

## Delivery of 'The change we can achieve together' – Barnet Labour's 2022 Local Election Manifesto.

Here's a (not exhaustive) list of things we've done to deliver on our manifesto pledges.

### Top 5 Pledges

#### **1. Freeze your council tax in 2022, refunding you the 1% Conservative Council Tax Hike imposed in March 2022, and keep it low going forward.**

We wanted to refund all council tax payers directly the 1% Conservative increase, however, legal and financial advice after the local elections in 2022 showed it would cost council tax payers more to do it this way. We were clear that we needed to honour the pledge in some way, so we:

- Provided a targeted 1% refund through making £2m available through our Resident Support Fund to households struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, and
- A further 1% was provided to all residents through discounting the council tax level in all council tax bills for the following financial year from the maximum level the Conservatives had built into the council's budgets.

This kept the council tax increase at 3.8% for 2023/24 - one of the lowest in London that year, and 1.19% lower than the Conservatives had built into the budget when they left office.

Barnet Labour has kept council tax below the maximum for four years running.

It means Barnet continues to have the lowest council tax level of all our neighbouring Boroughs and is £379 lower than neighbouring Conservative Harrow.

#### **2. Protect weekly bin collections & bring back the community skips service.**

Your weekly bin collection service has been protected.

The free community skips service was introduced resulting in 26,495 visits to community skips by residents, with 7,363 items from community skips RE-CYCLED OR RE-USED.

#### **3. Invest in CCTV, better lighting and community safety hubs.**

We have upgraded and expanded the CCTV network and put in a place a state-of-the-art control room. This means we now have:

- 900 CCTV camera angles WORKING.
- 33 moveable CCTV cameras DEPLOYED.
- 2 Mobile CCTV Vans IN ACTION.
- And 15,000 incidents on CCTV have been CAPTURED.

Our 'Safer Streets' ward walks have been up and running, identifying crime and grime hotspots, including where better street-lighting is needed: [Ward Walks | Barnet Council](#)

All street lights are now fully converted to low energy LED.

Community Safety Pop-up Hubs have also been introduced: [Community Safety Hub | Barnet Council](#)

#### **4. Protect green spaces and declare a climate emergency.**

We have:

- Declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.

- Held our Climate Citizen’s Assemblies: [Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity | Barnet Council](#)
- In the independent review of our sustainability progress by Climate Emergency UK, our score has increased to 63%, putting Barnet in the top half of councils across London
- [Barnet's emissions and tracking progress | Barnet Council](#)
- Protected green spaces including by scrapping the Conservatives’ ‘low quality/low value’ category and adding tougher protections in the new Local Plan.

## 5. **Stand up to developers against tower block blight and for more affordable homes.**

We have:

- Added protections in the new Local Plan – setting out where tall buildings would be appropriate and introduced a new Sustainable Design & Development Supplementary Planning Document which sets out policy on height and density.
- Delivered 2,583 affordable homes since 2022 (completions), with many more in the pipeline through approvals including 1,177 with outline planning permission in Edgware.
- Secured delivery of 1,000 new council homes and have delivered a further 970 affordable homes at affordable rent through our acquisition and other development programmes.
- Delivered 289 additional social rent homes through housing association partners on regeneration schemes – Brent Cross, West Hendon, Grahame Park and Fosters.
- And we’ve developed a ‘Right Homes, Right Places’ policy to ensure we are maximising the number of family homes – not just 1 bed flats.

## **Full Manifesto**

### **Our Community**

#### **1. We will help residents with the cost-of-living-crisis.**

- We introduced a Cost-of-Living Debt and Financial Vulnerabilities plan to help people in need.
- We established a £2m Resident Support Fund to help those in financial difficulty.
- We have helped 25,000 people identify support they are entitled to through our Financial Calculator and ‘Money Worries’ campaign:
- The council have recently received accreditation as a Living Wage employer.
- 50 employers in Barnet now pay at least the London Living Wage.

#### **2. We will give residents a say in how Barnet Council spends money, hearing from you about your priorities for the Council’s budget.**

Alongside running the annual council budget consultation, we have introduced different ways residents could participate in shaping different elements of our manifesto delivery including:

- Co-production of a community festivals programme.
- Co-production of our Culture Strategy.
- Co-production and participation in our Citizens’ Assemblies.
- Co-production of our Community Engagement & Community Participation Strategy.

- Co-production of our Community Participation Toolkit.

**3. We will prioritise getting the Council's reporting websites and phonedlines working better.**

We have:

- Developed a comprehensive 'Resident Experience' programme with over 100 residents involved in development of a new telephony system through this programme. Callers can now be proactively routed, if they are calling back about the same issue or if they require more support where their issue is more complex.
- We involved residents in a re-design of the Council website.
- Launched a new 'My Account' service making it easier to access council services online.
- Introduced Barnet Connects – an in-person service to help those who need help accessing services.

**4. We will ensure regeneration is community-led, and there is co-production with residents on any new Council developments.**

- The Council works to the Mayor of London's 'Best Practice' regeneration guide.
- We have established Partnership Boards to involve residents in regeneration schemes.
- Co-production work on new council homes schemes has taken place – an example of best practice community co-design is the Upper and Lower Fosters development.

**5. We will ensure decision-making is more transparent, efficient and accountable.**

We have:

- Moved to a Cabinet system which is more transparent, efficient and accountable.
- Introduced People's Question Time at Full Council meetings.
- Introduced Deputations at Cabinet & Full Council meetings.

**6. We will tackle inequality, establishing a Citizens Assembly on Sustainability which will ensure all residents benefit from green growth, and that nobody is held back.**

We have:

- Developed our 'Towards a Fairer Barnet Strategy to tackle inequality and poverty: [Towards a Fair Barnet: Our roadmap | Barnet Council](#)
- Held our Citizens' Assemblies on Climate Change & Biodiversity: [Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity | Barnet Council](#)

**7. We will reduce the overall budget for councillors' allowances.**

We cut £400,000 from councillors' allowances at the Annual Meeting in May 2022, and we have reduced the number of Special Responsibility Allowances.

We have also scrapped the free councillor parking permit scheme.

