

# Barnet Local Plan EIP – Note on Digital Communication and Connectivity

## Reason for producing this note

On Day 6 (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October) at the hearing session's, consideration of Matter 6 – Transport, Communications and Infrastructure, Inspector Philpott requested provision of a Note covering the following:

Policy TRC04 (Digital Communication and Connectivity), addressing the following matters and proposing any modifications:

- Ensuring consistency of wording between CDH08 and TRC04(ii).
- The references to “setting” in (v) and why it should be referred to twice.
- Costings around CCTV contributions, whether any modifications are necessary to make those clear/clarify potential locations.

## Background

Digital infrastructure has the potential to be bulky and intrusive. It can appear incongruous and impact negatively on the appearance and setting and add to street clutter. Conservation Areas and the setting of listed buildings are particularly sensitive to placement and appearance of digital infrastructure. It therefore requires careful consideration in terms of where it should be installed.

The Council utilises wireless communication for CCTV monitoring and management. Contributions from developments may be required to deliver infrastructure for CCTV to ensure continuity of coverage of an area. The CCTV network is in the process of being upgraded to increase the level of coverage across the Borough and provide increased security and safety for residents.

The following format has been used in this Note to denote further proposed modifications to the submission version of plan as revised by the proposed modifications listed in EXAM 4.

~~Strikethrough text~~ to indicate text proposed for removal.

Underlined text to indicate additional text.

## Consideration

### Ensuring consistency of wording between CDH08 and TRC04(ii).

### References to “setting” in TRC04(v)

Policy CDH08 relates to the conservation and enhancement of the Borough's historic assets, The criterion at TRC04 (ii) requires proposals to demonstrate that the special character and appearance of all heritage assets are preserved or enhanced. This is supported by NPPF paras 195, 197 and 199 which require local planning authorities to consider the impact of development proposals on the designated heritage asset, including its setting. Developers should therefore provide clear and convincing justification for development proposals that impact on heritage assets and/or their setting. Substantial harm to, or loss of, designated heritage assets should not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that substantial public benefits will be achieved that outweigh any harm or loss.

The nature and proliferation of digital infrastructure can have a negative impact on the setting and character of historic assets. Therefore, when considering a proposal, it is necessary to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected. To make this clearer and ensure consistency with CDH08 the Council proposes the following modification :

TRC04(ii) The special character and appearance of all heritage assets are preserved conserved or enhanced in accordance with Policy CDH08.

The Council also agrees to make a further modification to clarify the wording of TRC04(v) :

TRC04(v). They are appropriately designed, coloured and landscaped. ~~to take account of their setting, and are sited in context with their setting;~~

There are merits in providing further clarification in the supporting text. The Council also agrees to make a further modification at para 11.13.1 as follows :

Para 11.13.1:

Advances in communication technology have transformed the way people work. With increased on-line services and growth of home-based workers, combined with more flexible working practices, the expectation is the pattern of commuter travel will change further as more people are able to travel less frequently and also outside the busiest times. The Council is generally supportive of proposals that improve e-infrastructure and access to business services / managed workspaces in town centre locations. As communications infrastructure can be obtrusive the Council will discuss placement and setting of the infrastructure with the provider, particularly where the placement has the potential to impact on a heritage asset, including its setting. Providers should consider how the design, colour and landscaping can be best utilised to avoid or minimise impacts of their proposal.

### **Costings around CCTV contributions, whether any modifications are necessary to make those clear/clarify potential locations.**

Crime prevention is a material consideration in determining planning applications and Chapter 8 of the NPPF, in particular para 95, states that planning decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements. Furthermore Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a legal duty on all local authorities to consider crime and disorder implications while exercising their duties and places a duty on responsible authorities to do all that they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in their area. Contributions to CCTV networks are relevant to reducing crime and disorder but are specific to individual development proposals. Contributions will therefore be secured through S106. Not all developments need to consider being part of the CCTV network, their inclusion will depend on factors such as design and geographical location. This could include provision of public realm or an active frontage in a proposal. Barnet's existing CCTV Network is primarily focused on the following town centre and major thoroughfare locations. New locations such as entrances to parks and open spaces are being considered as part of the Council's CCTV network upgrade.

- Edgware, Station Road HA8
- North Finchley / Tally Ho High Road N12
- Golders Green, Golders Green Road/Finchley Road NW11

- Grahame Park Estate, The Concourse/Quakers Course NW9
- Claremont Industrial Estate, Cricklewood, NW2
- A5 – Burnt Oak, Colindale & West Hendon, HA8 – NW9
- Hendon, Watford Way, Church Road, Brent Street, NW4
- Cricklewood, Cricklewood Lane / Broadway, NW2
- East Barnet, East Barnet Road, Cat Hill, Church Hill Road, EN4. Hampden Square, N14
- High Barnet, Great North Road, High Street, EN5
- Burnt Oak, Broadway, Watling Avenue, Orange Hill Road, Deansbrook Road HA8
- Friary Park, North Finchley, N11
- Mill Hill, The Broadway NW7
- New Barnet, East Barnet Road, EN4
- Finchley Central, Ballards Lane / Regents Park Road, N3
- East Finchley, High Road, East End Road, N2
- Whetstone, High Road / Totteridge Lane, N20
- Colindale, Varley Parade, NW9
- Temple Fortune, Finchley Road NW11

Following the change in administration in May 2022 the Council has set out priorities including – investing in CCTV, community safety hubs, safety audit ward walks and a proactive approach to improving safety for women and girls. As part of the CCTV programme there is a commitment to the use of CCTV in addressing issues such as anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and working with partners including the Metropolitan Police. A strategic review of Barnet Community Safety CCTV requirements is ongoing. This includes : upgrading the CCTV network, moving away from the wireless network and towards a boroughwide Secure Fibre network and enhanced 5G networks. This will mean that any new development can more easily be enabled to deliver additional CCTV safety measures supported by the Council’s Community Safety Team.

If it is agreed with developers that the development should include CCTV a contribution would be negotiated based on individual requirements of the development. A key consideration in estimating costs is the number of cameras that need to be installed, the costs of the fibre broadband connections and other installation costs as well as a monitoring and management/ maintenance fee.

The Council has secured S106 contributions for CCTV for 2 schemes £50,000 from the Colindale Hospital redevelopment (H/00342/09) and £20,000 from the redevelopment of the British Gas Works at East Barnet (B/04834/14). The Council is intending to seek contributions to increase the number and coverage of cameras to provide improved security and safety for residents; especially in the areas where there is increasing development density and mixed-use is being promoted (i.e. improved coverage for town centres, including extensions to the network of smaller town centres and parades, alongside camera networks at transport nodes such as tube and bus stations). Additionally cameras may be placed at the entrances to parks and along the Borough’s highway network for safety and security benefits.

In order to provide further clarification on the Council’s Community Safety CCTV requirements an additional para at 11.13.4A is proposed as follows

Para 11.13.4A

The Council is increasing the number and coverage of CCTV cameras to provide improved security and safety for residents; especially in the areas where there is increasing development density and mixed-use is being promoted. This will involve improved coverage for town centres, including extensions to the network of smaller town centres and parades, alongside camera networks at transport nodes such as tube and bus stations. This will also include consideration of CCTV around the entrances to parks and along the Borough's highway network for safety and security benefits.

## **Conclusion**

The Council invites the Inspectors to consider and recommend that the Council makes the additional further modifications set out in this paper recognising that those considered to be Main Modifications will need to be formally consulted upon following the examination hearing sessions.