The prolonged flow of in-migration, principally from other parts of the country but also from overseas is expected to continue over the coming decade.

This in-migration will be offset by a steady flow of residents migrating away from the borough to other parts of the country – a flow that has been diminished in recent years due to the poor housing market but is expected to recover from the middle of the decade as and when property prices pick up again.

Change will not be uniform across the borough. The population in the west is forecast to grow most significantly, with an additional 32,000 residents between 2010 and 2020 (an increase of 27 percent). This growth is likely to be driven by regeneration and new housing and the most significant growth will be in Colindale and Golders Green. By comparison, the population in the rest of the Borough is not likely to change significantly.

The changes are not limited to simple growth – they will transform the age and ethnic profile of the borough too:

Change in age profiles

- Most significant real growth in 45 – 59 year old group
- Significant proportional growth in 65 – 69 year old group
- Proportionally high growth in 75+ age group, especially 90+
- Significant actual growth in 0 – 15 year olds (especially 5 – 9 year olds).
- Decline in some groups – eg student/young adult population who leave for university or work elsewhere in UK

Change in ethnicity profiles

Population growing increasingly diverse, especially in the under 19 age group; the attitudes, ethnicity and culture of Barnet are now more reflective of London than previously

By 2020, 37.1 percent of the local population will be non-White (compared to 33.2 percent in 2010)

Barnet's fastest growing ethnicity is 'Other' – a group that includes Middle Eastern and Central Asian states. Barnet is already home to a growing community from Iran and Afghanistan.

Economic Forecasts

Regeneration will create additional jobs in the construction sector, predominantly during the first five years of development

Barnet's local workforce is not necessarily skilled in sectors that are expected to grow strongly after the recession or local growth sectors according to GLA economic forecasts (such as engineering).

The latest GLA economic forecasts predict a 5.9 percent decline in public sector employment across London over the next five years. In real terms, this means 13,000 fewer jobs in the public sector by 2015.

Social Trends

Based on what we know at the moment about social trends, we would expect

- An increasing emphasis on the 'Big Society' where communities, whether as individuals or through organised groups, do things for themselves rather than rely on state support
- Development of web based technologies in all their forms – this will be the primary form of customer interaction and result in ever increasing social networking, and more instant feedback. There will be greater use of instant communication through such tools as hand held devices

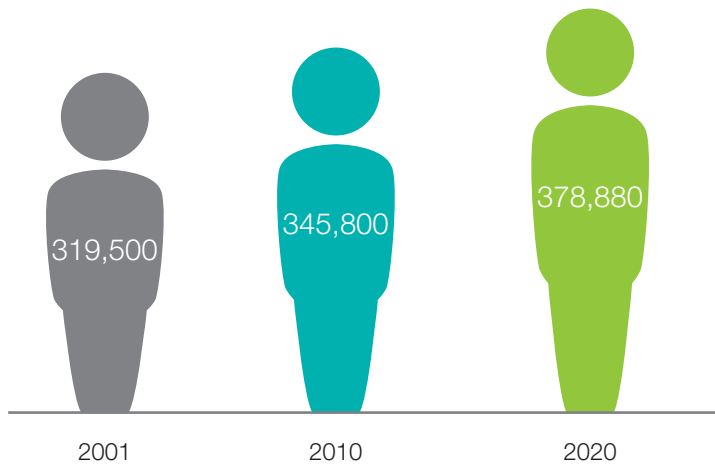
- Consumer expectations continue to rise that public services will match the choice and convenience and ease of access that private companies provide
- A further breakdown in deference to public institutions as informed individuals make use of greater transparency of information and data
- Decline in 'conventional' democratic engagement such as voting or attending meetings – but greater 'virtual' participation in political and social discourse
- Retirement age will increase and people will be working for longer
- On the basis of Londonwide projections, household sizes are expected to be smaller on average although there may be local variations
- Age related illnesses will increase in frequency in line with an ageing population

What are Barnet residents' priorities?