**8. We will listen to residents, introduce People's Question Time and 'Leader Listens' events each year.**

We have:

- Introduced People's Question Time allowing any residents to ask questions at Full Council meetings.
- Introduced Deputations at Cabinet and Full Council meetings
- Introduced Barnet Question Time events with Cabinet Members.
- Introduced the Leader Listens programme of events to reach 'hard to reach' groups, including domestic abuse survivors, residents with learning difficulties, and deaf and blind residents.

**9. We will also webcast Council meetings.**

Webcasting has been introduced.

**10. We will work in partnership with you on new models of community co-production and community engagement including community-led commissions and citizens' assemblies, learning from best practice in other London boroughs, and piloting different approaches to use what works best for you.**

We have introduced co-production in many areas of the Council, including:

- Co-production of a community festivals programme.
- Co-production of our Culture Strategy.
- Coproduction and participation in our Citizens Assemblies on Climate Change.
- Co-production of our Community Engagement & Community Participation Strategy.
- Co-production of our Community Participation Toolkit.
- Co-production of our Mental Health Charter, and Young People's Mental Health Charter.
- Co-production with young people of 'My Say Matters' to give a voice to young people in Barnet.
- Co-production of our adult social care engagement strategy.
- Co-production of our suicide prevention strategy.

**11. We will support the Barnet Voluntary Sector Manifesto: Working together for a better Barnet.**

We have worked in collaboration with the Barnet Together Alliance and our VCFSE partners, holding regular meetings between BTA and the Leader of the Council, attending BTA conferences and other meetings.

**12. We will work to bring privatised services back in-house, and in the meantime ensure contractors deliver on their promises.**

We agreed to end the 'easyCouncil' programme at July 2022 Policy & Resources Committee and the current Capita contracts will end in 2026, with many of these services brought back in-house already.

## Safer Barnet

### **13. We will deliver a more robust and joined-up approach to community safety with better co-ordinated multi-agency action.**

- We fixed and **expanded our CCTV** cameras with a new state-of-the-art control room located in Barnet.
- Added two community safety vehicles with CCTV streaming to the system giving a whole new flexibility to monitoring, enforcement, disruption and joint police operations.
- We introduced **two borough-wide public space protection orders** to tackle a range of enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour raised with us by residents.
- We brought in pop up **Community Safety Hubs** to enable residents across the borough to discuss issues, report and access support.
- We introduced a programme of **ward walks** across the borough, bringing together police and relevant council teams, and expanded these based on resident feedback to include road safety.
- We worked in partnership with the Police to bring the **Clear Hold Build** Initiative to the borough. It led to 400 arrests for a range of offences. In the area it operated in for two years it drove a 33 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour calls and a 50 per cent fall in residential and non-residential burglary.
- We brought **summer park patrols** in-house ensuring they had the power to issue fines for anti-social behaviour.
- We backed up enforcement efforts with a public health-led approach that focusses on addiction support, youth outreach and work with housing providers.
- We have been tireless in our strategy to take on violence against women and girls. **Barnet Homes is now accredited** as a domestic abuse housing provider.

### **14. We will deliver neighbourhood community safety hubs bringing the police and community safety teams together on our high streets so people can raise their concerns directly.**

We have delivered our Community Safety Pop-up Hubs: [Community Safety Hub | Barnet Council](#)

### **15. We will develop a programme of 'Street Safe' audits to clean-up our public spaces and make them safer.**

We have delivered a programme of 'ward walks': [Ward Walks | Barnet Council](#)

**16. We will invest in our community safety teams, providing a named community safety officer for each ward.**

We have invested in our Community Safety work: [Community Safety A4 1pp \[FINAL\]](#)

**17. We will work with residents on community safety action plans based on local priorities, informed by these 'Street Safe' audits and our wider review of public places.**

We have built this in to our overall Community Safety Strategy: [Barnet Community Safety Strategy A4 Report \[FINAL\]](#)

**18. We will make sure Barnet is 'No place for hate', challenging all identity and faith-based crime.**

We have:

- Made access to justice for those affected by hate crime a priority in our Community Safety Strategy
- Appointed an 'Age Friendly' Champion and working towards 'Age Friendly Borough' status.
- Established International Women's Day Achievement Awards.
- Established a Community Events programme including Black History Month, Pride, South Asian Heritage Month to celebrate our diversity.
- Challenging Hate Crime continues to be a Council and SCBP priority.
- Attained Borough of Sanctuary status.
- Established comprehensive work on community cohesion, including community roundtables and communications plans: [Powerpoint Template](#)

**19. We will build a pro-active approach to improving safety for women and girls, working with women's organisations and local residents, and looking at best practice in other London boroughs who are already leading a range of new initiatives.**

We have:

- Launched our updated Domestic Abuse & VAWG Strategy for 2025–2029: [Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2025-2029 | Barnet Council](#)
- Invested £2.3m to upgrade and expand our CCTV network to tackle all forms of crime including violence against women and girls
- Launched our pilot Safe Havens initiative
- Run awareness raising campaigns with partners, including Barnet-based cosmetics company, Barry M.
- Participated in the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign
- Introduced the 'Step-in Barnet' campaign to challenge street harassment
- Run street advertising campaigns to raise awareness of support services.
- Worked in partnership with Middlesex University and students on the 'Hear My Voice' Campaign.
- The council leads the 13-borough Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme in partnership with RISE Mutual CIC.

See: [How Barnet Council is tackling violence against women and girls](#)

**20. We will launch a full review of our public places, leading a community safety assessment of our streets, parks, car parks, housing estates, new developments, and transport hubs.**

This is tied in with our 'ward walks' programme.

**21. We will create a network of safe spaces across the borough, for women to seek help if they are in danger or experiencing abuse or harassment.**

We have launched our 'Safe Havens' initiative: [Barnet Council launches Safe Havens initiative as part of the commitment to tackling violence against women and girls | Barnet Council](#)

**22. We will change attitudes and behaviour to end violence and abuse against women and girls, challenging harassment and hostility being tolerated, excused and repeated through co-production of awareness raising campaigns with communities, schools and colleges.**

We have:

- Launched our pilot Safe Havens initiative which we've expanded to start rolling out locally in partnership with the Safer Business Network, including Better (formerly known as GLL) who have added 5 of their leisure centres as Safe Havens in Barnet.
- Run awareness raising campaigns with partners, including Barnet-based cosmetics company, Barry M.
- Participated in the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign
- Introduced the 'Step-in Barnet' campaign to challenge street harassment
- Run street advertising campaigns to raise awareness of support services.
- Worked in partnership with Middlesex University and students on the 'Hear My Voice' Campaign.
- The council leads the 13-borough Culturally Integrated Family Approach (CIFA) Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme in partnership with RISE Mutual CIC.

**23. We will improve domestic violence services, and review council services to embed good practice across the council, ensuring we learn from residents' experiences and improve services to support victims of domestic abuse, violence and harassment.**

- Barnet Homes has received bronze and silver accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance. Barnet Homes is one of just a small number of housing providers to attain the silver award: [Barnet's social housing provider awarded domestic abuse accreditation | Barnet Council](#)
- The council leads on the 'Culturally Integrated Family Approach' (CIFA) initiative, which provides tailored services that recognise differences in cultures and ethnicities to improve the support available to those experiencing domestic abuse.

**24. We will campaign to make misogyny a hate crime, enabling women and girls to report cases of abuse and harassment as a hate crime, as is possible in some other areas.**

The Government has recently introduced a new law to crack-down on sex-based harassment in public: [Cracking down on sex-based harassment in public - GOV.UK](#)

**25. A Barnet Labour Council will campaign for more police alongside delivering our own targeted programme of measures to help the communities we serve feel safer.**

With our proactive policing partnership, we very much welcome that Barnet has a fully filled complement of Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

See detail in previous pledges for our targeted programme of measures.

#### **Climate change and biodiversity**

**26. We will future proof our borough, putting sustainability at the heart of everything the Council does.**

We have:

- Included 'Sustainability Implications' for all formal council reports making decisions.
- Introduced a dedicated Sustainability Team to lead on sustainability.
- Established a Sustainability Programme and Sustainability Action Plan.

For more information see: [Sustainability - BarNET Zero | Barnet Council](#)

**27. We will declare an immediate climate and biodiversity emergency and put sustainability at the heart of everything the Council does.**

As per pledge 26 above, plus we declared a Climate Emergency on 7 May 2022 and at our Annual Meeting in May 2022.

**28. We will appoint a Lead Councillor and Lead Officer with specific responsibility for Climate Change and Biodiversity.**

Both done.

**29. We will achieve net zero carbon in Barnet by 2042 or earlier (currently 2050 or earlier), and for the Council by 2030 or earlier (currently 2030).**

It is only 2026, but progress to date is that the council's emissions have reduced by 13.4% on 2021/22 levels, and 36% on the 2018/19 baseline year.

**30. We will strengthen the Council's approach to sustainability to make it more robust and comprehensive and focused on more ambitious targets and best practice from other local authorities that are further into their journey in tackling climate change.**

Our manifesto sustainability targets have been built into the Council's corporate plans.

**31. We will hold a Citizens Assembly on Climate Change & Biodiversity to co-produce and monitor delivery of an ambitious Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan with local**

**people, community groups and businesses to achieve our net zero targets, ensuring that all residents benefit from green growth, and nobody is held back.**

Our Citizens' Assemblies were held in 2023, and the Strategy / Programme and Action Plan is in progress: [Sustainability - BarNET Zero | Barnet Council](#)

Here are some of the targets and ideas we wanted to feed-in to the Citizens' Assembly process:

**32. We will appoint a Lead Officer for Healthy Homes to develop a Healthy Homes plan for both social and private sector homes which addresses energy efficiency and water efficiency; and to work with local businesses to develop a local network of suppliers to help achieve the plan's aims.**

- We have appointed a 'Healthy Homes' Lead officer.
- We have invested in a 'Healthy Homes' plan to resolve damp and mould issues in our council homes: [An update from our Healthy Homes Team – Barnet Homes](#)
- Our sustainable homes plans can be found here: [Sustainable homes | Barnet Council](#)
- We have retrofitted over 100 homes since 2022, including through Government grant funding through the Sustainable Warmth for 68 homes which have saved residents approximately 67 tonnes of carbon per year in reduced energy usage, alongside financial and health benefits.
- We have also supported over 500 households by partnering with Green Doctors to deliver Barnet's free home energy fix, installing 530 energy saving measures, which have saved residents a combined 14,000kg carbon emissions and over £10,000 in financial savings.

**33. We will increase the number of well insulated homes working towards the FoE target of 100% by 2030 (currently 42%).**

- We have retrofitted over 100 homes since 2022, including through Government grant funding through the Sustainable Warmth competition for 68 homes which have saved residents approximately 67 tonnes of carbon per year in reduced energy usage, alongside financial and health benefits
- We have supported over 500 households by partnering with Green Doctors to deliver Barnet's free home energy fix, installing 530 energy saving measures, which have saved residents a combined 14,000kg carbon emissions and over £10,000 in financial savings
- For current status see the Sustainability dashboard: [Microsoft Power BI](#)

**34. We will increase the number of eco-heating systems in homes and businesses working towards the FoE target of 58,929 by 2030 (currently approximately 36 in Barnet).**

According to the FoE website, there are 2,206 homes now using electric-powered heat pumps to heat their homes and hot water - [Barnet | Local Environment Data](#).