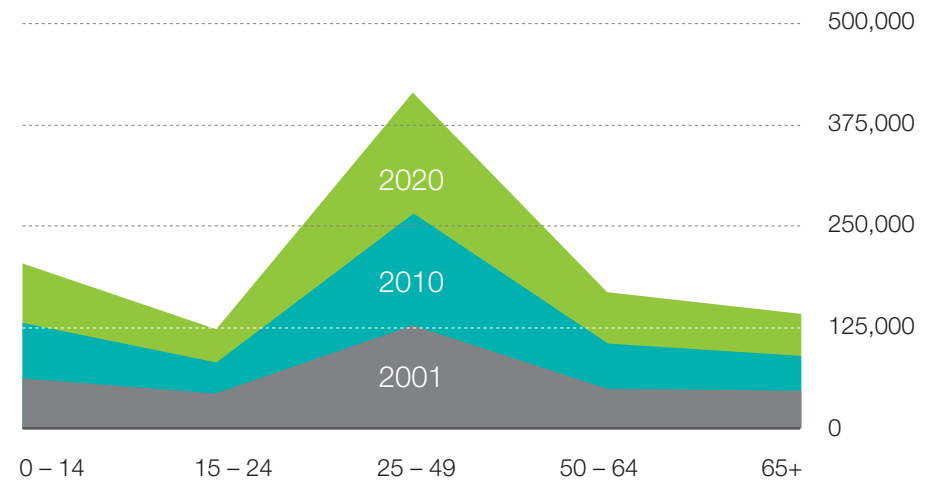
The Place Survey, which took place in 2008/2009, is the most up to date information on what residents see as important to making somewhere a good place to live, and what they think needs improving most in their local area.

In Barnet, following issues are most frequently mentioned as being important for improving quality of life: the level of crime (63 percent), clean streets (47 percent), health services (47 percent) and public transport (43 percent). Barnet residents are most likely to say that the level of traffic congestion (44 percent), and road and pavement repairs (40 percent), most need improving in the local area.

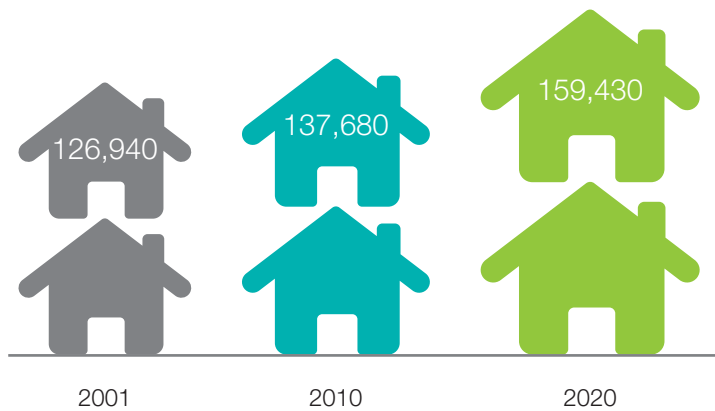
Barnet Population Estimate



Population by Age Group



Number of households



Our vision for Barnet in 2020

It's 2020. Barnet is known as a successful London suburb. It has successfully ridden difficult times to emerge as resilient as ever. The public service is smaller than before but the organisations within it, through effective partnerships, work together to deliver good services and there is a healthy relationship between them, and residents who do things for themselves and their families.

Established and new residents value living here for the Borough's excellent schools, strong retail offer, clean streets, low levels of crime and fear of crime, easy access to green open spaces and access to good quality healthcare.

Barnet is an economically and socially successful place. With high levels of educational qualifications and access to good transport networks, residents continue to have access locally, in other parts of London and beyond to jobs in a wide variety of different industries.

Barnet's success is founded on its residents, in particular through a strong civic society, including its diverse faith communities, founded on an ethos of self-help for those that can, and support through a wide range of volunteering activities for others. Different communities get on well together with each other.

Our core values

The value which epitomises Barnet and which is the foundation stone for all our other values is:

Strong Civic Society

Barnet is a strong civic society in which people do things for themselves rather than solely wait for the state to provide services. Levels of voluntary activity are extremely high, and people take pride in their communities and have high levels of identity with them, for example getting involved through their faith or through their local neighbourhood.