**35. We will ensure Barnet applies for all possible funding streams to help retrofit its social housing stock to achieve EPC B by 2030, including using levers such as the Mayor of London’s £10bn Innovation Partnership, and working with his national retrofit centre of excellence to develop successful plans to secure funding in the next round of the Government’s £160m Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.**

Latest update of funding secured:

<b>External Funding Stream</b>	<b>External Funding Award</b>	<b>Council Homes receiving works</b>
Local Authority Delivery Scheme - Phase 2*	£1.2m	31 homes
Sustainable Warmth Competition (Local Authority Delivery Scheme - Phase 3/ Home Upgrade Scheme Phase 1)*	£1.85m Local Authority Delivery - £1.2m Home Upgrade Grant - £657k	68 homes
Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Wave 2.1	£2.61m	238 homes
Energy Company Obligation – Phase 4	£0.03m	4 homes
Great British Insulation Scheme	£0.03m	18 homes
Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund*	£1.29m	228 homes
Heat Network Efficiency Scheme	£0.02m	Up to 400 – this initial work delivers a feasibility study which if implemented would benefit up to 400 homes.
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7.03m</b>	<b>987</b>

**36. We will look to provide local one stop shop services in our neighbourhood community hubs to offer residents trusted advice, support and help to assess and improve the health of their homes.**

We have partnered with Green Doctors to provide residents with advice: [Barnet’s free home energy fix | Barnet Council](#)

**37. We will help residents secure grants to retrofit private homes.**

In addition to our work with Green Doctors we provide sign-post advice online: [Help to fund your home energy improvements | Barnet Council](#)

**38. We will ensure Barnet has a comprehensive fuel poverty action plan.**

The council is developing a framework for broader energy advice and efficiency support which will include supporting residents in fuel poverty.

**39. We will ensure the Local Plan and all related plans and policies comply with London Plan policies on Zero Carbon development and are implemented robustly, including ensuring that carbon offset payments are secured and directed at suitable zero carbon projects in Barnet.**

All local policies comply with the London Plan.

**40. We will work to ensure new development is zero carbon.**

This is done through the planning process.

**41. We will ensure that the Council's long term transport strategy improves road safety and encourages walking and cycling.**

We have launched our Long Term Transport Strategy: [Barnet Transport Strategy | Barnet Council](#)

We have also:

- Installed 2.6km of cycle lanes,
- Installed 18 bike hangars,
- Introduced 20, 20mph zones and 61 road safety schemes,
- Launched an Online definitive map for walkers, and a
- Rights of Way Improvement plan, and a
- Public Path Order policy.

**42. We will increase the availability of electric vehicle car clubs.**

Our new transport strategy covers car clubs and exploring how space and infrastructure could be provided for them.

**43. We will increase electric vehicle charging points working towards the FoE target of 1219 by 2030 (currently approximately 139 in Barnet).**

We have exceeded this pledge – delivering over 2,500 EVC points across the borough.

**44. We will explore borough wide real time monitoring of air quality possibly funded by businesses or crowd funding.**

We have two continuous air quality monitoring stations in the Borough: [Air quality monitoring | Barnet Council](#)

**45. We will introduce 20mph zones where residents want them.**

This is now policy: [20mph zones in Barnet | Barnet Council](#), and we've introduced 20, 20mph zones.

**46. We will work with home delivery companies to develop delivery hubs and last mile delivery by bike, e-bike, or on foot.**

Our transport strategy refers to plans for a 'last mile hub' for Amazon in Mill Hill and building work to deliver this is now well under way.

**47. We will work towards 100% of schools with travel plans (STARS accredited).**

We have introduced:

- 10 school streets

Update on number of STARS is as follows:

- 2022/23 – Bronze 90, Silver 4, Gold 25 [total 119]
- 2023/24 – Bronze 26, Silver 9, Gold 48 [total 83]
- 2024/25 – Bronze 28, Silver 15, Gold 52 [total 95]
- 2025/26 – [Current as per Travel for Live website] – Bronze 21, Silver 8, Gold 67 [total 96] – this equates to around 60% of schools.

[Sustainable travel to school \(School Travel Plans\) | Barnet Council](#)

**48. We will support and promote park runs, walking groups, and cycling groups.**

We have:

- run campaigns on cycling, physical activity, active travel / leaving the car at home.
- launched a Guide to Walking in Barnet which highlight the benefits of walking, walking routes and organised walking opportunities.
- Launched an online definitive map.
- Launched a Rights of Way Improvement plan.
- Launched a Public Path Order policy.

**49. We will encourage walking with better signage for walkways and green spaces.**

As above pledge 48, and we have made improvements to parks signage and information.

**50. We will continue to support plans for an orbital rail service in Barnet.**

We have worked with the West London Alliance, the Mayor of London and TfL and the first phase of the route has been confirmed: [West London Orbital - Transport for London](#)

**51. We will appoint a Lead Officer for Energy to ensure all opportunities to promote clean energy, energy efficiency and de-carbonisation are pursued, whether through grants or other funding streams, income generation, or capital projects.**

We have appointed an Energy and Sustainability Officer, and we have appointed a Lead officer on Decarbonisation.

**52. We will ensure Barnet completes required HECA reports outlining the Council's plans on energy.**

The latest update is: [home energy conservation act 2023 report.pdf](#)

**53. We will aim to increase local renewable energy networks to try and generate 132 GWh by 2030 (currently 4 GWh in Barnet).**

For the latest data see: [Microsoft Power BI](#)

**54. We will ensure the Council's plans for solar panels does not include solar farms built on green spaces.**

This is an ongoing commitment which we have kept to.

**55. We will protect your weekly bin collection guaranteed.**

The weekly bin collection service has been protected.

**56. We will also ensure there is renewed focus on helping people reduce, reuse and recycle waste.**

For full details of our waste strategy and reduce, re-use and recycle actions see: [Waste reduction and food plans | Barnet Council](#)

Our community skips service has resulted in 7,363 bulky waste items being re-cycled or re-used just in the last year alone.

Our re-cycling rate is currently 28%, and we have adopted the North London Waste Strategy target of 50% and our working towards it.

**57. We will encourage an increase in composting.**

As well as our Reduce, Re-use and re-cycle plan: [Appendix A Barnet RRP 2023-2025.pdf](#)

Details of composting signposting advice are here: [Home composting and wormeries | Barnet Council](#)

**58. We will bring back the Council's separate food waste collection service.**

This has now been introduced.

**59. We will work to stop single use plastic in Barnet both by the Council and by encouraging businesses and residents to use alternatives.**

Policy is in place for no single use plastic by the Council.

**60. We will develop and campaign on a 'Clean Air for Barnet' pledge and join the Idling Action London campaign to reduce air pollution.**

We have re-joined the London-wide anti-idling campaign, and our new Air Quality Action Plan which includes public awareness raising and behaviour change, can be found here: [Air quality action plan 2023 - 2028 | Barnet Council](#)

#### **61. We will ban glyphosate use in Barnet.**

We are reducing Glyphosate use – see our biodiversity report (section on habitat management) - [Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report | Barnet Open Data](#)

#### **62. We will protect the Greenbelt, our parks and open spaces - we will not build on them.**

This is an ongoing commitment – we have protected designated green space from development and will continue to do so, and we have scrapped the Conservative ‘low value/low quality/ category of green space.

Our parks and open spaces strategy can be found here: [Parks and Open Spaces Strategy \(2026 - 2036\) | Barnet Open Data](#)

We have also invested in our parks and open spaces, including:

- re-building or upgrading 20 playgrounds,
- flood and drainage measures like installing Barnet’s first SuDS in Halliwick Rec, with further schemes completed in Friary Park and Watling Park,
- continuing the action plan for the Silk Stream: [Action for Silk Stream: a project to help tackle the effects of climate change | Barnet Council](#)
- 4 rain gardens installed,
- refurbishing 39 tennis courts.

#### **63. We will scrap the Conservatives’ ‘low quality, low value’ category of green spaces - all green spaces should be valued.**

We have scrapped this category.

#### **64. We will introduce a dedicated parks ranger service.**

We have introduced a new in-house summer parks patrol service with the powers to issue fines for enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour.

#### **65. We will make sure everyone has access to green space, working towards zero neighbourhoods deprived of green spaces.**

We have invested in greening and working with the community to bring disused and less well used open spaces back into use eg. Westcroft Close Open Space and Market Place Playground.

As set out in our parks and open spaces strategy, there is currently 0.26 hectares of allotments, community gardens, and city farms for every 1,000 residents in Barnet. Based on data from the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGI), this is above the London average.

However, with population growth we will need more in the future – an additional 507 hectares of natural green space and 75.3 hectares of parkland, along with additional play areas for children. We are planning for this future need – for more details see:

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/parks-and-open-spaces-strategy-2026-2036-2j3yl>

**66. We will grasp woodland and rewilding opportunities, planting trees and tiny forests where residents support this.**

We have planted nearly 5,000 trees broken down as follows:

2022-3 **847** trees planted, (130 of these parks/greenspaces, remainder is highways)

2023-4 **1352** trees planted (62 of these on greenspaces)

2024-5 **926** planted (at least 94 of these in greenspaces)

2025-6- ongoing- **913 target** (76 currently greenspaces)

Plus 1800 in Tiny Forests: [Hundreds of Volunteers plant 1800 trees in one day – creating ‘Tiny Forests’ in Barnet | Barnet Cou...](#)

Our re-wilding work includes:

- Bulb planting with communities in grass verges and pocket parks.
- Shifting to a meadow style management approach, boosting plant diversity and pollinator habitat in grassland areas covering 12 hectares.
- Improving key natural areas including the Welsh Harp SSSI, the Silk Stream and the Dollis Brook, with some major restoration works.
- Wetland creation / river works at Friary Park and Watling Park, with more planned for 2026 to reduce flood risk, improve water quality, and create better habitats for wildlife.
- Adopting more sustainable horticultural practices, including reducing mowing frequency by half across parks and open spaces, using peat free compost and significant reduction in pesticide use.

**67. We will work in partnership to deliver proper protection of the Welsh Harp, support the community’s Vision for the Harp, and develop a robust boroughwide biodiversity strategy.**

- Major restoration projects have improved key natural areas including the Welsh Harp SSSI, the Silk Stream and the Dollis Brook.
- Biodiversity is now embedded in key local strategies, including the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, the SuDS Strategy, and the Tree Policy.  
Barnet has adopted its updated Barnet Local Development Plan in March 2025 which contains strengthened planning policies which safeguard and enhance biodiversity (ECC07).
- Environmental data and habitat mapping has been updated. Currently 4,414 species have been recorded across the borough, and all 66 of Barnet’s Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation have been mapped providing an updated ecological baseline to inform future work.
- The Local Planning Authority has reviewed 479 planning applications, 137 of which were required to deliver +10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). 24 applications to be approved (subject to legal agreements) to secure significant BNG enhancement, and four Biodiversity Gain Plans have been agreed to date.

- Barnet has worked with over 60 Friends groups and conservation organisations such as Thames21, TCV, The Biological Recording Company and Citizen Zoo on environmental projects across the borough.
- Training in species identification, biological recording and habitat management has been funded, upskilling Barnet Green Spaces Network and more than 200 environmental volunteers.

**68. We will employ a permanent biodiversity officer to help work with local environmental groups to develop our biodiversity strategy.**

Two biodiversity officers have been employed.

**69. We will support the Barnet Green Spaces Network Manifesto, and work with them to deliver it.**

The Network Manifesto headline commitments are:

Protect ALL existing green spaces in the Borough.  
 Increase funding and resources for Barnet's Green Spaces.  
 Expand the provision and extent of green spaces in the Borough.  
 Introduce a Borough wide ranger service to maintain our spaces.  
 Support and promote Friends Groups for each green space.  
 Increase biodiversity, aim for clean rivers and streams and develop green space skills.  
[220306\\_2022-Barnet-Green-Spaces-Network-Manifesto.pdf \(barnetlabour.org.uk\)](#)

See previous pledge 68. for work to date. Plus updates in our Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report: [Enhanced Biodiversity Duty Report | Barnet Open Data](#)

**70. We will look at best practice in other local authorities to help Barnet produce a programme of climate education initiatives.**

See this link for all our work with community groups: [Working with our communities | Barnet Council](#)

**71. We will work in partnership with the community, businesses and partners to promote a circular economy.**

See this link for all our work with community groups: [Working with our communities | Barnet Council](#)

**72. We will work with local businesses, Middlesex University and Barnet College to develop the skills needed in the green economy and build a local network of suppliers.**

See this link for all our work with local businesses: [Sustainable business | Barnet Council](#)

**73. We will increase the number of green jobs, working towards the LGA target of 2489 jobs by 2030; and we will increase the number of green apprenticeships, working towards the FoE target of 1470 by 2023.**

Update to be confirmed.