A number of other values that make Barnet distinctive flow from this:

1. Strength in Diversity

Barnet is one of the most diverse areas in the country in terms of the variety of faith and ethnic backgrounds, yet this is accompanied by strong community cohesion in which communities get on well with each other. Barnet also contains a variety of population densities, buildings and townscapes which reflect its historical development into a predominantly suburban place.

2. Sharing opportunities for success

People come to Barnet to provide a better life for themselves and their families. Good public services such as education and housing – create opportunities for people to better themselves and improve the quality of their lives, and our public services are designed to help people make that happen.

3. Choice and Responsibility

Living in a suburb such as Barnet provides the benefit of space and privacy, which gives our residents greater choices about how they spend their lives and who they interact with. However that is accompanied by a sense of responsibility towards the wider community, and they voluntarily contribute to supporting the area and making it a better and cleaner, greener place.

4. Protecting what we value

We cherish the things that people most value about Barnet – the Green Belt and open spaces, the good schools, the quality suburban neighbourhoods – and the contribution that they make to the borough as a place.

5. Embracing change where we need to

Yet at the same time Barnet is growing and changing, and has a built in capacity for innovation and reinvention. This ability to look forward gives us the strength to adapt to and shape opportunities for change. We need to ensure that in consolidating Barnet's planned growth we can provide stronger protection for the suburbs, gardens and Green Belt and enhance our quality residential neighbourhoods and town centres.

Supporting Objective: One Barnet Partnership working

To achieve all of these, our public services work together as 'One Barnet'. We recognise these goals cannot be achieved alone and work together to draw out efficiencies, provide seamless customer services; and develop a shared insight into needs and priorities, driving commissioning of services and making difficult choices about where to prioritise them.

Our priorities

The following will be the priority objectives for the Council and our partners over the next ten years. They reflect what our residents and organisations we work with have told us are the most important issues for them, and they are the most relevant priorities to achieving the vision.

We will need to make hard choices and it will not be possible to prioritise everything.

A Successful London Suburb

- Delivering sustainable housing growth
- Keep Barnet Moving
- People have the right skills to access employment opportunities
- Environmentally Responsible
- Supporting Enterprise (including Town Centres)
- A clean and green suburb.

Strong Safe Communities for everyone

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and residents feel safe
- Strong and cohesive communities.

Investing in Children Young people and their Families

- Safety of children and young people
- Narrow gap through targeting support at young people at risk of not fulfilling their potential
- Prevent ill health and unhealthy lifestyles.

Healthy and Independent Living

- Better health and healthy lives for all
- Better access to local health services
- Promote choice and maximise independence of those needing greatest support.

Implementing the strategy

We recognise that a step change is needed to meet the challenge of reaching the ambitious goals in this Strategy against a backdrop over the next few years of a shrinking public purse, rising consumer expectations, demographic pressures, and emergence from recession.

Therefore all the public services in Barnet are signed up to an ambitious transformation programme, 'One Barnet', to anticipate the challenges ahead and make public services more responsive, effective and efficient, and deliver increased customer satisfaction with fewer resources.

The three principles that underpin this programme are

- A new relationship with citizens which is based around their need and their experience of public services rather than the processes of individual agencies. We plan to enable residents to help one another to access the information and support they need, provide residents with personalised services and support them to change damaging behaviours such as smoking or drug use. This will help deliver the Government's Big Society concept
- A one public sector approach working together in a more linked up way with our public sector partners across the borough to deliver better services. This will help us to deliver any Government initiatives related to community budgeting
- A relentless drive for efficiency: delivering more choice for better value. This will assist us in contributing our share to public spending cuts without reducing the quality of essential services
- From 2011/12, we will be developing a 'One Barnet Forward Plan'. This will replace the Council's own Corporate plan and demonstrate the key shorter-term priorities we will be working on to ensure we are moving in the right direction to deliver on the vision set out in this document. This will include the projects in the 'One Barnet' programme and other key initiatives

We are committed to transparency and information on how we are performing against the plan will be regularly published online to ensure residents have the information at their fingertips to engage with us and ensure we deliver on our priorities.