**74. We will look at collaborations between the Council, community organisations and local business to help deliver outcomes through creating new business models and financing models in different areas including healthy homes, composting, electric vehicle charging, last mile delivery, mobility as a service, local renewable energy networks, and shop local initiatives.**

See this link for all our work with local businesses: [Sustainable business | Barnet Council](#)

**75. We will ensure all Council reports have 'Climate change / sustainability implications' for every decision.**

- Sustainability implications' have been included in Cabinet, Council and Committee reports.

**76. We will ensure the Council has a Climate Action Plan which covers The Climate Emergency UK climate action plan checklist.**

Our Climate Action Plan is here: [Our Action Plan for a sustainable borough | Barnet Council](#)

For the Climate Emergency UK climate action checklist – our scorecard rating has gone from 0% in 2022, to 46% in 2023, to 63% currently:

[Barnet's emissions and tracking progress | Barnet Council](#)

[London Borough of Barnet Climate Action Scorecard | Council Climate Scorecards](#)

**77. We will divest from fossil fuel companies in Barnet's Pension Fund.**

We have a Responsible Investment strategy which agreed a set of principles to guide us on our pension fund Net Zero strategy:

1. Leading and credible voice: Our framework should provide a platform for Barnet to be a leading voice in discussions around targeting a Net Zero strategy for an LGPS Pension Fund
2. Ambitious and measurable: our target should be evidence based, credible, measurable and ambitious
3. Risk and return focused: We should not compromise risk or return potential in targeting a Net Zero strategy
4. Wider Council alignment: We should echo the wider targets set by the Council

## **Cleaner**

**78. We will focus on getting the basics right: weekly waste collections, regular street sweeps, crack down on dumped rubbish, faster and better repairs of roads and pavements.**

We have:

- maintained weekly bin collections,
- invested over £100m in improving our roads and pavements since May 2022,
- a long-term £97m investment programme which we are delivering,
- fixed over 16,500 potholes – 61% more than under the Conservatives,
- resurfaced 56.2km of roads with a further 6.4km patched,
- relayed 32.1km of pavements with a further 7.5km patched,
- maintained daily cleansing of Town Centres,
- maintained quarterly cleansing of 2,000 residential streets,
- removed over 3,600 instances of graffiti,
- cleared over 30,000 fly-tips,
- cleared over 25,000 tonnes of litter and fly-tips,
- collected over £100,000 in fly-tipping fines since April 2025.

**79. We will protect your weekly bin collection service, guaranteed.**

We have protected the weekly collection.

**80. We will bring back the quarterly community skips service to tackle fly-tipping and help you plan disposal of bulky household items.**

The community skips service has been introduced and is now business as usual resulting in the recycling or reusing of:

- 714 bikes
- 765 white goods
- 3564 items of furniture
- 1326 children's toys
- 994 bags of textiles

In this year alone!

**81. We will maintain quarterly deep cleans of residential streets and support environmental community action groups.**

We have maintained quarterly cleaning of 2,000 streets, and supported litter-picking groups with equipment.

**82. We will improve the quality and efficiency of pothole and pavement repairs, and boost funds for reactive maintenance.**

We are investing £97m in road and pavement repairs and have fixed over 16,500 potholes – 61% more than under the Conservatives.

We worked with the council's contractor to review and implement new processes – this is now embedded in the operation.

**83. We will take tough enforcement action against those that dump rubbish or commit other enviro-crime and learn from best practice awareness raising campaigns in other London Boroughs, like LB Barking & Dagenham's 'Wall of Shame' campaign.**

We have implemented a hard-hitting awareness raising campaign about enforcement, and in the last year alone have collected £100,000 in fines for fly-tipping.

**84. We will work with residents, our community safety officers and the police on a programme of 'Street Safe' audits to clean-up our public spaces and make them safer.**

We have implemented a regular programme of ward walks: [Ward Walks | Barnet Council](#)

### Quality homes

**85. We will stand up to developers: we need more genuinely affordable family homes not tower-block blight.**

We have:

- Added protections in the new Local Plan – setting out where tall buildings would be appropriate and introduced a new Sustainable Design & Development Supplementary Planning Document which sets out policy on height and density.
- Delivered 2,583 affordable homes since 2022 (completions), with many more in the pipeline through approvals including 1,177 with outline planning permission in Edgware.
- Secured delivery of 1,000 new council homes and have delivered a further 970 affordable homes at affordable rent through our acquisition and other development programmes.
- Delivered 289 additional social rent homes through housing association partners on regeneration schemes – Brent Cross, West Hendon, Grahame Park and Fosters.
- And we've developed a 'Right Homes, Right Places' policy to ensure we are maximising the number of family homes – not just 1 bed flats.

**86. We will stand up to the Conservative Government and call them out on their ridiculous housing targets.**

Our new Labour government confirmed our housing targets are 3683 a year reduced from 5160 under the Conservatives.

**87. We will not build or allow development on any green space.**

There has been no new building or development on designated green spaces where there is no development already present.

**88. We will ensure the new Local Plan is strengthened with tougher policies on Height and Density.**

This has been done.

**89. We will develop a low and medium rise streetscape design-led housing model using Create Streets best practice examples to stop the proliferation of tower blocks.**

We have prioritised low and medium rise housing in our council homes programme.

**90. We will bring the planning service back in-house and work in partnership with residents to co-design any new council developments.**

The Planning Service is back in-house, and co-production work on new council homes schemes has taken place – example of best practice community co-design is the Upper and Lower Fosters development.

**91. We will introduce a local design review panel to improve the quality of our built environment and enable any design issues to be discussed at early stages of the planning process when there is still time for dialogue and changes.**

We have introduced our Design Panel: [Barnet Quality Review Panel | Barnet Council](#)

**92. We will produce a Supplementary Planning Document on viability to maximise the number of affordable homes secured in schemes.**

We have introduced guidance in the form of an SPD: [Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document \(SPD\) | Barnet Council](#)

**93. We will adopt a new target of 50 per cent affordable homes on all new development.**

The strategic target has been adopted in our new Local Plan:

**94. We will work to ensure new development is zero carbon and towards healthy homes by working to eliminate fuel poverty and improve energy efficiency and water efficiency.**

Our Local Plan (Reg 19) provides that all future council owned or managed housing will be built to a high energy efficiency or operationally net-zero standard.

The council requires new homes to make an improvement on the Part L building regulations (low carbon requirements).

The council requires a fabric first approach for new development (Energy Efficiency Requirements).

Our sustainability framework requires that all new homes to be built must be operationally (regulated) net zero by 2042.

The council requires developers to carry out a whole life cycle carbon assessment of new build developments (Embodied Emissions).

The council requires a higher level of water efficiency for all new homes (105 litres of water per person per day).

Zero carbon targets are built into planning guidance documents, and our BarNET Zero campaign and sustainability team provide guidance on healthy homes, fuel poverty, energy and water efficiency – details are available on the website: [Our Action Plan for a sustainable borough | Barnet Council](#)

**95. We will innovate new affordable homes products to ensure low and middle-income groups can afford to achieve their dream of owning their own home.**

Although we haven't established any specific products, we have delivered more affordable homes for home ownership – 733 for shared ownership (completions since 2022).

The new Labour government has introduced the 'Freedom to buy' scheme: [2025 Mortgage Guarantee Scheme - GOV.UK](#)

**96. We will help renters by cracking down on rogue landlords, extending the private sector licensing scheme wherever we can across the borough.**

We have introduced additional HMO licensing scheme boroughwide, and we have introduced selective licensing in Burnt Oak, Colindale North and South, Childs Hill, Cricklewood, Edgware, Edgwarebury, Finchley Church End, Golders Green, Hendon, Mill Hill, West Finchley and West Hendon.

**97. We will raise awareness of tenants' rights through a private tenants' rights charter.**

The new Labour Government has just introduced their renters' rights legislation, and we will be developing our charter in line with the new regulations.

**98. We will deliver at least 1,000 new council homes at the London Affordable Rent level of 50% of market rates, ensuring regeneration benefits existing residents first and foremost by introducing a local lettings policy giving them first dibs on new homes.**

We have secured delivery of 1,000 council homes, 250 of these were delivered in the first year of the administration through an acquisition of homes in Colindale Gardens.

Our Local lettings policy has been delivered.

**99. We will establish a Barnet best practice policy for regeneration.**

Barnet applies the Mayor of London's best practice policy: [Microsoft Word - Better Homes for Local People - The Mayor's Good Practice Guide to Estate Regeneration.docx](#)

**100. We will develop and introduce a policy on local marketing of new homes.**

Partly delivered through the local lettings policy, but in terms of tackling overseas marketing this is not thought achievable although we continue to explore ways of meeting this objective.

**101. We will develop and introduce a scheme to buy back former council homes sold under right to buy, to help ensure our stock of social homes is not reduced over time.**

Under the scheme in place – Barnet Homes has bought back 240 former council homes since 2020: [Tens of millions of pounds spent buying back council housing in Barnet - Barnet Post](#)

**102. We will review the Council's housing allocations and revert to a two-offer scheme.**

Done.

**103. We will scrap 2 and 5-year flexible tenancies, reintroducing secure tenancies for all council tenants.**

Done in our new Tenancy Strategy.

## Town centres

**104. Our vision is to place sustainability at the heart of local recovery, promoting a shop local / buy local culture, and supporting a more circular local economy as we move forward.**

We run Shop Local campaigns and have started putting in place initiatives for a more circular economy (Library of Things, Refurbished Bike Scheme/Community Skips).

**104. We will develop a new strategy for our Town Centres with sustainability at its heart, working in partnership with town centre teams and engaging with local businesses, residents and community groups.**

Town centre strategies have been refreshed, and a new 'Placemaking Framework' is in place.

**105. We will ensure town centre regeneration is supported by residents and local businesses, learning the lessons from bad regeneration that has taken place, and making sure any money spent provides lasting improvements.**

See 104. above.

**106. We will run 'Support Your High Street' and 'Shop Local/Buy Local' campaigns and create connected spaces for small businesses and communities.**

See 104. Above.

**107. We will develop a BuyBarnet App, to support our high streets which will connect residents with local traders across the Borough and make it easy for people to find local shops, services, events and offers, and enable them to buy some local goods for delivery and make reservations and appointments.**

On looking into this, we have found this would be expensive to deliver without demonstrable benefit, but we continue to support High Streets through our Economic Development and Placemaking Frameworks, and through partnership work with local businesses, including through our Business Support Toolkit, regular Business Breakfasts, and other resources: [Business resources | Barnet Council](#)

**108. We will develop an empty shops strategy, working to ensure premises don't stay boarded up for extended periods of time, and link this to our affordable workspace strategy, arts and culture strategy, sustainability strategy and community hub plans.**

For more information about our work on this see our Economic Development Framework:

[Barnet Economic Development Framework 2025-2030 | Barnet Council](#)

Our Placemaking Framework: [barnet\\_placemaking\\_framework\\_2025-2030.pdf](#)

And our Culture Strategy: [Barnet's culture strategy 2024 to 2029 | Barnet Council](#)

And our Sustainability Strategy: [Sustainability - BarNET Zero | Barnet Council](#)

**108. We will support and encourage co-operative solutions to Barnet's economy and promote credit unions.**

Update to be confirmed.

**109. We will work to stop the proliferation of pawnbrokers, pay day lenders and betting shops in our high streets and town centres.**

Following a council motion from the Labour Group, the Council is now part of a wider coalition of councils and organisations taking steps to prevent gambling harm: [NCL Tackling Gambling Harms Coalition project | Your Health Barnet](#)

**110. We will work with local businesses, Middlesex University and Barnet College to develop the skills needed in the green economy and build a local network of suppliers.**

We have been working through our employment service Boost, on skills in the green economy, and with partners on our Economic Development Framework which includes a section on green skills and sustainability.

**111. We will increase the number of green jobs, working towards the LGA target of 2489 jobs by 2030; and we will increase the number of green apprenticeships, working towards the FoE target of 1470 by 2023.**

Update to be confirmed.

**112. We will work to deliver a state-of-the art Library facility as part of the Brent Cross regeneration.**

Plans to deliver the Library are still included in the regeneration.

**113. We will encourage creative and digital industries, taking advantage of our proximity to Elstree Studios.**

We have included this in our Economic Development Framework.

**114. We will develop a new vision for skills in Barnet, working in partnership with different LGAs to share and transfer skills including digital and green skills.**

This is part of our Economic Development Framework and Sustainability Strategy.

**115. We will work with Barnet Homes and other social housing providers to help people get back to work, developing new accreditation schemes for people who are volunteering.**

For the latest work from the Council's Boost employment service see: [BOOST 10th Anniversary Report.indd](#) and [BOOST Jobs Plus – Barnet Homes](#)

**116. We will ensure the Council's procurement policy supports the local supply chain through social value.**

We have implemented a new social value policy: [Cabinet Report - Updated Social Value Policy.pdf](#)

With the following results: [Social value | Barnet Council](#). Latest update to be confirmed.

**117. We will appoint a 'Digital Champion' to promote digital connectivity and inclusion.**

Done.

**118. We will work with local employers towards becoming a London Living Wage borough, so everyone gets a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.**

The Council has recently attained Living Wage Employer status from the Living Wage Foundation, and 50 employers in the Borough also pay at least the living Wage.

## **Adults**

**119. We will focus on independent living and 'living well at home' developing a new model of social care that puts the service user at its heart and using advances in technology to keep people independent.**

A new co-produced Adult Care strategy has been delivered: [023438 BC3566 ASC Strategy v2 DIGITAL.pdf](#)

**120. We will be a strong voice for social care, lobbying for national change to fix the social care crisis and ensure that wellbeing and independent living is at the heart of any new settlement for adults' social care.**

We have actively lobbied Government over our funding settlement, and in particular the need to ensure prevention work is not penalised and services for working age adults with disabilities and older adults are funded properly.

**121. We will develop a new strategy on engagement with adult social care users, learning from best practice, and working in partnership with the voluntary sector.**

As above: [023438 BC3566 ASC Strategy v2 DIGITAL.pdf](#)

**122. We will introduce a Users' Charter for social care and health, guaranteeing a voice in service delivery, and will include user representation on the Your Choice Barnet Board.**

A co-produced User Charter was delivered: [Barnet Council gives residents greater say in shaping adult social care | Barnet Council](#)

**123. We will develop and support the local small business homecare sector, promoting homecare agencies that are local, and boosting skills and professional recognition for carers in partnership with Barnet College and Middlesex University.**

The Council organised the Care Quality Awards: [Barnet Council celebrates care sector with awards ceremony](#)

## **Mental health**

The Covid pandemic exacerbated the already growing pressure on mental health services and it's more important than ever that the Council and local health services work together to support both adults and young people and their families.

**124. We will draw on best practice in other local authorities and work with our NHS, the community and voluntary sector to support local mental health services.**

We have:

- Worked with Meridian Wellbeing - NHS funded local support for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and
- Trained 400 mental health first aiders in schools.

**125. We will champion good mental health, including for young people, introduce a Barnet Charter for Mental Health, and expand mental health service champions into the community, schools and other settings, working to ensure that the Council, the NHS and other providers deliver services in a more integrated way.**

We have introduced our charters:

[Barnet's Mental Health Charter | Barnet Council](#)

[Barnet's children and young people's Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter | Barnet Council](#)

We now have more than 400 people trained as mental health first aiders in schools.

**126. We will support mental health campaigns like Thrive LDN, particularly in its work on Youth Mental Health and suicide prevention.**

The council supports Thrive LDN: [Training opportunities | Barnet Council](#)

And our suicide prevention work is award-winning: [Award for council's suicide prevention campaign | Barnet Council](#)

**Health and health inequalities**

**127. We will work in partnership with our local communities to help residents to lead healthier lives and tackling these health inequalities highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Our work in this area includes the Healthy Hearts Programme: [Barnet's Healthy Heart Project praised for helping 1,600+ residents from high-risk communities | Barnet Council](#)

**128. We will review Council strategies to ensure a clear link with public health outcomes.**

This has been done.

**129. Using our statutory powers of scrutiny, we will challenge local NHS changes to ensure they improve the health of all Barnet residents; be proactive in making health and social care integration work for all Barnet residents and resist creeping privatisation of NHS services.**

We have undertaken scrutiny reviews on Primary Care Access and Discharge to assess.

We continue to hold the Royal Free Trust, CLCH and N London Hospice to account through their Quality Accounts and have provided feedback on the plans for changes to maternity services.

**130. Dementia, and the ability to live well as long as possible, is a growing challenge for our communities across the borough. The Council, the NHS, local businesses, the voluntary sector and community organisations need to work together to meet that challenge.**

**We will regularly review the Dementia Manifesto for Barnet and our support services, to make sure Barnet is the most dementia friendly borough.**

Barnet was awarded Dementia Friendly status after training up dementia friendly champions, recruiting more than 30 spaces like the Arts depot to be dementia friendly and offering support for those living with dementia and their carers.

**131. We will encourage a wider range of individuals and organisations to consider becoming active Dementia Friends.**

See above for 130.

**Children, young people and families**

**132. We will work towards 'Outstanding' Children's Services.**

Barnet has retained its 'Good' OFSTED rating, with 'Outstanding' for service to children and young people in care: [Barnet children's services praised as 'strong and effective' by Ofsted inspectors | Barnet Council](#)

**133. And stand up against Conservative Government cuts to school funding, campaigning to ensure a sustainable future for our maintained nurseries and all our schools.**

The Government launched a consultation on increasing funding for nurseries, and we issued a public statement urging them to follow-through and make funding sustainable. Additional funding was secured.

**134. Following the pandemic, we will work to ensure that all our children's education is supported to get back on track.**

100% Barnet's schools are now either 'Outstanding' or 'Good/Expected/Standard' for the first time.

**135. We will work to provide more transitional housing for care leavers.**

We have ensured care leavers are placed in the top priority band in our housing allocations scheme.

**136. We will develop a new vision for youth services.**

A new Strategy will be launched soon – Spring 2026: [CE OS Sub-Committee- Youth Strategy Report.pdf](#)

**137. We will work with parents and providers to increase access to affordable childcare and to provide more early help for children and families.**

Launched our new Early Help Strategy and have designated three localities as 'Best Start Hubs': [Early help for children, young people and families | Barnet Council](#)